

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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.
- A moment of silence was observed for the September 11, 2001 attack.

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** seconded by Forest McClintock to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month meeting. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- John Slotterback asked about the progress of allowing him and a partner to dig the privies of the flood properties obtained by the Borough in the flood buy out project. Mr. Haney will look into this and get back to Mr. Slotterback.
- **Scott Keefer made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to allow John Slotterback and Dan Grove to dig in the privies of the flood properties that have been bought out by the Borough. All aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was not correspondence this month.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy had nothing for this month.

MANAGER REPORT:

- Manager, Roger Nuss, gave a summary report of the employee activities during the month.
- Mr. Nuss also gave a summary report of his activities during the month.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported that fire hydrants will be flushed October 5, 2015.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported that during the month of August the office had 38 (thirty-eight) issues, 8 (eight) warnings, 12 (twelve) door hangers 4 (four) verbal warnings, 4 (four) building permits issued and spent 1 (one) day in court.

- Mr. Haney and Mr. Rhone have researched the issue of rental properties and are asking to meet with the Public Safety Committee to go over the findings.
- Barb Reese asked about the progress of the Maittlen-Harris property. Attorney McDonald explained that the matter is still in the hands of the credit company. The deed has not been recorded.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported during the month of August the department responded to 190 (one hundred ninety) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Hemlock Township has picked up the insurance coverage for the SWAT vehicles.
- The “in car” dash cameras in the patrol cars are malfunctioning.
- Chief introduced new full time police officer Stephen Colella.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson, Forest McClintock, had nothing to report.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Connie Benware reported that 88 (eighty-eight) electric late notices and 44 (forty-four) sewer late notices were sent. One meter was removed last month and remains off.
- Barb Reese asked if a lien was placed on the Alexander property. Cindy Bachman explained that this property went back to the bank and the Borough should be receiving payment.
- The Bickert property is in estate.
- The Third Street property has been liened.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware had nothing to report.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson, Gary Steinruck asked Roger to explain the progress for the Senior Center project. Roger explained that the studies have been completed and progress is being made.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Scott Keefer had nothing to report.

#### UNION NEGOTIATIONS:

- Committee Chairperson, Scott Keefer reported that uniform negotiations are progressing.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson, Doug Krum had nothing to report.
- Barb Reese asked about the progress of the South Third Street project. Mr. Haney explained that progress is being made with the Columbia County Planning Commission.

- Barb Reese asked about the Railroad property. Mr. Haney explained that during the flood class that he and Mr. Rhone attended it was made clear that all areas should be cleaned of any buildings and structures.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Connie Benware made a motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to utilize Remit Corp., as the Borough Collection Agency. Current meter deposit form states that the customer is responsible for collection fee. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to discuss the condition of the Crab Apple tree in the Borough yard. Roger was told by Jeff Flemming that the tree was not in good shape and should be removed. After a discussion: **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to table the removal of the tree until more information is obtained.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts for the payment of dinner for the volunteers at the Halloween Parade up to \$400. All aye. The dinner will be catered by Woody's and hosted at the Senior Center. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to approve the new 2 year employment contract, expiring December 2016, with Manager Roger Nuss. Scott Keefer announced that council conducted an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel matters. Salary for 2015 \$47,400 retroactive to April, \$50,000 next year. If health insurance is needed Mr. Nuss would enter into the most cost effective plan. Roll Call Vote: Doug Krum-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes, Joe Benware-yes. Motion passes unanimously.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to accept the Minimal Municipal Obligation for 2015 for the Police Pension Fund at \$20,000. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to accept the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for 2015 for the Non-Uniform Pension Fund at \$46,900. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to table the request from Diane Vanderslice to purchase a paper alley from Baker Avenue to Mill Street between 533 and 531 Mill Street. Attorney McDonald and Jim Haney will research this request. All aye.
- **Scott Keefer made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to table switching payroll processing companies from ADP to Paytime. All aye.
- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to consider the use of Cintas as the Borough facility product service provider. All opposed motion does not pass.
- Chief Laidacker spoke regarding the condition of the police vehicles.
- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Forest McClintock to upgrade the credit card system to "EMV". This system is an attempt at fraud control. All aye.
- Forest McClintock informed everyone of a "Scam" going around town of someone saying they are from Microsoft and would like to upgrade your system to Windows 10

- Chief Laidacker received Ralph Fox's badge from his grandson David Fox with some other memorabilia.

FINANCE:

- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Forest McClintock to pay the bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Kashner asked what the status of the financial audit. She also stated that according to the Borough Code the audit must be submitted 90 days from start date. Mr. Nuss explained that the audit is not yet available.
- Linda asked about the status of the Opera House survey. Roger explained that the Prescott's have contacted David Drumheller to conduct the survey. It has not yet happened.
- Linda asked if any of the workers have applied for a pesticide license. Harry Young will ask the workers if anyone would be interested in obtaining their license.
- Linda asked how much the Borough owes on the Capital Fund. Roger nor the council had that number for Linda at this time. She also asked how much a month was paid.
- Harold Kitchen asked if someone would talk to the recycling company about the time they pick up the recycling. Sometimes it is 4:00 in the morning.
- Barb Reese commented that on a Sunday evening the recycling area was a mess.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary