

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

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, Roy Klinger, Patty Hess, Gary Steinruck, Linda Kashner, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent: Barbara Reese

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum to approve the minutes from previous month's meeting. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Sharon Krum asked if anything was going to be done about banning the big aerial fireworks and having them go off after 10:00 pm at night. Council President Doug Krum replied that fireworks will be looked into. Attorney Anthony McDonald gave some suggestions and said he would be happy to sit down with the Public Safety Committee.
- Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his concern with how close to buildings fireworks were being set off this year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole reported Parks & Recreation Committee received a thank you card and a \$60 donation from the Ernest/ Gotshall families showing their appreciation for the use of the pavilion for their 2017 & 2018 family reunion.
- Secretary Connie Cole read an invitation the Borough received from Columbia/ Montour Aging, Inc. to support their 11th Annual Chickin Pickin' Corn Roastin' Good Time being held on Saturday, August 25th at the Catawissa Boat Club. A registration form is available at the Borough Hall for anyone interested in tickets.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner reported the Police schedule is taken care of until next year.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, Larry C. Frace read the report for the month of June which stated the following: (5) investigations, (14) letters, (2) door hangers, (0) verbal warnings and (2) permits were issued.
- Mr. Frace read the zoning report for zoning inquires & complaints.
- Mr. Frace also reported people are cleaning up their properties.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of June, 2018 the department responded to (196) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The rear emergency lighting was replaced on the SUV.
- The new window for the station arrived and needs to be installed.
- The required uniform orders are continuing for the department.
- The Chief attended the Annual Chief of Police Conference June 17th to 20th.
- Officer O'Donnell has taken a full time position with Hemlock Township Police, which will limit his availability. Officers Buriak and Moyer have made themselves available to work 32 hours a week to help fill in the schedule.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a meeting was held with the Catawissa Fire Company for a shelter in case of a disaster, more information is needed before a decision can be made.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported a utilities meeting will need to be held to discuss revisions needed for the budget plan application.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts and reported there were (54) electric door hangers, (23) sewer door hangers issued.

PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Member Linda Kashner reported Kid's Day was a success with a nice attendance and several parents thanking them for the day. Chairperson Linda Kashner also reported:
- The Veteran's Celebration was also a success with 3 Quilts of Valor awarded and the Military Band Concert was enjoyed by everyone. A lot of positive comments were made about the program. Ms. Kashner would like to thank the VFW, Paul Sevision and Mark Schlieder for making the Veteran's Celebration a success. Ms. Kashner would also like to thank Zachery Honabach for his performance of God Bless America.
- The Summer Breeze Concert on July 10th will be Avenue E from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. refreshments will be provided by Catawissa Dreaming.
- Senior Day will be August 24, 2018 and planning will start next week.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported there is an ongoing battle with Home Depot about the flooring installed at the Community Center. Mr. Steinruck did not get any satisfaction with anyone at the Bloomsburg Store. Mr. Steinruck called a claims representative and did not get any answers from her. Mr. Steinruck's next step is going to pen a letter and recommend Council not do anymore business with them. Mr. Steinruck also reported he has photos of the flooring if anyone would like to look at them after the council meeting.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported a CD was purchased from First Columbia Bank & Trust for 2.30%.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported she talked to her financial adviser and researched on the internet and selling the shares with Principal Financial was not a good idea.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported there was a meeting to finalize the contract counter offer with the Police. A phone meeting was also held with the labor attorney to help with the finalization of the counter offer. The borough should receive the contract back sometime this week to present to the police.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum report they are waiting on the contract counter offer back from the labor attorney to present to the police.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss the Borough Copier. After a brief discussion on details of leasing a new one or purchasing the old one. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Patty Hess to lease a new Copier. All Aye.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Linda Kashner to discuss the purchase of a new bill printing machine. A letter to council was submitted by Nancy Yost and read by Councilwoman Linda Kashner as follows:

Catawissa Council Members,

Since I am unable to attend tonight's meeting due to being out of the area, I would like to address Council via print.

With regard to the subject of purchasing a new billing/folding/self-sealing printing machine. First point to consider is the ability to utilize this machine for many other items other than printing the electric/sewer billing such as: a paper folder for a quarterly newsletter, pamphlets for the Community Center, Kid's Day, Summer Breeze, Senior Day or the many other special activities the Borough presents for its residents.

The few ideas mentioned above, would alone, save many labor hours of folding and applying the "required" three adhesive circles to each and every piece to be mailed. This is extremely time consuming, ask Linda Kashner, Barb Reese or myself as we did this a few years ago and it took what seemed like weeks to complete. It's especially hard to perform one's regular duties and attempt to compile a mass mailing plus there really isn't an overabundance of volunteers knocking the doors down!

Utilizing this machine will improve our billing invoices tremendously. It will fold and seal all invoice billings in a matter of minutes, no need to print backs, fronts and rip apart four invoices per sheet! We will be able to include messages in a specific area contained on the front of the invoice when opened--- not the back of a tiny postcard that limits the ability to a tiny size! For instance, springtime and summertime... Include a message that reminds residents to keep their yard mowed, garbage requirements, brush pick-up, dates and times of upcoming scheduled events and in winter time remind residents of clearing snow on their sidewalks and MANY MORE! This will limit the responses from residents such as "I didn't know; I wasn't aware."

The most important item to consider is PRIVACY! I am aware that "some" people don't give two hoots what people know or find out about them but, most times, there are people who enjoy

their privacy and enjoy keeping their “two hoots” to themselves. Being a private person does not mean that person has something to hide, it means that person wants others to keep their inquisitiveness out of their lives.

I realize the most of the Borough’s billings are delivered via the postal service. Do any of you stop and consider how many of those postcard billings maybe lost and/or delivered to an incorrect address? Not saying “hundreds” but it takes only ONE!

Even though it hasn’t happened yet, how long do you think it will be for an overly extreme private person to have their postcard end up in someone else’s mailbox enabling someone else’s eyes to view all their billing information which upsets that person to the point of attempting to file against the Borough for being an enabler of privacy invasion? I’m not saying this is a possibility nor am I saying this is a legal avenue for someone to take, I’m just stating “what if” and who, in this day and age, can actually say with true belief “what if” will never happen?” Oh, and even if the above is deemed impossible.... There’s always calls to 30 seconds...ask the few residents that do that often!

At times, one must think outside the box and act before the “possibility” presents itself.

If anyone is interested, there is a spec sheet attached to this for you to see.

I would just like to let it be known that I sincerely believe this machine would be a beneficial purchase to the Borough.

Thank you,

Nancy

After a brief discussion more information was requested (price of billing paper, postage, is there a warranty on the machine) before a decision can be made. This matter was tabled until next month.

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss the retaining wall at Quaker & Greenwood Cemeteries. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd AJ McKenney to give 50% up to \$7000 if grant money can be found to repair the retaining wall at Quaker & Greenwood Cemeteries. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss the cardboard recycling. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated a letter was sent from Fought’s Disposal in March making the borough aware of the residential waste being put in with the recycling. Mr. Fought gave the borough options to help with this issue. The letter also stated on Aug 1st the cost of recycling is going to increase to \$475.00 per month. Mr. Steinruck reported in order to solve the issues with recycling program, new dumpsters will need to be constructed. In order for Fought’s to build these dumpsters the borough must sign a 5 year contract at \$475.00 per month. Mr. Steinruck also stated if the Borough does not sign the contract recycling cost is still going up to \$475.00 per month starting August 1st and this does not take care of any of the issues that continue at the recycling site. Councilwoman Linda Kashner made the suggestion of locking the site and only having it open certain days and times of the week. Council members expressed their concerns with locking the site up. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested taking a hard look at the contract to make sure the price won’t increase if Fought’s incurs any cost increases over the 5 years and also suggested making calls and see what other options there are. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd Gary Steinruck by to get bids from other companies. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss a policy regarding feeding the feral cats on borough property. Attorney Anthony McDonald presented a draft ordinance in regards to Feral Cats. Attorney McDonald explained what boroughs can do is

limited by the law and made a suggestion to review the draft, post it on the website and come back next month to discuss the ordinance. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if the council can restrict people feeding feral cats on borough property. Attorney McDonald stated yes you can. Guest Sharon Krum stated she has a trap, neuter and release cat at her property and her Vet gives a paper that you need to water, feed and shelter the cat. Attorney McDonald stated the only option that works is trap, neuter and release. Chief Laidacker added they will prosecute anyone who kills a cat. A motion was made by Patty Hess, 2nd by Linda Kashner to table the feral cat policy until next month.

All Aye

- Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Lindenmuth had reported American Signal serviced the siren at the Fire Hall. The siren is only working half, an amp and 3 driver speakers went out. The siren is 20 years old and the suggestion is not to put any more money into it. Council President Doug Krum read ANS Services' report as follows: Due to the age of the siren and equipment direct replacement parts are no longer available and individual component repairs are sometimes not cost effective. The siren is fully operational but performance is degraded due to defective or inoperable components. Mr. Lindenmuth suggested we replace the siren with a manual one and to stay away from another electronic siren. ANS Services is going to give a bid on a new manual siren. Mr. Lindenmuth is going to look for grant money to help with the purchase of a new siren.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Patty Hess to discuss the dividing wall at Quaker Cemetery. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck passed around photos of the dividing wall showing the wall falling apart. Mr. Steinruck contacted Kocher's Masonry, Reeds, Fred Schrader, Young's and Robbins. The only company to submit a bid was Fred Schrader in the amount of \$1700. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by AJ McKenney to accept the bid from Fred Schrader in the amount of \$1700 for the repair of the dividing wall at Quaker Cemetery. (6) Aye, Gary Steinruck Abstained
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss the culvert at the rear of Helwig's property on 3rd St. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated this opening has been there since last winter. Mr. Steinruck said Larson quoted \$6200 to look at the opening and let the borough know what to do. Councilwoman Patty Hess asked if the opening was on his property and why doesn't Mr. Helwig have it fixed. Councilman Gary Steinruck replied he feels it is the borough's responsibility to repair the opening because the borough paid for a culvert opening to be repaired 2 doors down. Council President Doug Krum asked if we need to have Larson look at it. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested to call around to get other bids and stated it is a professional service the borough can use anyone they want. Councilman Gary Steinruck and Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated council voted on Larson's Design to be our Engineer. Attorney McDonald stated as long as the council never signed a contract they can get bids from other sources. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Roy Klinger for Roy Klinger to get bids from other engineers for the culvert opening. (6) Aye, Gary Steinruck, Nay
- Council President Doug Krum started a conversation about water running off of the old tennis court onto the carnival grounds and the water making it a muddy mess. Clair Kingston gave an estimate of \$1500 for materials needed to put a drain in so the water is diverted towards the creek. Councilwoman Patty Hess and Councilman Gary Steinruck questioned whether this is going to fix the issue. A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Doug Krum to have Clair Kingston put in a drain to divert the water from the carnival grounds. Mr. Steinruck suggested an engineer look at the project to tell the borough if the drain will work. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated a motion is already on the table you need to take a vote at some point. A roll

call vote was taken. Doug Krum, Aye; AJ McKenney, Aye; Roy Klinger, Aye; Patty Hess, Nay; Gary Steinruck, Nay; Linda Kashner, Aye Motion carries

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if anyone knew why the Little League Trailer was parked at the softball field. Council President Doug Krum replied he doesn't know but he did see it there. Mr. Krum said he would call Scott Keefer and find out why.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner started a discussion about making Gary Steinruck the liaison between the employees and council. It was explained to council that Doug Krum gave each employee a memo regarding the chain of command. Council President Doug Krum is the first contact then, Gary Steinruck, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, AJ McKenney, Patty Hess then Roy Klinger in that order.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked at the last public safety meeting if any place has been designated as a shelter if some are seeking safety in case of a tornado warning. Council President Doug Krum referred to Guest Harold Kitchen and asked if people can go to the Fire Company if a tornado warning comes out. Mr. Kitchen replied yes, the room can hold up to 10 people besides the commands posted in there.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked about an Emergency Management Plan that is in effect. Council President Doug Krum replied they were working on it. Mr. Steinruck asked about the plan that was put in effect in 2011. Mr. Krum replied he didn't know anything about the plan from 2011. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck and Council woman Linda Kashner asked shouldn't the Emergency Management Coordinator know something about it. Council President Doug Krum announced the next Public Safety Meeting will be July 30th at the Borough Hall and they will be working on the Emergency Management Plan then.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner said council needs to start thinking about cleaning up Greenwood Cemetery. A lot of the problem is vandalism with over turned grave stones. Mayor Tim Benner said anyone seeing vandalism please call the police department. Mr. Benner also made council aware the Chief is going to have the 2nd shift and 3rd shift officers patrol at least once per shift. Council President Doug Krum is going to assess the damage and bring this back next month. Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated the money for cleanup can be taken from the Eyer Fund.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner offered to donate a Catawissa afghan with holder to hang at the Community Center.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner ask if she could get a locking case to put her Catawissa Memorabilia and memorabilia from others in the back of the Community Center. Council agreed they were ok with Ms. Kashner doing that.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported a person contacted her about a rental ordinance. This person feels rental properties are not being kept up. Ms. Kashner did inform her that the borough has a new code enforcement officer. After a brief discussion Council President Doug Krum asked Code Enforcement Officer Larry Frace if he had any sample ordinances regarding rental properties. Mr. Frace replied yes he can drop one off for council to view.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck reported he received the contracts from HRI for the Pfahler St. Project. These contracts need to be taken to CDBG to do the final approval.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck reported stump grinding will begin on July 17th.
- Council Vice President reported as soon as Precision Millwright receives the c-channel from their supplier they will start fabricating the metal stairs for outside the Borough Hall.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked why we need a new sewer truck if the old one sits because it has a broken steering pump. Mr. Steinruck explained it could be November/December until the new truck is ready. Councilman Roy Klinger volunteered his

time and labor to fix the power steering pump. The Borough would just have to pay for the parts.

After a discussion Attorney Anthony McDonald stated the truck is already ordered you cannot cancel it now. Council President Doug Krum stated next month council will have to discuss a plan if the new truck is not ready by the time the borough will need to plow.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- A motion to accept payment of bills as written was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patty Hess. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guest this at this time.

ADJORNMENT:

- Motion made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney. All Aye.

MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary