

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECMEBER 8, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock Doug Krum, Mayor Achy, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Attorney McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting Gary Steinruck made some corrections. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye. With the corrections.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No one spoke at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Columbia/Montour Borough's Association Meeting. January 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Capital Restaurant.
- PA Pets sent a letter stating 103 (one hundred three) cats were spayed or neutered at the Clinic in November.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy stated that the Borough is still waiting on permission from Penn Dot regarding the cross walk lights.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Roger Nuss read the Employee Activity report.
- Roger gave a summary report on the activities of the Manager for the month.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported the office investigated 14 (fourteen) incidents in the Borough during the month, 2 (two) warning letters, 6 (six) door hangers, 1 (one) building permit, spent 2 (two) days in court and issued an occupancy permit for the business on Main Street. The property that had been condemned on N. Second Street is being worked on, the retaining wall on Mill Street repairs will begin tomorrow. The FEMA/PEMA demolitions are continuing.

- Mr. Haney thanked Brian Rhone for the work he did with PA Pets.
- FEMA is changing the uses of the flood properties.
- The Code Enforcement Office has received a request from the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts for information regarding the out-house locations of the buyout properties. John Slotterback spoke regarding this request. The property would be returned to previous condition and some artifacts would be turned over to the council. Tony McDonald suggested that Jim and Council get in touch with FEMA/PEMA for permission to use the properties for this purpose. Forest McClintock asked if this project was for the Boy Scouts. Mr. Slotterback explained that the Boy Scouts could be involved with the project if they chose to participate. Mr. McClintock asked who was to decide what would belong to the Borough. Mr. McDonald explained that after speaking to FEMA/PEMA for permission a contract can be drawn to determine the ownership of items that are retrieved from the dig.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that the department responded to 130 (one hundred thirty) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Winter tires have been installed on all the vehicles.
- Ed Broadfield has begun to work on the painting in the office.
- Chief has been checking with Tech Support companies.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Forest McClintock requested a police officer be posted at the school bus stations on Main Street. Chief will look into the problem.

#### UTILITIES:

- Utilities Committee Chairperson Connie Benware had nothing to report this month.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware reported “Santa Day” will be held this Sunday from 12-2 p.m. at the Catawissa Fire Hall.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported that about 1/3 of the 60 streetlights have been installed.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer had nothing to report.

#### UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer stated that when the committee receives the quote for Health Care for the non-uniform employee’s negotiations will reopen.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing to report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to donate \$1,000 to the Catawissa Food Bank. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to award the Catawissa VFW a plaque for their contribution to the community. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to charge a \$5.00 registration fee for licensing contractors. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. After a discussion the vote for passing was 6-1. Jay Roberts voted nay.
- Joe Benware made the motion to hire William Moyer as a part-time police officer at the contractual rate. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to adopt the 2015 meeting dates. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to hire Jennifer Butz as the Administrative Assistant. Joe Benware seconded the motion. She will be available on or before February 20, 2015. The motion passed with a 6-1 vote. Gary Steinruck was opposed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to pay Popple Construction for the full amount of \$35,300 owed for the demolition of flood properties. Connie Benware seconded the motion. \$35,300. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept of the bid from Columbia Excavating in the amount of \$33,000 for the demolition of the last 3 flood properties. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. Cindy Bachman observed that the reason the bids may be higher this time is due to the 3 story structure on Main Street. Not only is this a larger structure than the previous project but Main Street traffic will have to be handled.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to consider accepting the terms of the Cable Television Franchise Renewal with Service Electric Cablevision. Doug Krum seconded the motion. Scott Keefer and Doug Krum amended the motion to table until information can be obtained. All aye.
- Forest McClintock asked Mr. Haney to look into an issue on his property regarding the cable box.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to modify the terms and conditions of the outstanding debt obligation with First Columbia Bank and Trust owned for repairs to the sewer treatment facility after Tropical Storm Lee. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. The loan would be renewed for 1 (one) year. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept Larson Design as Borough Engineer. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to allow Larson Design to conduct a feasibility study for the sewer plant. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- The Borough's workers compensation insurance carrier has recommended a safety committee be established.
- Cindy Bachman asked if the \$25 the COG charges gives them the right to work in all Municipalities. The council does not know the answer.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to table the charge of a \$5.00 registration fee for licensing contractors. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Joe Benware made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess informed Mr. Haney that the person with the fence on the corner of Main and Fourth Streets is shoveling the snow onto the street.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to adjourn. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary