

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY April 9, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.**

**An Executive Session was held prior to the Council Meeting.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

- Present were: Doug Krum, AJ McKenney, Gary Steinruck, Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner  
Absent: Attorney Anthony McDonald

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting with the following change:
  1. Page 4, bullet 10 "Fraice" changed to "Frace". All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Guest Gail Hummer asked what the amount of the original sewer loan was. Councilwoman Linda Kashner replied \$700,000. Ms. Hummer said she saw a check for \$1 Million dollars. Ms. Kashner said that was for the line of credit but in November it was turned over to a loan that was for \$700,000. Ms. Hummer stated she saw the check and it had (3) signatures on it. Ms. Hummer was asked by Ms. Kashner where she seen this check and Councilman Steinruck stated he would like to see this check because he was involved when all of this was going on. Ms. Hummer did not reveal where she seen the check.
- Guest Joe Rose asked for stadium dirt for the Teener Field and asked for a new home plate. Councilwoman Barb Reese asked if we had a copy of the Liability Insurance. Mr. Rose stated he will drop off the new copy for this year. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to purchase 5 ton of stadium dirt and a new home plate. All Aye

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read the following correspondence:
- Columbia/Montour CBA Meeting will be held on Thursday April 19, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Old Forge Brewing Co. in Danville. RSVP must be made by April 17, 2018
- Certificate of Sustainability from the Borough's USAGAIN donation box stated we clothed 149 people and saved 43 cubic yards of landfill.
- Clair Kingston and Crystal Stoker received their certificate from LTAP for Full Depth Reclamation.
- Crystal Stoker received her certification on April 9th regarding Equipment & Worker Safety. Clair Kingston could not attend the class as he had borough business to attend to.
- Clair Kingston and Crystal Stoker will be attending a LTAP class on April 10th regarding Unpaved and Gravel Roads.
- An invitation from the Columbia Montour Visitor's Bureau for An Evening of Golden Oldies at Bill's Old Bike Barn on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. The charge is \$30 per person, must RSVP by April 26, 2018.
- We received a \$50 donation from First Columbia Bank & Trust for Kid's day. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if a Thank You letter could be written to First Columbia Bank & Trust for the donation.

#### MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner reported he got an update on the SUV which was given by Mr. Hayes.
- Mayor Tim Benner reported a resignation was given by Officer Rebuck. His last day will be May 1, 2018.
- The Mayor stated himself and the Chief will have a discussion as to whether a new officer will be needed.
- Mayor Tim Benner reported Locust Township is interested with Catawissa Police Department to help cover Southern School District. The Mayor turned this discussion over to Chief Laidacker. Chief Laidacker stated the Locust Township Police and School Resource Officer Clay Farringer has asked if Catawissa Police Department will help with random spot checks and random walk thrus at Southern School. Chief Laidacker stated this was turned over to our solicitor Tony McDonald to see if the Officers will be covered under the Police Jurisdiction Act.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported National Drug Take Back Day is on Saturday April 28, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Catawissa Police Department will be participating in this event. Blue postcard reminders will be sent out on April 21<sup>st</sup> reminding people of the event and the do's and don'ts of the Drug Take Back Day.
- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the next water bill will be in an envelope with the annual water report.
- Water Authority Cindy Bachman reported Hydrants will be flushed on May 7, 2018.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the Code Enforcement report as follows:
- The Code Enforcement Office investigated (1) issues, sent (1) letters, placed (0) door hangers and issued (0) verbal warnings. (0) permits were issued, (0) citations were issued and (0) days were spent in court.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of March 2018 the department responded to (249) calls for service. Police Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
- Both vehicles were calibrated by Keystone Communication. Keystone refused to calibrate the SUV by the current method due to the vehicle's age and concerns over taking the vehicle to high speeds. The SUV was calibrated at a low speed.
- The JAG Grant application was completed and submitted.
- Officer Hayes attended Sexual Assault Investigation Training on March 29th.
- Officer Rebuck has offered his resignation. His last day will be May 1, 2018.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to accept Officer Rebuck's resignation. All Aye
- Chief Laidacker and Mayor Tim Benner asked Council to consider advertising for a part time officer. After a brief discussion Council President Doug Krum stated he would give the Chief and Mayor until April 16<sup>th</sup> to decide if they need to advertise for a part time officer.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Doug Krum reported the committee met with Chief Laidacker to discuss getting the Officers all their equipment their union contract states. Chief Laidacker was given permission to purchase equipment for 1 or 2 Officers a month up to \$700.00. If a purchase is over \$700.00 it must come before Council.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (61) electric door hangers and (23) sewer door hangers posted. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported beginning April 15<sup>th</sup> meters can start to be pulled for nonpayment on open electric accounts and promissory notes.

#### PARKS & RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairwoman Barb Reese announced Dumpster Day will be held on Saturday April 14, 2018 from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. A list of Do's & Don'ts is available on our website. No electronics, tires, paint, chemicals or trash will be accepted. All recyclables must go in the recycling bins not in the dumpsters. Committee Chairwoman Barb Reese also reported the following:
- Catawissa Borough Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday May 26, 2018 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- Kid's Day will be held on Saturday June 16, 2018 at 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- Summer Breeze program will start June 26, 2018 with the Catawissa Military Band honoring our veterans. Quilts of Valor will be awarded to 3 veterans with coffee and cake afterwards. On July 10<sup>th</sup> is Ave E and July 17<sup>th</sup> is the Monkeephiles.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese asked about having the handicap swing moved to Wolfgang Park. Council President Doug Krum stated once a spot is picked out he will have the Borough workers move it.
- Guest Sharon Krum asked if the spots without mulch were filled in at Wolfgang Park. Council President Doug Krum said he told Clair Kingston to fill in the spots with more mulch.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese reported Clair Kingston is placing porta potties at the Little League Field and the Teener Field.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported we had a terrible mess the past week at the recycling bins. Mr. Steinruck spoke with Scott Fought and Mr. Fought suggested we do a set up like Orangeville. To do this it will cost some expenditures, for the bigger recycling bins it will cost \$425 per month. Councilwoman Linda Kashner suggested looking for grant money.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese asked if the camera was set up at the recycling bins. Council President Doug Krum stated he called Clair Kingston to set it back up. The camera was taken down to view the images of the mess left last week and to be reset.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairwoman Linda Kashner read the balances of accounts.
- Committee Chairwoman Linda Kashner recommended we take the culvert invoices from general fund reserve or the capital fund. Ms. Kashner doesn't believe the general fund budget can take it.
- Committee Chairwoman Linda Kashner recommend transferring \$75, 000 from the Electric Fund Budget to the Capital Budget for expenses that may arise. Ms. Kashner also recommended transferring \$100,000 from the Sewer Checking Account to pay on the Sewer Loan and transferring \$25,000 from the Sewer Checking Account to the Capital Fund.

#### UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

#### PERSONNEL:

- Committee Chairman Doug Krum reported he did get the Discrimination and Harassment and the Disability Accommodation Policies and we will be discussing them later on.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to approve the renewal of the Geisinger Health Insurance. All Aye.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to approve the AT&T Cell Site Lease. (3) Aye; Linda Kashner, Nay; Gary Steinruck, Nay. Motion carries.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to discuss the Drain Pipe Project at 4<sup>th</sup> & Pfahler Streets. Council President Doug Krum reported this was an emergency because there was a hole in the park. Mr. Krum called all the Council Members to get a vote and all were in favor. The cheapest estimate was from O'Neil Excavating. Once this part was done the rest of the drain pipe needed to be done. Since O'Neil, was there they finished the project. The total cost was \$18,735.00. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to take the expenses from the General Fund Reserve account. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss culvert replacement from the rear of the First United Methodist Church to the creek. Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the culvert must stay in the lineup with the location it is now as it discharges in the creek. It is utilized for a flushing mechanism for where the dry line is for the fire protection that drafts out of the creek.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to pay the \$12,000.00 from the Capital Fund to have the engineering study done for the culvert replacement from the rear of the First United Methodist Church to the creek. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Steinruck to adopt Ordinance 01-2018 regarding Snow Removal. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to adopt Resolution 2018-02 regarding Banner Permits. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the Discrimination and Harassment Policy. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve the Disability Accommodation Policy. All Aye.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to discuss the Sewer Plant Truck. Council President Doug Krum reported we had the truck taken to the garage and the findings were it is not worth fixing. The truck should be gotten rid of or sold. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if the Electric Department Truck could be given to the Sewer Department and purchase a new truck for the Electric Department. Council President Doug Krum stated we could look into it. This issue was tabled until next month.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to discuss the WVIA Our Town Project. After a discussion it was decided to set up a meeting and see who in the community would like to be involved.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to discuss the fire extinguishers needed for the Community Center. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated he got quotes on the extinguishers but did not get quotes on the enclosures. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to purchase 2 fire extinguishers with enclosures but not to exceed \$400.00. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss the weed spraying in the Borough. After a brief discussion Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked that the rose bushes by Eyer Park be covered before spraying. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to accept the bid from Creative Landscapes for \$1680 to do the weed spraying in the borough. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve Catawissa Baseball putting a shed behind right field and sinking (6) wood poles in for batting cages and permission to use the Teener Field contingent on PEMA/FEMA approving the batting cage and shed and Catawissa Baseball having liability insurance. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve Resolution 2018-03 regarding changes to the Sewer and Sewage Disposal, Chapter 18 of the Catawissa Borough Code. All Aye.

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve advertising for a part-time seasonal Public Works Employee. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to approve sick & personal days benefits for Non-Uniform Personnel. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to discuss Retirement Benefits for Non-Uniform Non-Union Personnel. After a brief discussion this was tabled.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to appoint Larry Frace as Code Enforcement Officer for a (6) month trial period. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to appoint Larry Frace as Building Inspector. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss replacing a window at the Police Station. Chief Laidacker gave a brief description of the issue with the window. A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to get bids to replace the window in the Police Station. All Aye.
- A discussion on the repair of the Quaker Cemetery retaining wall was tabled until next month.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss the repair of the pickup truck canopy. This issue was tabled until next month
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss the Letters of Interest received for the (2) vacant council seats. The Borough received (6) Letters of Interest from Gina Trapani, Roy Klinger, Patty Hess, Cyril Kowalick, Brian Gipple and Paula Ream.  
A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to nominate Roy Klinger for a Borough Council vacant seat. Roll call vote. Doug Krum, Aye; AJ McKenney, Aye; Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese, Aye. Motion carries.  
A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to nominate Patsy "Patty" Hess for a Borough Council vacant seat. Roll call vote. Doug Krum, Nay; AJ McKenney, Nay; Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese, Aye. Motion carries.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to approve the purchase of 3 bullet proof vests for the police department. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve NEPA Shockwave to use the softball field. This matter was tabled until special meeting to gather more information.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss which streets are going to be repaired. Council President Doug Krum stated he felt Mountain Rd was the worst road in need of repair. Water Authority Superintendent gave a list of streets they will be working on and a map to see main replacements on the streets the Council was considering for repair. Council President Doug Krum asked Chief Laidacker his opinion on what are the worst streets in the borough. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to repair Mountain Rd this year for an estimate of \$83,260.50. All Aye.
- A discussion was started by Council President Doug Krum about the Codification Project. After the discussion Council President Doug Krum announced a Special Meeting for Monday April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. to review the Codification Project.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated she received a request for an Eagle Scout project. Chief Laidacker suggested he had some ground under their pavilion that needs leveled out, rocks removed and holes filled. Ms. Kashner is going to have the Eagle Scout meet with Chief Laidacker.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated in January council had decided to have the Emergency Management Coordinator do a report quarterly. Council President Doug Krum responded he will speak with the Coordinator and have him at the next meeting.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese announced we will be participating in the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau passport. The passport starts on May 4<sup>th</sup> starting at the Barton House. The Quaker Meeting House will be open for tours on Sunday April 15, 2018 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Ms. Reese explained how the passport program works.
- Mayor Tim Benner announced Brookside Nursey is donating a Twin Tree to be planted at Eyer Park. The Borough Workers will need to dig the hole for the tree. Brookside will plant the tree and provide the soil to go around it.

- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to adopt Resolution 2018-4 regarding the appointment of Roy Klinger to a vacant council seat. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to adopt Resolution 2018-5 regarding the appointment Patsy “Patty “ Hess to a vacant council seat. All Aye.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Paula Ream asked “how did you vet for people for these vacant seats?” Council President Doug Krum stated we advertised in the newspaper. Ms. Ream asked if the council talked to them. Ms. Ream stated it seemed like it was already decided. Council stated it was advertised in the newspaper, website, facebook and on the Borough door. No council members talked to anyone before the meeting and the letters of Interest were available for Council to look at in the Borough Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese. All Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Secretary