

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013 6:30 P.M.  
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, Mayor Achy, Manager Chris Moonis, and Attorney McDonald.
- Absent was: Forest McClintock, Tim Benner.
- Tim Benner arrived at this time.

Council President Scott Keefer announced that during the conversion of the rate increase for the electric services a \$5.00 fee incurred. An adjustment of a \$5.00 credit has been implemented to all accounts effected.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Barb Reese noted corrections as follows: On pg. 5, second line, all aye should include Linda Kashner abstained due to hearing board actions. At the bottom of the same page the bank rate should be 2.4% not 2/4%. On pg. 4 regarding dumpster day should be Catawissa Township and Franklin Township. The motion passed with the corrections. All aye.
- Jamie Cotner, resident at 218 Walnut St., spoke of her concerns regarding the condemned building at 224 Walnut St. Ms. Cotner stated that when the wind blows, shingles blow into the street and her yard, there are cats living in the building, and other materials are blown onto her property during storms. She is also concerned that the building will fall during a storm due to its condition. Council President explained that there is a lien on the property that the attorney representing the estate was to settle. The Borough cannot record the deed until the lien is settled. The Borough has cut down a tree on the property for safety reasons. When the borough does settle the deed the building will be demolished. Attorney McDonald explained the situation regarding the deed transference issue.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that during the month of February he handled 21 (twenty-one) issues, documented 4 (four) permits, wrote 5 (five) citations for court, issue 8 (eight) warning tickets, and spent 2 (two) days in court.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Catawissa Hose Company #1 submitted the non-emergency activities report for approval.
- Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Local Government Meeting invitation for Thursday, March 28, 2013 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Bloomsburg Fire Hall.
- Wayne Kashner, Chairman of the Zoning Hearing Board, submitted a report regarding the conference the board attended.

- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the non-emergency activities report as submitted. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman updated council on the issue at the dam.

#### BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis reported on employee activities during the month of February.
- DEP reported to Chris that the Catawissa Borough Sewage Treatment Plant was the first plant to be back on line after the Tropical Storm Lee emergency.
- Chris met with FEMA/PEMA on Monday, March 11, 2013 regarding the property buy-out of homes affected by tropical storm Lee. He reports that application 1 (one) has been approved under the hazard mitigation program in the amount of \$972,406 which represents 13 (thirteen) homes. Application 2 (two) represents 2 (two) additional homes in the amount of \$219,139. The next phase is to contact the homeowners and conduct closing meetings. FEMA/PEMA will set up those meetings.
- Chris reported that Councilman Forest McClintock will be taking a 90 (ninety) day leave of absence for personal reasons.

#### FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that there are currently 5 (five) limiters installed, 142 (one hundred forty-two) electric late notices were sent to customers and duplicate to the landlord, and 59 (fifty-nine) sewer late notices.
- Linda Kashner read a proposed resolution regarding the electric balance due procedure.
- Barb Reese made the motion to adopt the Resolution regarding electric balance due procedures. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

#### POLICE

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of February the police responded to 180 activities as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The vehicles are being serviced as needed.
- Chief Kopitsky reported there are no grants available for pedestrian crosswalk signs.
- The application for a handicap parking place at 148 N. Second Street was reviewed by the Chief and handed over to the Mayor
- Saturday, April 27, 2013 is the date for the DEP "Drug Take Back" Program. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be available at the Borough Police Station.

#### PUBLIC SATETY:

- Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Lindenmuth reported that on March 5, 2013 he participated with Columbia County and Montour County in a FEMA program for emergency preparedness. This was a very informative session.
- The siren issue has been resolved.
- Mike has been working, for the past few months with Columbia County on a table top exercise for emergency evacuation. The next meeting is March 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the County 911 Center. Borough officials are encouraged to attend.

- Scott Keefer asked for clarification regarding the working of the siren. Mike explained that when the county switched to narrow-band there was interference with the siren. That interference has been repaired however there is some sort of problem with static in the area. There is something causing static interference in the area from the borough hall to Pine St. Keystone Communications is working on finding the source of this to fix the problem.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy recommended council approve a handicap parking spot for Mr. Earl Kline at 148 N. Second Street.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to approve the application for a handicap parking spot at 148 N. Second St. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese announced the itinerary for the upcoming season:
  1. "Dumpster Day" will be Saturday, April 20, 2013
  2. "Borough Wide Yard Sale" will be Saturday, May 25, 2013
  3. "Battle of the Bands" will be Friday, June 7, 2013
  4. "Kids Day" will be held Saturday, June 15, 2013 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
  5. "Summer Breeze Concert Series" will begin with the Catawissa Military Band on June 25<sup>th</sup>, Season Sounds July 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Loons July 9<sup>th</sup>, Uptown Music Collective will do a tribute to Pink Floyd on July 16<sup>th</sup>, Clyde Fob is July 23<sup>rd</sup>, The Begeezers will be July 30<sup>th</sup> with a tribute to the Bee Gees.
  6. "Senior Day" is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
  7. "Santa Day" is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

More information will be available closer to the day of the event listed.

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the Main Street Task Force will begin meeting again soon.
- Dollar General should begin construction soon. They are hoping for a late spring or early summer opening.

**PROPERTY BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported that he and Chris had a meeting with Lori Gornder regarding grant money.

**PERSONNEL:**

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported a negotiations with the non-uniform union meeting is scheduled for later this week.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Barb Reese made the motion to enter into a 60 month lease with NCDS for a new copy machine (TA2550ci) for \$84.92 plus \$13.37 (Fax Module) at Borough Hall. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Tim Benner 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. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

- Scott Keefer made the motion to table the adoption of a resolution known as the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment preservation resolution which provides directives for Catawissa Borough Council or the Catawissa Police chief in the preservation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article 21 of the PA Constitution. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to authorize the purchase of pedestrian signs to be erected at the crosswalk intersections at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street where they intersect at Main Street at a cost of \$596. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to authorize the Borough Manager to attend the Annual APMM Managers Conference in State College PA on May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 23<sup>rd</sup> at a cost of \$250.00 plus hotel accommodations (\$109/night ) and travel reimbursement. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to authorize Council President and Borough Manager to attend the Public Employer Labor Relations Conference on March 20<sup>th</sup> 0 March 22<sup>nd</sup> in State College PA at a cost of \$445 plus hotel accommodations (\$125/night/person) and travel reimbursement. Gary Steinruck. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to pass a resolution relating to a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for the Borough Manager to adopt the ICMA Retirement Corporation Deferred Compensations Plan and Trust. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Chris Moonis explained that this resolution is the last bit of paperwork needed for last years' approval of the deferred compensation plan. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to adopt a Resolution the PA DOT to agree to use the dotGrants on line reporting system to file the required Liquid Fuels forms and to designate Rose Hagerman as the person to execute and provide all information necessary for the completions of application, to execute all documents necessary to effect such agreement, and any electronic licensing agreement on behalf of the Borough. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to authorize the addition of Christopher J. Moonis, Borough Manager, as an authorized signatory on all Borough Commercial b and Accounts held at First Columbia Bank and Trust including the safe deposit box. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion, per advice from Attorney McDonald, to permit Borough Manager Chris Moonis to apply for grants that do not require any funds from the Borough and that he can do so without the need for council approval. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to engage Peter's Consultants to create a Borough-wide Master Park Plan in the total amount of \$8,900.00 to be paid from the Eyer Fund. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. If the grants are approved, this fee will be offset. The master park plan is to create an idea of the direction the borough would like for the ball fields and the buy-out properties with the idea of connecting with Rails and Trails in Bloomsburg and Danville. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to approve Evan's Disposal as the hauler to provide hauling services for the 2013 Catawissa Borough Dumpster Day on April 20, 2013. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye. No Freon items will be taken and a \$3 fee for tires will apply.
- Chris Moonis explained to council that Evans will provide the recycling bins and service for the Borough. Evans will be providing a much cheaper service for recycling than the previous hauler. Evans Disposal will take the same materials.

- Scott Keefer made the motion to sell the Catawissa Wastewater Belt Filter Press system and authorize the Borough Manager and the Building Maintenance committee to solicit an electronic (Internet) bid process to sell the unit to the highest responsible bidder. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Chris Moonis explained that this equipment is no longer cost effective. A reserve will be placed on the value of the machine. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to authorize Public Works employees' Clair Kingston and Scott Adams to attend a training program on Spring Road Maintenance on March 26, 2013 in Williamsport PA at no cost to the Borough other than normal wages for the day and travel reimbursement. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to continue to engage Eric Brown, Esquire, on an as needed basis at the discounted rate of \$173 per hour for Labor Relations purposes as of April 1, 2012. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to enter into an agreement with PPL granting a Right-of-Way to construct, reconstruct, operate and maintain electric and communication lines consisting of two (2) poles, one (1) anchor guys, one (1) push brace and overhead as shown on an attached plan. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. PPL would like to attach poles in the area between South Street and Kline Street just to the east of Railroad St. Chris Moonis and Cindy Bachman have been working with PPL regarding dry-lines and any other issues. The area may be used for parking if and when needed. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to purchase from the Capital Equipment Fund a 2013 Ford Sedan Police Interceptor in the amount of \$30,688.05 from Sunbury Motors, Sunbury, PA. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Barb Reese questioned the thought that a lease was the way the committee thought to purchase the vehicle. Chris Moonis explained that with the Capital Budget it allows the borough to purchase at a lower rate. A resident asked why the borough needed a new police car. Council and Chris Moonis explained that the oldest vehicle is starting to need more repairs than it is worth. Another resident asked if the borough had to bid the purchase of the car. Chris explained that this is a COSTAR purchase. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to purchase from the Capital Equipment Fund a 212 Full ENRADD wireless system in the amount of \$4,170.00 from, YIS/COWDEN Group, Inc., York, PA. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Chief Kopitsky explained that this is a speed regulation system. All aye.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to adjourn. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary