

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 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, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF 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:

- Barry Krum questioned the agenda item to hire a full time police officer.
- Linda Kashner asked what the bottom line figure is in the General Fund for the end of March 2014. Ms. Kashner states that at the end of last month the General Fund was \$46,000 in the red.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America will be holding a 2014 Leadership Dinner on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Danville Elks to honor Ramona Alley and Columbia Volunteers in Medicine Clinic.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to donate \$135 to the Boy Scouts of America. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy requested that an announcement be placed in the newspaper to remind motorists about stopping at crosswalks.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Council President, Scott Keefer gave a summary report of the employee activities during the month.

WATER:

- The Water Authority report was read by Kim Rhoades in Superintendent Cindy Bachman’s absence. The April water bill will be mailed in envelopes with the annual water quality report. Fire hydrants will be flushed on May 5, 2014 beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- The Water Authority will be mailing “Drug Take Back” postcards for April 26, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Borough Police Station.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney gave an update regarding the progress of the buy-out of 2011 flood.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported during the month of March the police responded to 196 (one hundred ninety-six) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The newest of our officers received certification in the use of the ENRADD system and will be able to operate the machine.
- The department received a donation check from the Catawissa Legion, Post 541 in the amount of \$1,514.00 to be used towards the purchase of the department's new patrol rifles.
- Chief Laidacker attended a drug awareness seminar at Central Columbia HS given by the Attorney General of the state. Additionally, the Chief attended a drug awareness seminar at Southern HS put on by the County Commissioners at the State Representatives Office.
- The department would like to hold public meetings to involve the residents in the safety of the town.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock had nothing to add to Chief Laidacker's report.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported that 158 (one hundred fifty-eight) electric late notices and 78 (seventy-eight) sewer late notices were sent on April 5, 2014.
- Two (2) limiters were installed on March 24, 2014 and one (1) meter was pulled.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware had nothing to report for this month.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck gave an update on the progress of the LED lighting program.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer announced the Borough received the Liquid Fuels allotment of \$39,287.65 which is higher than last year.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer announced that non-uniform negotiations are progressing.
- Mr. Keefer took this time to welcome new Borough Manager Roger Nuss.
- Scott announced an executive session will follow the meeting to update council on the progress of non-uniform negotiations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to hire a full-time police officer. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald suggested council first rescind the motion from last month to hire a part-time police officer.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to rescind the vote for hiring a part-time police officer. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Scott Keefer read a quote for health care cost for the police officers. \$1,213.52 for the Chief and \$355.19 for the second officer with a savings of \$1,731.30 monthly and \$20,775.60 yearly. The police will have a \$5,000 deductible for family and a \$2,500 deductible for single. The Borough would open an account to cover the deductible. Gary Steinruck asked how that would affect the other employees that stay on the plan. Scott explained that the policy for employees not on the new plan will not change. Barb Reese and Linda Kashner suggested council get in writing the health care plan policy. Roll Call vote to rescind: Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion to rescind hiring of part-time police officer passed.
- The previous motion, made by Jay Roberts and seconded by Forest McClintock, to hire a full-time police officer is now on the table. Doug Krum asked about the budget for the full time officer. After a discussion a roll call vote was initiated. Roll Call: Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion to hire a full-time police officer passed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the quote from Zeiser to replace the broken culvert slabs at 138 South Third Street at a cost of \$13,032 not including the joint seal. This is for 30 (thirty) 6'x6'x6" (six foot by six foot by six inch) concrete slabs. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to rescind the approval of the demolition quotes from last month and advertise for bids for the project. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. The quotes must be rescinded at the recommendation of FEMA/PEMA. All aye. Peter's Consultant will advertise for bids for the demolition. The 90 (ninety day) demolition requirement was extended by FEMA/PEMA.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to send Clair Kingston and Scott Adams to a dirt & gravel roads regional training May 6th & 7th at the Woodlands Inn and pay \$80 for hotel fees. Connie Benware seconded the motion. The department must be certified to be eligible to apply for grants. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to apply for a grant under the Columbia County Liquid Fuels Grant Program. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. This is a competitive grant available from excess money in Liquid Fuels. There is a recommendation of a matching grant. \$41,290 is the amount the Borough would apply for with a 15% match of \$6,193.50 which would be taken from the Liquid Fuels account. If the Borough does not receive the grant the work does not have to be done. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to accept the cleaning services of Miller Cleaning Services, Inc. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

- Jay Roberts made the motion to enter into an employment contract with Borough Manager Roger Nuss. Connie Benware seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald will write the contract. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to pay for one night stay for Kimberly Rhoades to attend the Open Records/File maintenance class in Monroeville on May 1, 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$120.00. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to approve the purchase of flowers for the Borough properties that the garden club will purchase, plant and maintain not to exceed \$500. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Sharon Krum suggested a wild flower garden at the properties that are to be bought out from the 2011 flood.
- Barb Reese asked if “Kid’s Day” has been scheduled for this year. Joe Benware explained that due to scheduling issues with “Battle of the Bands” “Kid’s Day” has not been scheduled but will be as soon as possible.
- Barb Reese asked for an update on the progress of the South Third Street Condominium Project. Scott Keefer explained that plans for the project are being submitted to the Columbia County Planning Commission in April or the beginning of May.
- Barb Reese asked if the 2023 Vision Plan was sent to the proposed agencies. Scott Keefer will look into whether this was done.
- Scott Keefer announced that the Borough web site is very close to being launched.
- Barb Reese corrected something that Scott Keefer said two months ago about Chris Moonis being instrumental in bringing Dollar General to Catawissa. Scott Keefer apologized for misspeaking.
- Pat Hess asked for clarification regarding the health care cost of the police.
- Tim Benner informed Mr. Haney about a sidewalk on Shuman Street that in disrepair.
- Harold Kitchen asked if a permit is required for repairing or replacing a sidewalk.
- Jay Roberts asked if crown vetch would be a possible plant for some of the Borough properties.
- Forest McClintock asked about the progress of the Code Enforcement Officer advertisement.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jay Roberts made the motion to adjourn. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary