

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 – 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, Doug Krum, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Joe Benware and Forest McClintock were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Linda Kashner corrected that the 2014 budget was in question on 2015. Pat Hess corrected page 3 raining should be training. **Jay Roberts amended his motion** to include corrections. Doug Krum seconded. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Montour Area Recreation Commission wishes to conduct the River Towns Marathon and Half-Marathon on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The run will run through Catawissa and other area communities.
- Columbia/Montour Borough’s Association Meeting will be held on April 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Capital Restaurant. RSVP by April 6, 2015
- Letter from Borough resident Craig Campbell regarding the 15% penalty for electric and sewer.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Roger Nuss gave a summary report of the borough employee activities for the month of February.
- Roger gave a summary report of his activities for the month of February. This included a couple of options from PPL regarding the distribution issues to the Borough.
- Jay Roberts asked if snow could be removed from the area between Vito’s and CVS. He states that it is difficult for customers to park and get onto the sidewalk due to snow.
- Jay asked for clarification regarding the letter from Mr. Campbell’s concern about the 15% penalty costs. Attorney McDonald explained that Mr. Campbell contacted his office regarding the legality of the penalty.
- Barb Reese took this time to thank the Borough workers for the job they do with clearing the streets of snow.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer Brian Rhone reported that during the month of February the office had 4 (four) investigations, a total of 15 (fifteen) warnings, 1 (one) was a letter, 10 (ten) were door hangers and 1 (one) was verbal. The office issued 1 (one) permit, 11 (eleven) citations for failure to clean sidewalks and spent 4 (four) days on court.

POLICE:

- Council President Scott Keefer announced that the department was on a call at this time and would enter the meeting later if possible.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock was absent for this meeting.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported late notices were sent out on February 6, 2015 with 131 (one hundred thirty-one) electric notices and 61 (sixty-one) sewer notices mailed. No meters were pulled or limited in February due to the extreme cold.
- Barb Reese asked were the Borough was as far as taking delinquent accounts to court. Scott Keefer explained that there is a case on April 1, 2015 for electric. Sewer accounts have not been taken to District Court at this time. More electric accounts are being reviewed for Court dates.

PARK & RECREATION:

- Committee member Connie Benware reported that May 23, 2015 is the community yard-sale, Dumpster Day will be held June 6, 2015 8-1, Battle of the Bands will be June 19th, and the committee is still working on the concert series.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported that when the department is finished with tree trimming they will resume replacing street lights with LED lights.

AT THIS TIME THE MEETING MOVED TO THE POLICE REPORT:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of February the department responded to 85 (eighty-five) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- There was some damage to the unmarked vehicle and is being addressed.
- The thermal imaging camera received through a donation has been ordered and the officers are being trained in its usage.
- With Officer Witherite's resignation effective 3/1/15 the department is short staffed until the new hires can be trained.
- Chief Laidacker thanked the area departments and the Columbia County SWAT Team for their assistance with an incident on February 11th.

- The department is keeping an eye on the speed of vehicles traveling on Main Street. After a study was conducted and average speed of 25 (twenty-five) was recorded. The top speed being 54 (fifty-four) mph with the low being 5 (five) mph.
- Chief Laidacker asked council to send Officer Stefanie Gallie to narcotic training at a cost of \$404 for a 3 (three) day course. The dates will be March 25, 26 and 27th.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to send Officer Stefanie Gallie to narcotic training on March 25, 26, and 27th at a cost of \$404. All aye.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer had nothing to report at this time.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer had nothing to report at this time.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a gun shop is possibly opening on Main Street at the old NAPA building.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Connie Benware made a motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to allow the River Towns Marathon and Half-Marathon to pass through Catawissa. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made a motion** seconded by Doug Krum to accept the resignation of part time police officer Rodney Witherite. All aye.
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Scott Keefer to allow T-Mobil Cell Service to perform necessary work on the Cell Tower located behind the Senior Center. All aye.
- **Connie Benware made a motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to revise the Ordinance 2001-01 raising the certification and duplicate of tax bills from \$5-\$10. All aye.
- **Connie Beware made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to adopt Resolution 2015 -1 authorizing Lori George to receive LST, EIT, delinquent PC and delinquent OCC tax information and records from Berkheimer relative to the collection of taxes for Catawissa Borough. All aye.
- **Scott Keefer made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to consider the PPL electrical feed options. Harry Young (Light department Superintendent) explained that feed options to council. Harry recommended not changing the feed.
- **Gary Steinruck made a motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to table this issue until next month. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made a motion** seconded by Connie Benware to adopt Resolution 2015-2, allowing Catawissa Borough to grant a franchise to Service Electric Cablevision, Inc., for a period of seven 7 (seven) years from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2022, and maybe renewed once thereafter for a period of five (5) years at the option of the Company. Franchise agreement increases from 3% to 4% of the gross revenues collected by the Company for basic, optional, or expanded television packages. All aye.

- **Gary Steinruck made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to adopt Resolution 2015-3, allowing Catawissa Borough to grant a pole agreement to Service Electric Cablevision, Inc. for a period of seven (7) years from January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2022. Catawissa Borough to be paid \$8.50 per pole, which is the same as the last half of the current agreement. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to allow sending Code Enforcement Officers, Jim Haney and Brian Rhone, attend a one day training in East Stroudsburg, (Monroe County) titled “Floodplain Administrator Best Practices: Guidance and Tools for Meeting Day to Day Challenges”. Registration fee is \$25.00 per attendee. Roll Call: Doug Krum-no, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion does not pass.
- **Gary Steinruck made a motion** seconded by Connie Benware to send one Code Enforcement Officer to the training stated above. Roll Call: Doug Krum-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Jay Roberts-no, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-no. Motion passed by 3-2 vote.
- **Scott Keefer made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to appoint Tom Long to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3 (three) year term as recommended by Zoning Hearing Board Chairperson Wayne Kashner. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- John Slotterback asked about the results of allowing the archeological extraction of material at the 2011 flood properties. Code Officer Brian Rhone stated that Code Officer Jim Haney is waiting on FEMA/PEMA to respond.
- Pat Hess complained about the sidewalk clearing at the VFW and the area of the townhouses on South Third Street. Council President Scott Keefer will address those issues with Code Enforcement.
- Jay Roberts complained about rotting pumpkins at 474 Mill Street.
- Linda Kashner asked Attorney McDonald about the changing of the budget after passed by council. Attorney McDonald stated that council can change the budget by 10% without advertising.
- Linda Kashner asked about collection of reconnection fees for electric meters. Scott Keefer will look into.
- Linda Kashner asked about the bonding of the Manager and Treasurer. The process is in the works.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary