

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013  
6:30 P.M. AT 307 MAIN ST. CATAWISSA, PA 17820

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, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Tim Benner, Manager Chris Moonis, Attorney McDonald.
- Mayor Achy was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Linda Kashner corrected the spelling of Water on page 4.
- Barb Reese made the motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked how the non uniform contract negotiations are progressing. Council President responded that this is a work in progress.
- Sue Helwig, a resident and landlord of Catawissa, questioned the section of the Borough Code that allows the borough to make landlords responsible for tenant electric bills. She has read the code and disagrees with the borough interpretation. Ms. Helwig also feels that the tenant information is confidential between the borough and the tenant and is an invasion of privacy to give the landlord this information.
- Mr. Earl Kline of 148 N. Second Street asked that his handicap parking application he submitted in October be reviewed again. He is on oxygen and has other health issues and can not walk a great distance. Mr. Kline realizes that there is a handicap parking space on his street but it is too far away from his home to be of use to him. The Safety Committee, the Mayor and the Chief of Police will review the application and have a recommendation for next month's meeting.
- Sue Helwig again questioned the legality of the borough keeping the landlord responsible for tenant electric bill.
- Forest McClintock recommended that the Utility Committee review this legal issue and make a recommendation to council at the next meeting.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney, thanked all departments for the fast action regarding the dangerous situation of a roof blowing off a building on the corner of South Second Street and South Street.

- Mr. Haney reported that he had 15 (fifteen) complaints last month, issued 4 (four) citations, 4 (four) warnings and spent 3 (three) days in court.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence for the month of January.

#### WATER:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman updated council about the Columbia/Montour County involvement in the Source Water Protection. Cindy asked if council would like her to be the representative of the Borough in this collaboration. Council would like Cindy to represent the Borough in this matter. Cindy will bring any and all information back to council as obtained.
- The Source Water Protection Committee met to apply for a grant to get brochures done for septic system and sanitation systems. She will have an answer regarding the grant by April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Water Authority is working with the Police Department on the Drug Take Back Program. This program is funded by DEP to have household drugs disposed of properly and not flushed down the toilet and into the water system. The program will be held April 22<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 2 at the Borough Police Department. The Water Authority will be sending post cards informing residents of the program.
- Cindy informed council of a problem at the Catawissa Dam. She explained that flooding has deposited debris into the area and caused a secondary dam. This secondary dam prevents maintenance to be available to needed areas. Cindy is looking into the solution and will report to council next month.

#### BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis summarized the employee's duties for the month.
- Chris reported that the Liquid Fuels audit conducted this week reported no findings.
- Mr. Moonis updated everyone regarding the status of the 2011 flood buy out situation. At this time all 15 properties appear to be eligible for the buy out. When this will happen is up to FEMA/PEMA. Attorney McDonald explained that when FEMA comes through, the paperwork will be done that day in Attorney McDonald's office.
- Barry Krum asked if there were problems with the buy out that it was taking so long. Chris explained that there was information needed from homeowners and the borough that took time to gather.

#### FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported 139 (one hundred thirty nine) electric late notices and 58 (fifty-eight) sewer late notices were sent last month. Six (6) limiters were installed. The committee instated a policy to send a duplicate bill to landlords of their tenant's electric bills. This keeps the landlord apprised if the tenant is behind on paying the bill.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of January the department responded to 132 incidents as reported by County Communications.
- The vehicles are working well at this time.
- Chief Kopitsky informed council that the officers are working on their Act 120 updates.
- He is working with Locust and Ralpho Townships to have an emergency plan if something should happen at Southern Columbia School District.
- Chief conducted a survey of the area where the T-Mobil cell tower fence was installed, and observed no issues with the construction. He does suggest that a stop line be painted on Willits Avenue.
- The price of the pedestrian signs and arrows for the two intersections on Main Street and Third and Second Streets are about \$114 per sign. This does not include the hardware needed to install the signs. The borough will need 4 (four) signs and posts for these intersections.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to paint a stop line on Willits Avenue. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to table the purchase of pedestrian signs until Chris Moonis and Chief Kopitsky can review the situation. Joe Benware seconded the motion to table. All aye.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock welcomed Chris Moonis back from leave.
- As a member of the Source Water Protection Committee Forest would like to institute an ordinance regarding the care and inspection of septic tanks in the borough. These tanks need to be flushed and maintained routinely to prevent leakage into the water system. Council would like Chris Moonis, James Haney and Attorney McDonald to review the ordinance already on the books and revise as needed. They are to bring a recommendation to council at the next meeting.
- Forest would like to start the proceedings to condemn the property on the corner of South Second and South Street. This is the property that the roof blew off during a storm and the borough crew had to clean up. Mr. Haney informed him that this process has already begun.
- Mr. McClintock asked about the progress of the removal of debris on South Third Street, the sight were the factory was demolished. Chris explained that this is going to take some time due to the plans being reviewed by the Columbia County

Planning Commission and other delays. The construction and the removal of the debris is connected to the loan.

- After a discussion Tim Benner made the motion to give the company until April 1, 2013 to clean the debris from the site or be fined. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy was absent for this meeting.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese informed everyone that “Dumpster Day” will be held on April 20, 2013. Catawissa Township and Franklin Township will be invited to participate.
- The Borough Wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2013.
- Joe Benware is still contacting disposal companies for quotes for dumpster day and will report the findings at the next meeting.

**PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported that the door to the police station needed to be replaced. The wind broke the previous door.
- Gary does not feel that the borough should retain CET Engineering. Gary and Chris spoke to Peter’s Consulting and feel that Peter’s can do the needed reports and inspections.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt an ordinance that would enforce rules and regulations governing the use of roller skates, skateboards, rollerblades and scooters (self-propelled devices). Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to donate \$100 to the Columbia County Bicentennial Anniversary Celebration. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Barb Reese asked for a discussion regarding the problem at the recycling bins. People are leaving recycling next to the full bins. The bins are emptied on Thursday and by Sunday they are full to overflowing. Chris Moonis explained that there really isn’t a lot to be done about the problem. No matter how many bins the borough places they will be filled. Tim Benner will give Chris a name of a recycling firm with free service.
- Linda Kashner made the motion raises for the office personnel. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. The raises were part of the 2013 budget. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to appoint Wayne Kashner to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three (3) year term. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye. Linda Kashner abstained.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to send the three (3) zoning hearing board members to the PA Local Government Training Partnership workshop on

- February 27, 2013. The borough will pay the \$50 cost of the seminar and mileage. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye. Linda Kashner abstained.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to enter into an agreement with Mike Petro Excavating to remove earth from the area aside the new borough barn and build an earthen berm to house electrical equipment at the Catawissa Sewer Property. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Barb Reese made the motion to enter into a lease for a new copy machine at Borough Hall. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. After a discussion, Barb Reese made motion to table so Chris can speak to North Central Digital. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Forest McClintock made the motion to authorize a resolution to execute the EPPG Pool Participant Schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. and executed an agreement with AMP, Inc for the 2013 Eastern Pennsylvania Pool Participant Schedule denoted as Master Service Agreement No. C-12-2001-4110. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Barb Reese made the motion to authorize the execution of the Non Pool Power Sales Schedule resolution with American Municipal Power, Inc and execute an agreement with AMP, Inc., for the 2013-2017 Non Pool Power Sales Schedule denoted as Master Service Agreement No. C-12-2044-4110. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Tim Benner made the motion to close South Third Street during Catawissa Little League game from the area nearest the recycling containers to the edge of Creek Road as early as 45 minutes before the first scheduled game to as late as 30 minutes after the last scheduled game. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. The Little League will be responsible for barricading the area. All aye.
  - Barb Reese made the motion to adopt a written policy and recall any prior written or verbal policy regarding the call-out procedures for Emergency or Inclement weather situations that may arise during non working hours for Public Works Employees. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. After some discussion Gary Steinruck made the motion to table this policy. Tim Benner seconded the motion to table. All aye.
  - Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt a Resolution known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Preservation Resolution which provide directives for Catawissa Borough Council or the Catawissa Police Chief in the preservation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution and Article 32 of the PA Constitution. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald asked for time to review this more closely with the person(s) that wrote this resolution and discuss some clarification suggestions. The Public Safety Committee will meet with Mr. McDonald to review. Scott Keefer made the motion to table this until review. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Linda Kashner made the motion to enter into a Sixty (60) month Term Note in the amount of \$65,000 from First Columbia Bank & Trust Co. at a fixed, tax exempt bank qualified rate of 2.4% for the purpose of purchasing capital items as set forth in the 2013 Capital Budget. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
  - Barb Reese made the motion to purchase a HACH 8 hour sampler for the “Inflow” at the Catawissa Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$5,437.00.

This will be paid for from the 2013 Capital Fund. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

- Forest McClintock mad the motion to adopt a resolution to allow participation and voting by telecommunication' device. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. This would allow a member of council to participate in a meeting by speaker phone, cell phone or other telecommunication device. The councilmember must participate in the entire meeting in order to vote. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to purchase eight (8) portable radios for communications from Keystone Communications in the amount of \$4,986.96 through the CoStars GSA pricing schedule. Four (4) radios are for police operations (\$3553.36) and 4 are for Public Works Employees (\$1,433.60) which will eliminate the need to upgrade most Public Works vehicles) Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept a bid from Mike Petro not to exceed \$6,500 to demolish the property know as the Maittlen-Harris property. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Any and all valuables will be borough property and a portion of the retaining wall will remain. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to pay for the Grasshopper lawnmower from Welliver & Sons in the amount of \$11,831.25. This will be paid for from the 2013 Capital Fund. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to purchase a full load of thirty two (32) electric poles in the amount of \$10,860. Bloomsburg Fair will reimburse the borough for one half (1/2) of the load. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum asked for the results of the Regional Policy Study conducted by DEP. Forest McClintock stated that the results of the study revealed that a regional police force would be more costly to the borough that the police force currently utilized.
- Pat Hess questioned the new lock on the lobby door at borough hall. Chris explained that it was for security reasons.

#### ADJOURNED:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades, Secretary