

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Doug Krum, Joe Benware, Gary Steinruck, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Linda Neyer, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald were present.
- Jay Roberts was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Barb Reese made a spelling correction on page 2. All aye.

At this time Council President, Gary Steinruck introduced Eric Stahley, Columbia County Resiliency Officer for an informational presentation. Mr. Stahley spoke regarding the implementation of the Columbia County Resiliency Office. Eric also spoke about the MS 4 permitting that is progressing. DEP is requiring the filtering of storm water. Council thanked Cindy Bachman for all her work.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No one spoke at this time.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy announced the wedding he officiated went well.
- There was a discussion regarding the shrub at the Verizon building. Mr. Haney provided photos of the area picturing his vehicle in the area in question. Code Officer James Haney does not see that the shrub is obstructing views. Council asked Mayor Achy to contact Verizon to assess the area.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE:

- Code Enforcement Officer Brian Rhone reported that during the month of May the office handled 32 investigations, 2 door hangers, 5 verbal, 9 permits, 3 citations, and no days in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of May the department responded to 206 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.

- The price for replacing the console in the SUV is \$1500. At this time Chief Laidacker retracts his request to have it replaced due to the cost.
- Signs have been installed by the street department on South Fourth Street for “No Truck Traffic”. There is still a problem.
- The “Drug Take Back” program received 93.3 pounds from the April day.
- The VFW donated \$1500.00 to the department.
- Officer Gallie attended the Candlelight vigil in Washington, DC on the 13th of May.
- The Neighborhood Watch meeting went well.
- On Sunday, June 12th will be the softball game between the police and the fire department. All proceeds will be donated to the fire department. The game begins at 10 a.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware stated that two applications were received for the part time officer position.
- Joe asked for permission for the police to put weights upstairs at the police station for the officers to work out off duty. Linda Kashner asked about the weight restrictions. Gary Steinruck questioned the safety of one person in the weight room. Chief explained his reason for asking for the room.
- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to table the decision of a weight room until Larson Design assesses the area for weight safety. All aye.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware stated that the committee is working on reducing the delinquencies.
- Joe Benware will meet with Gary after committee meetings to fill Gary in on the proceedings.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced:
- “Kids Day” will be held on June 18th from 11-1 at Town Park.
- The concert series is set and will begin June 30th with the Military Band
- At the next meeting the committee will be discussing Senior Day.
- The committee is looking into a grant for recycling containers for the parks.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck reported the status of the Senior Center/Community Center project. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$94,602.50 with the Borough paying \$70,105.50. The engineer is trying to set up a meeting to see where the project is headed. Linda Kashner suggested looking for other funding.
- The sewer plant construction is moving along.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner reported the General Fund is at \$116,000. The reason it is so high is due to the FEMA/PEMA money received of \$57,000. The Electric balance is \$43,910, and the Sewer fund is -\$8296 due to engineering fee.
- Due to the need of the t-shirts and vests for the workers to be 100% cotton the cost is higher. Instead of the cost being \$650 they will now cost approximately \$865. This includes the printing.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to increase the cost for t-shirts and vests for the Borough workers from \$650 to \$865. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to accept the increase for flood insurance with Wright National Flood Insurance Company for the sewer plant from \$536.00 to \$552.00. All aye.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Gary Steinruck reported that sessions are ongoing.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese reported the committee had a meeting about 3 weeks ago. The committee will be contacting property owners of underutilized or abandon properties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to discuss the adding of the wall in the police station.
- After a discussion **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to table the wall until next month. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to discuss the fence at the softball field. The field can still be used even if the fence is not up. There is a lot of work to be done to make the field usable again. Gary suggests contacting little league to clean up the softball field.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to write off electric and sewer bills for the property located at 318-320 Main Street that was sold at judicial sale. Jay Roberts was the only nay vote. Motion passes 6-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to add Gary Steinruck as a check signature for all Borough accounts. All aye.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to adopt Resolution 2016-03 appointing Borough Council President, Gary Steinruck, as the agent between Catawissa Borough and FEMA/PEMA for the waste water treatment plant flood repair grant. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to allow borough resident Brian Voelcker to place a recycling container with the other specifically for egg cartons. The bin must be properly maintained and the resident is responsible if any issues arise. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** to discuss and consider the purchasing of the cables of the bucket truck at an estimated cost of \$6,000.00 for the parts and labor. Harry Young

explained that this must be done every 8 years. If it is not done it relieves the company of all liability. All aye.

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to purchase 9 LED light for Main Street at a cost of approximately \$277.00 each. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to discuss and consider hiring a licensed pesticide applicator for spraying of noxious weeds on the Borough's properties. Gary Steinruck and Linda Kashner went around the borough properties with Mr. Jeff Brannon for an estimate on the cost of spraying weeds in the major Borough areas. The estimate Mr. Brennan submitted is \$7,800.00. Mr. Brennan stated that this would be a one-time application per year. Linda suggested approving an amount and the Borough can look around for a cheaper price. Linda and Gary did have Mr. Brennan spray for poison ivy due to the health hazard.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** to spend up to \$8,000 for the spraying of weeds in the Borough. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye. Chad Sokol suggested contacting Abraczinskas Nursery for an estimate. All aye. Sharon Krum asked if the curb around her street could be added to the list.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to discuss the motors for the pumps at the waste water treatment plant. Gary explained that one motor is new but we will have to prepare for replacing the other one. This needs to be in the budget for next year.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to discuss the police department's request concerning ordinances.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to table this until the ordinances are straighten out. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to discuss the removing logs and debris at the old railroad bridge. Joe Benware asked if DEP had to be involved. Linda Kashner explained that if NO equipment enters the creek then DEP does not need to be involved. Eric Stahley is checking to see if there is relief money available. Linda saw kids walking across the logs and was very concerned. Cindy Bachman suggested focusing on the area of the dry hydrant.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to acquire 2 estimates for the removal of the debris. All aye.
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to discuss and consider potential street repair projects for the upcoming summer. After a discussion it was decided to patch the worst areas and budget for work next year.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to make plans for next year. All aye.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to discuss hiring a seasonal part time employee for the summer. Due to all the additional land acquired from the flood the men are mowing and trimming and do not have time to do other projects. Linda believes that 18 years old would be the beginning age. Eric Stahley suggested adult probation. Linda Kashner will contact Donald Coleman Jr. for information. Pat Hess questioned the contract limitations. Attorney McDonald explained that community service is free so you are not hiring anyone.

- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to appoint Central Site Services, Gene C. Powlus, as the Borough SEO (sewage enforcement officer). Gary Steinruck was opposed. Motion passes 6-1.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to discuss the attaching of signs to light poles. Linda feels that an ordinance or resolution might be needed to stop people from using tape, staples, or nails to hang signs on poles. There is already an ordinance regarding defacing of property.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Kashner asked about the permission for the VFW to put a banner across the street. Harry Young explained that PennDot needs a permit for banners across state roads.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to allow the VFW to place a banner across Route 42 pending PennDot approval. All aye.
- Linda Kashner asked that all borough keys must be turned in and signed out per event. Someone from council will go to the meeting at the senior center to speak to the group with the key.
- Gary Steinruck spoke about the upcoming meeting for flood plain information. Eric Stahley explained the reason for the meeting and recommended making sure someone from the Borough attend. The meeting and lunch are free. Gary asked Brian Rhone and James Haney to attend the meeting. Brian explained that he will be attending for South Center.
- Gary Steinruck spoke regarding his objection to a pet snake at the police station. Mr. Haney believes that the ordinance states you may not have exotic pets for sale. As pets it is acceptable. Linda Kashner does not feel the police station is not the place for a pet. Chief Laidacker will find a new home for the snake.

Gary Steinruck announced a short executive session will be held after adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary