

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012
6:30 P.M.

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, Tim Benner, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Joe Benware, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Mayor Achy, Atty. McDonald was in route.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Tim Benner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Brenda Benner asked if there was an ordinance regarding barking dogs. Her neighbor leaves their dog in a crate on Saturday and Sunday morning and it barks constantly for at least 2 hours. The owners are there but do nothing. Chief Kopitsky suggested they call the Police and they will look into the situation.
- James Dombroski complained about the parking on Bank Ave. Chris will look into the situation.
- Mr. Dombroski asked if it is normal procedure to have 2 people in a plow truck at one time. Chris explained that for safety reasons 2 per vehicle is recommended.
- Mr. Dombroski also asked about a procedure for brush pickup.
- He asked who painted the lines on Bank Ave. Chris explained that the borough workers paint the lines.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not available.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A request for donation from Catawissa Redskins Midget Football.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to donate \$500.00 to the Redskins organization. Tim Benner seconded the motion. The motion was contingent on legality of a non profit status. Chris explained that there is money in the Community Funds line item. All aye, non opposed.

WATER:

- Cindy will give a presentation later in the meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis gave a work report for all departments.
- Chris, Clair and a representative from Penn Dot rated the streets that will need repair.
- Regarding the on going leak problem in the Borough Building. Contractors are reviewing the problem.
- All departments participated in an AMP first aide course.
- Chris also updated council regarding the plans for the S. Third St. townhouse project. There are procedures that must be followed before anything can begin.
- Auditors will begin on February 20th.
- Negotiations for the cell tower are on going.

POLICE:

- Chief Kopitsky reported that during the month of December the police department responded to 130 incidents according to County Communications. This was not reported at last months meeting due to the holiday. During the month of January 96 incidents were reported.
- All cars have had their winter tires installed and are working well. The 2010 was struck in front of the station. The insurance company for the person that stuck the vehicle is paying for the repairs.
- Three officers have completed their required schooling. Two officers are scheduled for schooling.
- DEA “Drug Take Back” program is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012 beginning at 10a.m. until 2p.m.
- Chief thanked Linda for contacting BU to obtain 2 lap tops at no cost to the Borough. They are working great.
- Forest asked if Chief has heard anything about the COPS grant. Tony explained that we were not approved for this year but he will keep trying.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy had nothing to report at this time.

PUBLIC SAFETY CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock commented on Mr. Dombroski’s complaint regarding parking on Bank Ave. Previous to the parking there was a loading zone in that space. There were no complaints regarding to loading zone from the Bank or customers of the Bank. If Mr. Dombroski really believes this is

a safety issue Forest will ask the Mayor to review with the police and if a parking space needs to be removed so be it.

PARKS & RECREATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the committee had their first meeting on January 27th. A partial list of activities are:
- Community Clean Up Day April 28th. The Borough will provide garbage bags, gloves and pickers. The committee is asking churches, civic organizations etc.
- Dumpster Day Saturday, May 5, 2012 8-1
- Yard Sale Saturday, May 26, 2012 8-2
- Kids Day Saturday, June 9, 2012 10-1
- Battle of the Bands Friday, June 15, 2012 6:30p.m. There will be a meeting regarding Battle of the Bands and the Summer Breeze series on February 20, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Aaron Kennedy and a representative from the Elks are coming to participate. Anyone else is welcome to attend.
- Committee Co-Chairperson Joe Benware had nothing to add to Barbs report.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese had nothing to report at this time.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck had nothing to add to Chris' report regarding the Borough Building repair.
- There are contractors coming in to look at the Quaker Meeting House roof repair.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer asked for a "Call-Out" policy. Scott proposed that the Police will call out the workers when needed. Chief explained that what the police used to do was call the street supervisor and he/she would decide if more help was needed. Scott and council would like to keep that policy. The manager would insure the policy was being followed. Chris will write up a policy for review at the next meeting. Until then workers will be advised to wait for a call from the police before doing winter maintenance.
- At next months meeting Chris will have more information regarding costs of surveying borough property. Specifically near the ball park by Walt Gosciminski's property.
- Scott has asked Mr. Haney to be stricter on property owners up keep. Borough property will also need to be cleaned. There is a list of things that need to be done such as crack sealing on the streets.

FINANCE/UTILITIES CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 124 electric late notices were sent on Monday and 56 sewer late notices were also sent. Last month 4 limiters were placed on properties and were removed. There is still one limiter on from last month.
- The finance committee is going to seek bids for liability, health, and other insurances for better rates. The committee is also looking into the benefit of going self-insured for the borough unemployment insurance.
- Chris commented to borough council his gratitude for council's decision to switch to the Quick Books accounting system. Chris also thanked Linda for all the work she has been doing to balance the budget monthly. Council was provided a sample of the reports provided by the new accounting system. This system is much more versatile for reporting than the old system.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman spoke to council regarding the Source Water Conservation Committee meeting held January 30, 2012. An engineering firm produced a zoning map for possible source water contaminates. The committee helps to educate the public about possible contaminates.
- Cindy and the committee are concerned about the Marcella Shale (gas drilling) in the area and the lack of regulations to protect the water supply. Columbia County is in the Marcella Shale area and the committee believes this will be in our immediate area very soon. There are bills in the state senate to limit the municipality's regulation. Gas wells can be drilled within 1000' of a water source. Acquiring property around the wells will not be feasible. A letter to the borough's state representatives may be useful.
- Septic system regulations and education should also be reviewed.
- Permits should be site specific regarding drilling.
- The committee is requesting council adopt a policy to not use brine on any roads. Chris asked if the State is using Brine. Penn Dot is allowing brine on state roads. Council can request the state not to use the brine within the borough. But they do not have to comply.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to ask Chris to write a resolution to not use Brine on borough streets. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to approve the non-emergency activities for the Catawissa Hose Co. #1. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to appoint Tom Long for a 3 year term to the zoning Hearing Board. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Tim Benner made the motion to appoint Chris Moonis as alternate to Act 32. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Linda explained that Barry Krum was the

alternate. When he resigned, a new alternate was needed. Linda is the primary agent for Act 32. All aye, none opposed.

- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase a 725 DT Grasshopper mower in the amount of \$12,157.50 from W.F. Welliver & Son Inc. Tim Benner seconded the motion. After a discussion Barb Reese made the motion to table the purchase until budget issues could be considered Tim Benner seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.
- Scott asked Gary with his committee to look over equipment for an assessment of importance.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft, and properly advertise, an Ordinance to establish a \$75 reconnect fee when limiters are installed. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest asked if Mr. Haney or he could talk to residents with septic systems and educate them on the concerns.

FINANCE:

- Tim Benner made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess asked who is paying our employees time and a half to work at the bank. Chris and Scott explained that the borough works with businesses as much as possible. Because the Borough was rewiring some lines we did so after hours so the bank was not inconvenienced.
- Pat asked if anyone is going to train the workers how to run the mower when it is purchased.
- Sharon Krum asked if Chris reviewed the PPL bills that Curt Yohey presented to council last month. Chris explained to everyone that at times PPL is lower than the Borough and at times the Borough rates are lower than PPL. Payments of electricity in the Borough also pay for the services provided by the borough. If you were did not reside in the borough you would be paying about the same amount in electricity and also be paying for the services above and beyond the electric bill.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary