

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.  
307 MAIN ST. CATAWISSA, PA 17820

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Gary Steinruck.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Connie Benware, Doug Krum, Joe Benware, Gary Steinruck, Jay Roberts, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Manager Roger Nuss and Mayor Achy were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meetings. Linda Kashner corrected minutes from February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. All aye with changes.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Neyer asked Code Enforcement for an update on the code violations at 140 North Second Street. Code Officer, James Haney explained that most of the issues have been addressed. Some of the exterior work is waiting for better weather.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy asked Linda Kashner to ask that the pedestrian cross walk signs be placed back in the street for the season.

MANAGER:

- Manager Roger Nuss was not present.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported the office responded to 15 (fifteen) investigations, sent 1 (one) letter, hung 2 (two) doorhangers, issued 1 (one) building permit, issued 3 (three) citations and spent no days in court.

POLICE:

- Chief of Police, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of February 2016 the department responded to 136 (one hundred thirty-six) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Officer Gallie and Officer Hayes' computers have stopped operating. A quote for a new computer was submitted by Computation. The cost of the computers will be taken from the police donation fund.

- One of the part time officers which the department depends on for shift coverage has accepted an additional position at another department.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware suggested council think about hiring another part time police officer to cover shifts. Linda Kashner asked how many part time officers the Borough currently employees. Josh explained that currently the Borough employees 4 (four) part time officers. Gary asked if one officer will cover the leaving officers' shifts.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to advertise for one with a possibility of hiring 2 part time police officers. All aye

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware reported that 205 (two hundred five) electric late notices 90 (ninety) of these were closed accounts the amount owed is \$66,000. Linda Kashner stated that last month she mistakenly reported \$176,000 delinquent the correct amount was \$76,000. This means \$10,000 has been collected. There were 67 (sixty-seven) sewer late notices sent 11 (eleven) of which were closed accounts amounting to \$5,000. Gary Steinruck commended the committee for their efforts in the collection of delinquent monies owed to the Borough.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner stated there was no meeting of the committee to date but due to the coming Little League season she pasted along the request to place a non-permanent shed at the field. The Little League committee is also asking if the Borough would pay for installing electric lines at the field. Little League would pay \$1,000 per year until the estimated \$12,000 bill was paid in full. Linda does not recommend the Borough do this now. (This field is behind the Whistle Stop).
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to allow Little League to place 2 (two) non-permanent sheds at the little league field. The league will maintain the sheds and move them in case of flood. There will be no cost to the Borough. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Connie Benware to table the installation of the electric service. All aye.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner gave an estimated balance summary for General Fund, Electric and Sewer accounts. The reason Linda is reporting this is due to the resignation of Lori George in February. Linda is working on the accounts. Gary Steinruck stated that Linda, Barb and Doug have been working hard since Lori's resignation.
- Tony McDonald explained that a motion will be required if an expert is needed to help in the Treasurers' office to balance the accounts.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to allow Barb, Gary, Doug and Linda to hire a professional to balance the accounts up to \$10,000 if needed. All aye.

#### UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Gary Steinruck stated that negotiations are at a stand still at this time.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese had nothing to report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to purchase an additional phone line for power outage information to be located at the sewer plant. The Borough will purchase a Trac-Phone for \$100. Vote 6-1 later in the meeting Jay Roberts opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Jay Roberts to appoint Luke Sacharczyk, David Casey, and Chris Neeb to service as members of the Code Enforcement Appeals Hearing Board along with Joe Rose and Daniel Neyer to serve as the alternate members of the board. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to retain Officer Steven Colella after successfully completing his 6 (six) month probationary period as recommended by Police Chief Laidacker. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Jay Roberts purchase two new computers for the police station with solid state drive at a cost of \$1,518 to be taken out of the Police Donation Fund. All aye. Tony McDonald's office would like to donate \$500 to the fund so they do not deplete the fund.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to purchase shelves for the upstairs for an estimated cost of \$800 to store records that need to be retained by the borough. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motions seconded by Joe Benware to accept the general contract bid for the waste water treatment plant building submitted by Gray Builders in the amount of \$596,000. Dave Walters of Larson Design was in attendance and explained that the DEP permit was still pending Columbia County Redevelopment also reviewed the applications. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to accept the electrical contract bid for the waste water treatment plant building submitted by Howard Electric in the amount of \$141,425. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Connie Benware to hire Nancy Yost as the full-time Treasurer/Assistant Secretary at an hourly wage of \$15. Pending bonding with a 6 month probation. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made a motion seconded by Joe Benware to sign the support letter for the Catawissa Hose Company to allow "Boot Drives" in the Borough. The letter is addressed to PenDot so the fire fighters can obtain a permit. All aye.
- The Columbia/Montour Borough's Association Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 6:00p.m. at the Capital Restaurant.
- Linda Kashner made a motion seconded by Doug Krum to accept the resignation of Councilperson Connie Benware effective March 31, 2016. All aye.

- Linda Kashner made a motion seconded by Doug Krum to advertise to accept “Letters of Interest” for the council position being vacated by Connie Benware. Letters should be addressed to the “Personnel Committee”. All aye. Attorney McDonald recommends that no former council member that resigned midterm be considered.
- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney spoke regarding the flood project. The last two houses have been razed. \$39,960.52 will be reimbursed to the Borough from FEMA/PEMA. This is only for project #4, the other 2 projects will be reimbursed soon. Tony McDonald commended James Haney for his work on the flood projects.
- Barb Reese asked for an update of the progress of the Maitlin-Harris property. Attorney McDonald explained that the progress has stalled due to the bank.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Patty Hess stated that the web site is still not acceptable. We have been complaining about this for years it is time something be done. Tony McDonald suggested hiring a professional to come in and set up the web site. Cindy Bachman believes the Pennsylvania Rural Water Authority may set them up for free. She is not sure if this program is still available.
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to obtain 3 quotes for web site building. All aye.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Barb Reese made a motion seconded by Doug Krum to adjourn.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary