

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014 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, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Doug Krum, Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months' meeting. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Riverview Point Apartments Manager Kathy Wilt and some residents asked borough council if there was anything to be done about the high electric bills at the apartment building. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that someone from the Utilities Committee will meet with the residents to set up budget plans for those interested.
- John Klinger spoke about the borough's procedure for collecting tenants past due electric bills.
- Mr. James Brown asked if the Borough is a Municipality.
- Clair Kingston advised council that his landlord has not paid the sewer bill in 6 months. He would like to know what the borough is doing.
- Chris Moonis questioned the reason a private citizen had private information regarding delinquent electric customers. Kim Rhoades explained that it was a mistake made by her and will not happen in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Capitol Restaurant.
- The Chamber of Commerce upcoming events are available to council.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy had nothing for council review.

Staff and Authority Reports

- Scott Keefer and Harry Young gave a brief summary report regarding the employees work duties during the month.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman presented council with a letter for approval to the Environmental Quality Board discussed at last months' meeting.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to submit the letter to the Environmental Quality Board as written by Cindy Bachman. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement James Haney had nothing to report for this meeting

POLICE:

- Chief of Police Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of February the department responded to 172 (one hundred seventy-two) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- All the vehicles are running smoothly at this time.
- The officers are continuing their required training.
- Chief Laidacker explained that scheduling will be difficult next month due to part time officers obtaining full time employment elsewhere and one resignation.
- On the 17th of February the department was able to secure another meth lab in the Borough. Three arrests were made in connection with the lab. The case came to fruition due to the diligent efforts of Officer Stefani Gallie. Her service is truly a credit to the Borough and the Department.
- Chief Laidacker thanked the Mayor for his generous donation to the Borough Police Department.
- The police department has been registered for the “Drug Take Back Day” that is scheduled for April 26th.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the resignation of Officer Rodney Witherite. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.
- Pat Hess asked if officers are CPR certified. Chief Laidacker explained that officers must be certified according to state law.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock has asked the Chief to conduct a traffic study of Balshi Avenue for a proposed “One Way” street.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported that for the month of February 143 (one hundred forty-three) electric late notices and 74 (seventy-four) sewer later notices were sent to residents for non-payment. During the month 7 (seven) limiters were installed with 5 (five) being reinstalled, 3 (three) meters were pulled with 2 (two) at owners request.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware reminded everyone that “Dumpster Day” will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
- Catawissa Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
- Battle of the Bands will be held June 6, 2014. The bands and solo acts have been approved.
- Peter’s Consultants is working to obtain a grant for the Baseball fields and the Rails to Trails project. The grants are matching grants but volunteer work and donations of equipment will count toward the match. Barb Reese and Chris Moonis spoke about possible grants from DCNR.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to allow Peter's Consultants to apply for grants for the Rails and Trails and the Baseball field projects. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. Scott Keefer announced Catawissa Baseball will also contribute. All aye.
- Barb Reese suggested applying to the ALCOA foundation for a grant.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck informed council of the progress of the LED street lighting.
- Gary told council that the grant he applied for was denied.
- Scott Keefer has asked that a grant be applied for with CDGB for a new furnace at the Senior Center. Harold Kitchen suggested to avoid natural gas. Scott announced a pipeline for gas is proposed to come through the area.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer reported interviews for Borough Manager were conducted and a second round of interviews will be conducted soon.
- Contract negotiations for non-uniform employees will resume on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 and if needed, Thursday, March 27, 2014.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Doug Krum made the motion to remove Chris Moonis from all borough accounts effective February 17, 2014. Connie Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Doug Krum asked what the payout was for Mr. Moonis. Mr. Keefer explained that the contract was followed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to open a discussion regarding the hiring of a full-time or part-time police officer. Scott Keefer seconded the motion.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire a full-time police officer to be hired in compliance with the uniform contract. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-no, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion fails.
- Doug Krum made the motion to hire 2 (two) part-time police officers according to the uniform contract. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Doug Krum-yes, Forest McClintock-no, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Jay Roberts-no, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-no. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to appoint Kimberly Rhoades as CAO of the Municipal Pension Plans. Connie Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to purchase a new reporting computer for the police department. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Chief Laidacker explained that this computer records all reports for the department. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to award the demolition quote for the flood properties from the 2011 Tropical Storm Lee flood. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Quotes were received from C.M. Crawford and Mike Petro. C.M. Crawford is the lowest bid for all 9 (nine) projected demolition properties. Any change orders must be approved by council before any changes can be made. April 30, 2014 is the completion date for demolition. The bid was awarded to the lowest bidder C.M. Crawford. All aye.

- Jay Roberts made the motion to purchase a SWAT Team tactical rifle for the police department not to exceed \$2,000. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to allow Kimberly Rhoades to participate in the Open Records Act and Records Management/Disaster Planning session held on April 2, 2014 and May 1, 2014 at a cost of \$75. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Harry Young asked to know how much the delinquent accounts total for electric and sewer.
- Harry Young asked how much is still owed on the loan the Borough took out for flood expenses.
- Linda Kashner asked if the new Borough Manager contract could be less complicated as the previous manager's contract.
- Mrs. Kashner made suggestions regarding the curbing expenses for the new Borough Manager.
- Linda Kashner asked some questions about borough accounts.
- Scott Keefer spoke regarding letters and phone calls that were published in the Press Enterprise. For the record Scott stated that Mr. McClintock, Mr. Benware and Mrs. Benware had no knowledge of the consulting position Mr. Moonis undertook. Mr. Keefer did know about the consulting and chose not to inform council. Mr. Keefer admonished Mrs. Kashner for her treatment of the administrative staff.
- Barb Reese stated Linda is the only one with financial knowledge.
- Pat Hess felt the rest of council should have been told about Chris Moonis consulting.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary

**SPECIAL BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014 6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, and Doug Krum.
- Joe Benware, Mayor Achy and Attorney McDonald were absent.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council President Scott Keefer announced that an executive session of Council was held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to conduct final interviews with the recommended candidates for Borough Manager.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to hire Roger Nuss as Borough Manager. The position will be a 1 (one) year contract at a salary of \$42,000 to start, a 401K up to a 6% match, 10 (ten) days vacation not able to roll over, 12 (twelve) sick/personal days with accumulation of up to 90 (ninety) days. A buy out of the contract would be for 30 (thirty) days. Mr. Nuss will be on a 6 (six) month probation, will be paid mileage at the IRS rate and the Borough will provide a cell phone. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye. Mr. Nuss' expected start date is April 1, 2014
- Scott Keefer explained that the culvert at Alice Dawn Linn's property needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Harry Young the Electric Department Superintendent will look into the cost of either concrete forms or other alternatives.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to reimburse Alice Dawn Linn \$240 for mowing costs incurred at her property over and immediately near the culvert due to the inability to use a riding mower in the area. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock explained that there is only 1 (one) candidate for the part-time police officer.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Reese asked what will be the Manager's office hours.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to adjourn. Connie Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary