

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY August 6, 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, Patsy Hess, Gary Steinruck, Linda Kashner, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent: Barbara Reese

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to approve the minutes from previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Ronald Fritz from 347 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. expressed his concern about getting different information from different people on ordinances. Mr. Fritz also explained he asked for a copy of Outdoor Wood Burning Boiler and a copy of Open Burning Ordinance but when he came for a copy for tonight's meeting he was told to fill out a Right to Know form. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested the Borough not have residents fill out the paper form. Mr. McDonald also stated the Borough can have any policy they want but his opinion is to make it easy on the residents. Mr. Fritz also stated that the Burn Ordinance does not state that you cannot burn brush. Councilwoman Linda Kashner explained she was under the impression that you cannot burn anything in town. Mr. Fritz stated he asked what he had to do to burn. Mr. Fritz was told he had to have a 3 sided pit to burn and the ordinance does not address what can be burned. The ordinance only says you cannot burn refuse. Councilwoman Linda Kashner explained to Mr. Fritz that if he has brush he can call the borough and someone will be around to pick it up. Mr. Fritz explained that is not the way he wants to do it. Mr. Fritz feels it is a waste of tax payers' money and if he wants to burn it, he can per ordinance.
- Guest Scott Fought from Fought's Disposal Service explained the price increase for the recycling program is due to regular garbage being placed in with the recycling contaminating the product which now makes it no good. Mr. Fought explained the advantages of the new recycling containers which use the square box in a round hole concept. Mr. Fought asked for a 5 year agreement to help recoup the cost of the new containers. Council President Doug Krum asked if the borough has to be locked into a 5 year contract. Mr. Fought expressed he could probably go with a 3 year contract. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if Mr. Fought found people are still leaving garbage in the recycling. He said yes but it is much less. Ms. Kashner also asked if the contract had to be signed this month. Mr. Fought said no but they do need to get the revenue because of cost to come over to pick up the roll offs that are here now. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated that the price increase is a big concern with the contract. Mr. Fought stated he would not foresee any reason to renegotiate or have a conversation unless the whole recycling goes away. At that point the Borough would want to do away with it and get out of the contract. Mr. Fought said he would be more than willing to take the annual increase out of the contract and to lock the price in for the contract. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked about flooding and the recycling dumping. Mr. Fought said if it floods to the point that is a concern the dumpsters can be removed.

Councilwoman Linda Kashner expressed she feels they need to get better quality and more cameras at the recycling sight. Councilwoman Patsy Hess agreed. Mr. Fought suggested to have a gate and lock the recycling up after business hours.

Chief Laidacker asked Mr. Fought if he could send the pictures with name and addresses of the person/persons dumping garbage into the recycling directly to him. Mr. Fought replied yes he could.

Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated maybe the Borough would like to see if Catawissa Township would like to go in with the Borough for the recycling program.

Mr. Fought explained he is looking for an October time frame for an answer. Council President Doug Krum said council can vote on it next month and this would give the Borough time to see if Catawissa Township wants to go in on the recycling.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole read a thank you card sent to Nancy Yost from the Monkeephiles.
- Secretary Connie Cole reported the following:
- The annual PMEA Conference is September 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to send Harry Young to the PMEA Conference. All Aye
- Sokol Inc will be working on Mountain Rd. August 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> to do the cross pipes. They will return on August 14<sup>th</sup> to mill, then on August 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> they will be black topping.

#### MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner reported Police interviews were done.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported at the last flooding event the high water brought a tree that was upstream from Lee's flood downstream. The tree is now wedged in front of the mill race and into the fish way. Ms. Bachman contacted John Brown with Northeast. Mr. Brown explained his crane is not big enough to remove the tree. He would have to rent a 50 ton crane. Mr. Brown gave Ms. Bachman a quote of \$3000.00 to remove the tree. Ms. Bachman stated the Water Authority will take care of all the other debris that is there and the water control for the different planking system to make the removal of the tree safer. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if Mr. Brown would be able to clean up the rest of the trees that are down in the water ways. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to have John Brown remove the big tree and the other trees for under \$10,000.00. All Aye  
Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman thanked council for approving the removal of the tree and stated the Water Authority also purchased stone to put down in there.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report for the month of July which stated the following: (24) investigations, (17) letters, (6) door hangers, (2) verbal warnings and (4) permits were issued.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of July, 2018 the department responded to (179) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The rear emergency lighting was replaced on the 2014 sedan.
- The radiator and A/C switch was replaced on the SUV.

- The flashing rear light was replaced on the SUV.
- The SUV has stalling issues.
- The new window for the station arrived and needs to be installed.
- The required uniform orders are continuing for the department.
- The department has received correspondence from the Halloween Parade Committee requesting traffic control for this year's Halloween Parade on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Officer Buriak has taken a full time position with West Mahanoy Township PD. He would like to remain on staff and take shifts when he is available.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a meeting was held and Mike Lindenmuth still needs to talk to the churches. They also need to get a list together of equipment because the one they have is out dated.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts and reported there were (55) electric door hangers, (26) sewer door hangers issued. Ms. Kashner stated the collection on the delinquent accounts is due on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Kashner also read the balances on open and closed electric and sewer accounts.

#### PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Secretary Connie Cole read the report as follows:
- The Summer Breeze Music Concert featuring the Monkeephiles had to be moved to the Catawissa Fire Hall due to inclement weather. The final concert featuring Double Talk was cancelled due to thunderstorms and heavy rain.
- Special thanks to Linda Kashner for her hard work and dedication for Kids Day, Remembering our Veterans and the Summer Breeze Concert Series.
- We continue to open the Quaker Meeting House the third Sunday of the month in conjunction with the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau Summer Passport Program.
- Catawissa Senior Day will be held on Friday August 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Catawissa Fire Hall. We have invited the Columbia County Commissioners Dave Kovach, Chris Young & Richard Ridgeway; Representative David Millard and Senator John Gordner and the Area Agency on Aging.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported (2) trees are down at the cemetery and tree stumps were starting to be ground. The stump grinder broke and is being repaired. Once it is repaired the stump grinding will be finished.
- Mr. Steinruck reported he found a copy of the contract signed by Fred Hess for Larson Design.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.
- Ms. Kashner expressed that hopefully by the end of the year another nice payment can be made on the sewer loan.
- Ms. Kashner stated she had Nancy checking on Insurances. PIRMA came in \$11,000.00 less and Zimmer came in \$100 less per person for Bond Insurance. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to have Connie and Nancy fill out the paperwork for Zimmer Bond Insurance and when they are approved cancel the old bonds. All Aye

- Ms. Kashner reported they started on the budget and Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup> she and Nancy will be meeting with Innotek about computer services.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported they did (2) police interviews.

#### UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum report they met with the police union today for a sit down face to face negotiation. Each party will get back to each other.
- The committee will start with Chief Laidacker negotiations real soon.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to table the cardboard recycling until next month. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss an Ordinance regarding Feral Cats. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to remove the Feral Cat Ordinance from the agenda. All Aye  
Guest Cindy Bachman suggested contacting professional trappers for the feral cats. Ms. Bachman expressed her concern that if there is not a mass trapping the TNR program is not going to work. Ms. Bachman asked if there is a way to look into it since it is a borough wide problem. Guest Sharon Krum asked if the borough could ask PA Pets if there is such a service available.
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss the purchase of the new Heat Seal Billing Machine. Council President Doug Krum stated it looks like a \$2200.00 increase for the first year. Mr. Krum asked if the machine was \$4000.00. Secretary Connie Cole stated yes plus \$225.00 shipping. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to table the matter until next month. All Aye

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to donate \$1000.00 to the Catawissa Fire Company for their annual carnival. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to allow Chase Petty to remove and do the cleanup of the (2) trees that are on the property line at 315 Pine Street at his cost. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney for the purchase of (12) Switches & (12) Lightening Arrestors for the Electric Department. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss the 2019 Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plans. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to approve the 2019 Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for the Pension Plans. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the PIRMA Insurance Renewal. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss a donation to the 111th Annual Halloween Parade. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to donate \$2000.00 to the Parade Committee. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> AJ McKenney to approve Chief Laidacker to apply for a detour permit for the Halloween Parade. All Aye  
Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Chief Laidacker to look into the cost for the dinner and to present it at next month's meeting.

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of a bullet proof vest. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss the mechanical issues with the Police SUV. Councilman Roy Klinger presented the total of funds \$11,674.38 use for maintenance of the SUV in the last (3) years which does not include the radiator and A/C switch. The SUV recently left an officer sit at the magistrate's office. They were eventually able to get it started. Mr. Klinger stated the transmission is in limited capacity. The SUV doesn't go into any gear easily and the borough would be looking at \$2,800 to \$3,800 to repair the transmission. Mr. Klinger reported the head gasket is noted to go bad at 60,000 miles and the SUV has 68,000 miles. Mr. Klinger feels at any point the borough could see head gasket problems at any time. The borough could put another \$10,000.00 into the SUV easily and expressed he feels this is throwing money away at this point. His suggestion is to sell the vehicle while it has some value and purchase a new vehicle. Mr. Klinger stated there is a lease program on light duty pickup trucks for police use. Mr. Klinger feels the lease option for a light duty truck is a good deal. Chief Laidacker stated an officer had gotten into the SUV, put the vehicle into gear and pressed on the gas and nothing happened. Chief Laidacker expressed his concern with the safety of the SUV with the mechanical issues the vehicle is having. After a brief discussion of concerns a motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kasher to approve Roy Klinger to get bids on a truck, SUV and cruiser. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to discuss the Community Aid Grant. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck explained the grant is \$5000.00 once a year and what the grant can be used for and what projects they feel would qualify. Mr. Steinruck explained they feel the heating, air conditioning and ceiling fans would qualify for the grant. If the Borough receives the grant the borough would have to pay the remainder of the project in the amount of approximately \$15,000.00. Councilwoman Linda Kashner suggested applying for Degestein Grant to put towards the project. Guest Harry Young asked if the grant can be used for streets in the community. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck replied, no he had asked. A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to apply for the Community Aid Grant to be used for the heating air conditioning and ceiling fans for the Community Center. 6 Aye, Doug Krum; Nay
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to hire David Kistner as a part time Police Officer. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss replacing the flooring at the Community Center. Councilwoman Patsy Hess asked what was wrong with the floor and how much did it cost. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated it was \$3780.00 for the flooring. Then Mr. Steinruck explained he felt it was poor installation of the flooring is causing the issues. The installer believed it was poor adhesive from the manufacturer and the manufacturer believes it was poor installation. After the manager from the Buckhorn location of Home Depot took a look at the flooring, she reported the community center was not air conditioned or have climate control the warranty would not be honored. Mr. Steinruck was not satisfied with the results. Mr. Steinruck contacted customer complaints from Atlanta Georgia. The lady there sent someone up to look at the flooring they came to the same results. Mr. Steinruck called again and talked to her supervisor. The supervisor called Mr. Steinruck back and said he was supposed to go to Home Depot at the Buckhorn location and Home Depot was going to try to work with the Borough. Mr. Steinruck presented the different prices on the commercial flooring from Home Depot. The different colors have different pricing one is \$4054.02, and the other is \$4023.15 and Home Depot will take off \$500.00. Council President Doug Krum asked who is going to remove the old flooring. Mr. Steinruck responded we are. Guest Cindy Bachman suggested maybe screwing the old flooring down since there is no warranty instead of replacing the whole floor.

After more discussion a motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve Vice President Gary Steinruck to get bids on linoleum that looks like wood, bids on the commercial laminate flooring, having the old flooring removed and new flooring installed. All Aye  
Guest Cindy Bachman suggested checking into needing climate control before new flooring is installed.

Guest Harry Young suggested to have the chipboard checked before new flooring is installed.

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- A motion to accept payment of bills as written was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner. All Aye

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported she contacted McKechney Pest Control and asked what they would charge to spray the Quaker Meeting House. Ms. Kashner was quoted \$25.00 per month. Ms. Kashner explained this is a \$5 savings per month. A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve hiring McKechney Pest Control to spray the Quaker Meeting House. All Aye
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner read previous minutes where a motion on February 5<sup>th</sup> to approve a \$1000.00 to the Emergency Coordinator and council would receive a quarterly report. Ms. Kashner asked if we ever received a report. Council President Doug Krum said no we haven't. Mr. Krum said he would speak with Mr. Lindenmuth again. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if the safety committee had a copy of the emergency plan. Mr. Krum and Mr. Klinger stated they are working on one. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck and Ms. Kashner asked where the old one is because that is still in effect. Mr. Krum and Mr. Klinger stated Mr. Lindenmuth had a copy. Councilwoman Linda Kashner and Councilman Gary Steinruck expressed their concerns that no one knows the plan in case of an emergency.

#### ADJORNMENT:

- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to adjourn. All Aye

#### MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Borough Secretary