

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY September 10, 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, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest John Brown expressed his concern with a bid he gave for grinding some stumps, lifting sidewalks, grinding roots and cutting down (2) trees. He gave the bid and was told the bid was to include cleaning everything up. A competitor got the bid for less money, he couldn't ground the stumps. He cut the trees, and he never lifted the sidewalks, ground the stumps and never cleaned up. The borough had to clean up. Mr. Brown explained what it entailed to grind the stumps and lift the sidewalks to do the roots. Mr. Brown asked if the competitor got out of doing what he was instructed to do or was the competitor told the bid was something different. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked if these were bids or quotes. Mr. Steinruck stated they were phone quotes. Mr. Steinruck was asked if the competitor was told the same scope of work as Mr. Brown was told. Mr. Brown also asked why competitors were told his bid for removing the trees at the pier but they don't know what Kennedy Tree Service bid was. Mr. Steinruck stated he did not tell Mr. Brown's bid amount to anyone, Mr. Steinruck said he stated the bids were over \$10,000 and the borough was not interested in removing the trees at this time. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked Mr. Steinruck if Kennedy Tree Service lifted the sidewalk and ground the stumps out. Mr. Steinruck stated no, he did not have the equipment. Attorney McDonald asked how Kennedy bid on the job without it then. Mr. Steinruck responded without that. Attorney McDonald asked if Mr. Brown was given the opportunity to bid on the project without lifting the sidewalks and grounding the stumps. Mr. Steinruck replied no he was not. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated from the legal point of view every person bidding should be bidding on the same scope of work. Attorney McDonald suggested there should be a policy on the quoting or bidding process so a written scope of work can be handed to every person quoting or bidding. Attorney McDonald suggested that all bids and quotes should be kept on file with the scope of work. Mr. Brown asked if any person doing work for a quote or bid in the borough should carry worker's compensation insurance. Attorney McDonald stated they must have liability insurance. Workers Compensation insurance is not something he is worried about. Attorney McDonald also stated the borough can require any documentation they choose. Committee Property & Maintenance was appointed to draft a policy on the process of getting phone or written quotes and/or bids.
- Guest Harry Young asked what would happen if a contractor came in and had liability insurance but no workers compensation and someone gets hurts. Attorney McDonald stated we want liability insurance because someone can sue with or without workers compensation.
- Guest Mr. John Brown stated to Vice President Gary Steinruck that his offer still stands to cut down the dead pine tree and remove the stump for the baseball team. The tree is located at the Little League Field. President Doug Krum stated he would call Scott Keefer so they know the tree will be removed.

- Guest Ron Fritz expressed he would like to see the permit fees to be revisited. Mr. Fritz feels the fees are too high and he would like to see veterans and seniors pay nothing. Mr. Fritz also stated he feels the building code is way out of date. Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated she feels it was updated. Ms. Kashner stated she would not hesitate to give a discount to veterans and senior citizens. Council President Doug Krum said the committee will look into this matter before next meeting,
- Council President Doug Krum read a letter submitted by Walt Gosciminski regarding landlords having to pay the \$100.00 reconnection fee for disconnection of electric service for nonpayment. Council felt there was no discussion needed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole reported the Southern Columbia Class of 1967 donated \$50.00 to the borough for the use of the pavilion.
- Secretary Connie Cole read a Public Notice for the Catawissa Borough Zoning Hearing Board a public meeting will held on September 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catawissa Borough Hall in regards to a variance filed by Carla Kreisler.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck read a letter he received from General Code thanking him for the submission of the editorial legal analysis. The Analysis was well organized and easy to follow. General Code will now proceed with the final draft and publication of the new code for the Borough of Catawissa. Mr. Steinruck stated that Attorney McDonald, Connie Cole, Nancy Yost, Linda Kashner and Barbara Reese should get some credit for the project also because we all worked on it.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner had nothing to report at this time.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported on Aug 23rd Northeast Tree Service removed the log from the dam area and did an excellent job.
- Ms. Bachman also feels John Brown deserves a hearty thank you for the offer of removing the tree for the Little League for no charge.
- Ms. Bachman would like to publicly thank the borough workers for helping her with flagging for a project on Main Street when the flaggers she had set up never showed.
- Ms. Bachman would like to thank Officer Hayes for directing traffic a few days later while the Water Authority put cold patch down.
- On October 8th the Water Authority will be flushing fire hydrants. Ms. Bachman advised for no one to do laundry.
- Ms. Bachman announced the Water Authority will not be getting to the South 3rd Street project as she hoped too. There are other paving projects that need done. The Water Authority also has to run a line for a development that may go in the country.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report for the month of August which stated the following: (27) investigations, (10) letters, (9) door hangers, (2) verbal warnings and (1) permit were issued.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of August, 2018 the department responded to (215) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The SUV has been placed out of regular service due to safety concerns.

- SUV has stalling issues.
- SUV transmission doesn't go in gear and is slipping.
- SUV has A/C issues related to the radiator.
- Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
 - The new window for the station has been purchased and sitting in the corner for (3) months needing to be installed.
 - Required uniform orders continue for the department.
 - The parade permit application has been submitted to PennDOT
 - The department is requesting up to \$400.00 for the meal following the parade.
 - Cadets and Fire Police have been requested to assist with the parade.
 - A DUI Checkpoint was conducted on the 24th of August resulting in DUI arrests and child safety seat violations.
 - On the 20th of August, four officers received DUI Checkpoint update training. Councilwoman Barbara Reese expressed her concerns with people speeding down Shuman Street to avoid the checkpoint. Mayor Tim Benner also expressed the same concerns. Chief Laidacker stated maybe next time they can have an Officer on Shuman Street.
 - Officers Kistner and Moyer received training on the X26 and X2 Taser Weapons.
 - Officer Kistner has been sworn and his training is going well. It is anticipated he will begin covering shifts shortly.
 - The department is requesting council discuss repairing the FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera. A quote was submitted for the repair of the camera. Chief Laidacker expressed how important this piece of equipment is and how it is utilized by other departments. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Barbara Reese to approve the repair of the FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera in the amount of \$1,085.00. All Aye
 - Councilman AJ McKenney asked Councilman Roy Klinger if he had any information on the cost of purchasing a new police vehicle. Councilman Klinger read off the information he had at the time and is still waiting for lease information to come in. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck expressed his concerns of being given false information on the repair cost of the Police SUV at last month's meeting. When some of the cost was for (2) vehicles, some was for maintenance and some was for repairs. Councilman Roy Klinger stated it is all needed to keep the vehicle in running order. Mr. Steinruck compared having a transmission repaired on a civilian truck to a police vehicle. Mr. Klinger told Mr. Steinruck to get quotes on having the transmission repaired on the Police SUV and cautioned on making sure the quality of work that was being done is also taken into consideration. Guest John Brown asked how many miles were on the Police SUV. Mr. Brown was told that there is 60 some thousand. Mr. Brown shared his opinion. Mr. Brown feels that is a lot of miles for a vehicle that idles in the hot sun for many hours. Chief Laidacker explained the SUV is not a police vehicle, it is a civilian model with a light bar on it and it is extra wear and tear on it. Mr. Brown stated it's a whole different vehicle when you have 80, 000 miles that has an equivalent of half a million miles when it's sitting in the hot sun while you're working in that vehicle versus a vehicle you drive from the store to your house. After some more discussion it was decided that this matter will be revisited at next month's meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a meeting was held (2) weeks ago and information was gathered for locations for people to stay during an emergency or disaster. A list of equipment was acquired for what is available. An old emergency plan was obtained and is being updated.
- Mr. Krum would like to thank the Fire Company, the Catawissa Methodist Church and the Catawissa Christian Church for opening their doors to residents during the last flooding.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts and reported there were (4) meters pulled. Ms. Kashner reported the collection on the delinquent accounts is due on the 10th. Ms. Kashner also read the balances on open and closed electric and sewer accounts.
- Ms. Kashner stated the efforts to collect these closed accounts is appreciated.
- Ms. Kashner requested the closed account 000171-09 for Michael Stanziale at 136 Railroad Street in the amount of \$450.00 be written off. Mr. Stanziale's check was not deposited by the borough and was not found until 2016. At this date the property had already been sold and Mr. Stanziale had moved out. After a brief discussion a motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Linda Kashner to write off the account for Michael Stanziale in the amount of \$450.00. All Aye

PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barbara Reese reported on August 24th Senior Day took place. There was a great turn out, everyone had a good time and Ms. Reese would like to thank everyone who helped.
- Quaker Meeting House will be open on Sunday Sept 16th for the Passport program. It is undecided if the Quaker Meeting House will be open in October.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck started a discussion concerning the flooring at the Community Center. Mr. Steinruck made the recommendation to do nothing with the flooring until the facility is utilized. If Council feels at a later date the flooring should be taken care of the matter can be revisited. Councilwoman Linda Kashner expressed she feels the next council meeting should be held at the Community Center. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to hold the next council meeting at the Community Center. All Aye
After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kasher, 2nd by Patsy Hess to hold Oct, Nov and Dec Council Meetings at the Community Center. All Aye

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.
- Ms. Kashner is hoping at the end of the year another payment can be made on the sewer loan.
- Ms. Kasher has not received any information on when the \$200,000 from PEMA/FEMA will be arriving.
- Ms. Kashner and Nancy Yost have been working on the budget. The Finance Committee will have to meet in the near future to firm up the 2019 Budget.
- Ms. Kashner feels council needs to decide if the borough is going to hire a Borough Manager. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese to discuss hiring a Borough Manager. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggest the borough does it different and look for a professional. Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated she feels the job can be done with a part time manager. Council President Doug Krum and Councilwoman Barbara Reese agree. A poll was taken of Council's opinion on a part time or full time manager. Barbara Reese, part time; Linda Kashner, part time; Gary Steinruck, No answer; Patsy Hess, part time; Roy Klinger, full time; AJ McKenney, full time; Doug Krum, part time.
Attorney Anthony McDonald stated now a committee needs to come up with a salary and benefits offer for a part time manager, then advertise in things like PSAB Magazine, Municipal Magazine and their website to get a professional. The Personnel Committee will be responsible for coming up with a salary and benefit package.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a negotiation session with the Police was held (2) weeks ago.
- Another police negotiation meeting will be held on Monday September 17, 2018 at 5 p.m.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum report Police negotiations are still on going.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss the Cardboard Recycling. After a brief discussion Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated if we are going to keep it the borough needs to invest in good surveillance cameras. Councilwoman Patsy Hess and Councilwoman Barbara Reese agree. Chief Laidacker mentioned there are systems that the footage can be recorded and viewed from the computers at the police station. Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked if Chief Laidacker can get some prices on these systems. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to sign a (3) year contract to continue the recycling program. (6)Aye; Linda Kashner, Nay
Council President Doug Krum was asked if he could contact Catawissa Township to see if they are interested in joining the borough recycling program.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss purchasing the Heat Seal Billing Machine. Council President Doug Krum stated he went and seen the machine. He stated it was an impressive machine but feels the borough does not need it. Council was given a sealed bill to see what they were like. After a discussion on the sealed bill a motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Roy Klinger to not purchase the heat billing machine. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discussion Larson Design to look at the culvert at the Helwig Project. Council President Gary Steinruck stated there is a hole opening up by Vito's. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese to have Larson Design look at the Helwig Project and the new opening. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss the non-uniform employees work clothing the borough provides. Council President Doug Krum stated most of the employees are not wearing the clothing. Electric Superintendent Harry Young was asked what was wrong with the clothing. Mr. Young stated they don't fit, they don't have different types of pants and the clothing is not tailored correctly. Some of the shirts one sleeve is longer than the other. Council President Doug Krum stated the borough signed a (5) year contract. Councilwoman Linda Kashner thought the Dempsey Representative said we could cancel at any time. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to authorize Council President Doug Krum to cancel the Dempsey contract without penalty. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to accept the resignation of Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Lindenmuth. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Linda Kashner to advertise for an Emergency Management Coordinator with the same terms as previous E.M.C. Before a vote was taken Council President Doug Krum mentioned Chief Joshua Laidacker was interested in the position. Mr. Krum also stated in other areas the chief holds this position. Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked Chief Laidacker if he had all the certifications. Chief Laidacker stated he had some of the minimal ones and he can get all of the certifications he needs to have. Councilwoman Linda Kashner and Council Roy Klinger rescind their vote to advertise for an E.M.C. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to appoint Chief Joshua Laidacker the Emergency Management Coordinator. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss the PMEA Conference. Council President Doug Krum stated the PMEA is going to discuss the increase in membership fees from a set amount to \$5.00 per meter. Mr. Krum feels someone from council should be there to attend. A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Barbara Reese for Council Vice President Gary Steinruck to attend the PMEA Conference and his lodging and meals will be paid for. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to accept the resignation of Part time Seasonal Worker Benjamin Clark. All Aye

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve the advertising for a Zoning Hearing Board Member starting January 2019. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss the paint damage at Senior Center. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck explained where the water damage and paint peeling are located, right inside the entry way. Mr. Steinruck also explained some of the mortar between the bricks are shot. Mr. Steinruck explained all the spots that the mortar needs repaired on the building. Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked if we can get some quotes for the repairs. Mr. Steinruck stated he had Fred Shrader look at it today, called Kocher in Orangeville but he could not do any repairs until next spring. Mr. Steinruck also called Potters and got no return phone call. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to have Council Vice President Gary Steinruck get quotes on repairing the Senior Center/ Community Center water damage problem. All Aye
- A motion was made by Pasty Hess, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss the Culvert Project from the Methodist Church to the Creek. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck reported he talked to Weston Brehm and there is no money available from CDBG to help with this project. The Borough does not fall within the income guidelines for borough wide projects. After a brief discussion Councilwoman Linda Kashner and Councilwoman Barbara Reese feel council should go to Representative Millard, Gordner and Barletta to see if there is any help available. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to table the matter until next month. All Aye
 Council Vice President Gary Steinruck said he will check on the possibility of Larson Design look into grants for the borough. He stated it will cost the borough but they will do it. Council President Doug Krum said yes go ahead. Councilwoman Linda Kashner feels the council should still talk to Millard, Gordner and Barletta.
 Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman said since the council is tabling the matter and talking about a new borough manager, maybe the new manager could investigate grants for this project instead of paying an engineering firm a lot of money. Council President Doug Krum stated yes I see where you are coming from. Ms. Bachman stated it wouldn't hurt to ask CBDG what it would take to get a borough wide survey done. Ms. Bachman is going to speak to Weston Brehm to see if he has the particulars on it. Ms. Bachman stated she was going to do this anyway and doesn't mind relaying the information. Councilwoman Linda Kashner and Barbara Reese thanked Ms. Bachman.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve up to \$400.00 for the meal following the parade for police and volunteers helping with traffic control. All Aye. Council President Doug Krum announced the dinner will be held at the Community Center.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the Right to Know Policy. All Aye. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated he disagrees making residents fill out right to know forms if it is simple and it is public just give it to them.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steiruck to approve O'Niel Excavating up to \$1700. 00 to unblock the drain pipe on Lily Avenue. (6) Aye; Patty Hess, Nay

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Chief Laidacker reminded council of his request made last fall to update the open container ordinance. Chief Laidacker explained he wanted "no one shall consume from an open container". He would like to revise the ordinance to "no one shall possess an open container". Council thought the ordinance was already changed in the codification project. After a brief discussion a motion was by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve a new ordinance to be drafted, if the current ordinance was not done in the codification project. All Aye

- Chief Laidacker reported on Saturday September 15, 2018 is the Red/Blue Charity Softball Game at the Catawissa Little League Field. The proceeds benefit the Catawissa League. Chief Laidacker invited everyone to come out and watch the game.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated there were (8) picnic tables lost in the flood and she wanted to know why. Council President Doug Krum replied he didn't know why. Ms. Kashner said she was surprised that they were not moved. Secretary Connie Cole stated the loss of the tables were reported to the insurance company.
- Councilman Gary Steiruck reported the Pfahler Street project is completed. Mr. Steiruck report the project came in \$2000-\$4000 under budget. It may mean the borough may not have to pay \$10,000. The amount could be \$6,000-\$8,000.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese spoke with someone on Mountain Road and they said a fantastic job was done on the repair and repaving of Mountain Road.
- Councilman Roy Klinger stated he will speak with someone in the construction department at his work to see if they would be willing to build the picnic tables that were lost. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if they had a department that did landscaping. Councilman Roy Klinger stated they only do work around the city.
- Councilman Gary Steinruck asked council to consider not doing business with Home Depot anymore because of Home depot not working with the borough on fixing the flooring at the Community Center. Councilwoman Patty Hess stated she agreed. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patty Hess to no longer do business with Home Depot. (4)Aye; (3)Nay

ADJORNMENT:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary