

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY October 8, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Executive Session took place before regular meeting at 5:30 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 , Gary Steinruck , Roy Klinger, Patsy Hess, AJ McKenney , Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 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 2 Bullet 2 under Water "Backman" changed to "Bachman" All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Guest Victoria Waugh shared her concerns about a neighboring property being in violation of the Garbage Ordinance and Code Enforcement Officer Larry Frace not answering her emails or following through with looking into the said property violations. Ms. Waugh also stated she feels an ordinance needs to be made for nuisance tenants and landlords. Council President Doug Krum told Ms. Waugh he would call Larry Frace first thing in the morning to investigate the property in violation. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked about a truck that has been sitting at the property. Ms. Waugh stated a truck was brought to the property in June, the rear end was removed and does not work. Ms. Waugh also stated the tenants are advertising a small engine repair business at this property. Council President Doug Krum reiterated he will call Mr. Frace in the morning to get this matter taken care of at 403 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Ms. Waugh was asked to forward her emails with Mr. Frace to Borough Secretary Connie Cole. The emails will be printed and given to Council President Doug Krum. Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Ms. Waugh to have Denise Rhone forward her emails that she sent to Code Enforcement Officer Larry Frace as well.
- Guest Gina Trapani President of Catawissa Dreaming asked permission to use Eyer Park and the empty lot on 1<sup>st</sup> Street for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Halloween Festival and Car Show. Catawissa Dreaming is asking for the use of electricity, picnic tables to be brought up, a porta potty and for 1<sup>st</sup> Street to be blocked off from Main Street to Railroad Street and the alley same as last year. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to accept Catawissa Dreaming's requests. All Aye Doug Krum & Roy Klinger Abstain
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner thanked Councilwoman Barb Reese for donating the curtains and rods that are hung at the Community Center.
- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman asked Catawissa Dreaming President Gina Trapani what date they would like the water turned on.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Secretary Connie Cole reported the following:

- Clair Kingston and Crystal Stoker will be attending LTAP Training on Nov. 6th regarding Drainage: The Key to Roads that Last and on Dec. 11th Equipment & Worker Safety.
- The Borough received a check from Selective Insurance in the amount of \$2482.76 for the replacement of the picnic tables that were lost in the flood on August 15th. Councilwoman Linda Kashner requested that (2) handicap picnic tables be purchased by the end of year.
- The Columbia/Montour CBA Meeting will be held at Old Forge in Danville Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6p.m. RSVP by November 13th.
- The Statement for 2018 State Aid Minimum Municipal Obligation was received stating \$43,561 was budgeted for 2018 and \$60,252 in State Aid was received.
- The Columbia Montour Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Open House is being held at Pine Barn Inn Danville on Thursday December 13, 2018 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Must RSVP by October 31st

MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner thanked Chief Laidacker for his work on the Jag Grant.
- Mayor Tim Benner informed Council of an incident that happened while the SUV was in for service. The sedan was being used to transport a prisoner when an emergency call came in and the Chief had to run to the scene.
- Mayor Tim Benner read (2) letters from Officer Hayes stating issues he had with the Police SUV. One letter stated the SUV would not start and he had to use jumper cables to get it started. The second stated the SUV was not responding correctly when put into gear until the vehicle warmed up a little and when the SUV was taken to have the speedometer calibrated Officer Hayes was told the SUV was too old and unsafe to calibrate.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported her findings on getting a borough wide survey done to see if the borough qualifies for CDBG funds. As of right now the percentage came in too low for a borough wide survey which means there are no funds for a borough wide project. The new numbers won't be in until next year to see if a borough wide survey can be done. Ms. Bachman has given copies of the emails with Weston Brehm from CDBG to Councilwoman Linda Kashner for reference and offered copies to any council member who would like to see them.
- Ms. Bachman reported the Borough received a letter from PA Fish & Boat in regards to signage at the damn. The letter stated more signage was needed, signage could not be seen from the entire creek width. The present signage was approved back in 2000. Ms. Bachman contacted the PA Fish & Boat and met with the Officer who made the citing. Ms. Bachman was informed if a sign was placed on the upstream & downstream fence this will satisfy the citation violation. The Borough was also given a 30 day extension to November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018. Ms. Bachman stated the water authority will take of the signage and the proper documentation. The Borough must sign off and state the proper measures were completed and documents must be submitted to Fish & Boat.
- Ms. Bachman requested Roy Klinger be approved to serve on the Catawissa Water Authority Source Water Protection Committee. A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve Roy Klinger to serve on the Catawissa Water Authority Source Water Committee.  
All Aye
- Ms. Bachman expressed her concerns with the echoing at the Community Center. It makes it hard for a person with hearing difficulties to hear correctly what is being said.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President, Doug Krum read the report for the month of September which stated the following: (15) investigations, (13) letters, (2) door hangers, (1) verbal warning, (3) permits were issued and (1) day in court.
- Mr. Frace submitted a detailed report and is available for review in the Borough Office.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of September 2018 the department responded to (259) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The SUV has been placed out of regular service due to safety concerns.
- The SUV gear shifter, A/C compressor and O2 sensor were replaced.
- Cowden again declined to properly calibrate the SUV due to its advanced age and condition.
- Officers reported the shifting issue with the SUV remains, and will need to be taken back.
- The SUV is now experiencing battery issues, and needed to be jumped.
- A loose radio wire was fixed in the 2014 unmarked vehicle.
- The new window for the station has been sitting in the corner for (4) months needing to be installed.
- Required uniform orders continue for the department.
- The department received the donation of a secure drug take back box from Rite Aid. It will be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- The department was awarded the JAG Grant through the PCCD in the amount of 13,611.00 toward in-car computers.
- The department will be hosting a Drug Take Back Day, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Officer Colella attended SWAT Training Week.
- Officer Moyer will be accepting a full time position with another department beginning November 2018.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported they did not have a meeting since last month.
- Chief Joshua Laidacker read the EMA report for September as follows:  
Chief was working with Columbia County EMA to finalize needed approvals and certifications. The current Borough EMA policy, procedures, amendments and updates were being reviewed. Catawissa's NIMS compliance report was submitted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September to County EMA. EMA was called to a fuel leak incident on September 25<sup>th</sup>.  
During a dispatch, the siren behind the police station failed to alert properly. A test of the siren was conducted and the batteries needed to be replaced. They will be taken care of in October
- Chief Laidacker gave his letter of resignation for the EMC and Council President Doug Krum read the resignation letter.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to accept the resignation of EMC Chief Laidacker. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese to approve the advertising for an Emergency Management Coordinator. All Aye

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported there were (51) electric door hangers, (26) sewer door hangers (4) meters were pulled and (3) meters were put back on.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.

#### PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barbara Reese reported the Quaker Meeting House will not be open on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Quaker Meeting House will not be open again until spring.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported he met with a Representative with Penn Strategies regarding Grant Writing. Mr. Steinruck expressed he would like council to have a meeting with Penn Strategies to ask questions and get some answers on what it would cost for their services.
- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck explained the changes that PMEA are looking to make and stated that a representative would be happy to sit down with council and answer any question they may have. Council agreed that everyone should hear all the information. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to have a work session in (2) weeks to meet with representatives from both Penn Strategies and PMEA. All Aye

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported pension money was received and the uniform allocated was \$1919.00 under the MMO and the non-uniform was over. Ms. Kashner asked council if they wanted to take \$1919.00 out the non-uniform allocation or if it should be taken out of the budget. Attorney Anthony McDonald advised a call be made to ask how the money can be allocated. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to take the money from non-uniform if allowed and if this is not allowed the money will come from the General Fund Budget. All Aye
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner also reported the Finance Committee started working on the 2019 budget.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the committee has started on Chief Laidacker's contract.

#### UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported they had a meeting with the Police Union a few weeks ago. Negotiations are at a standstill and are going to arbitration.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss Surveillance Cameras for the Recycling Program. Chief Laidacker started the discussion about the different quotes that were submitted. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to approve ICU for the surveillance cameras. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve Ordinance 02-2018 regarding Alcoholic Beverages. All Aye

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss pricing of a new police vehicle. After a brief discussion, council asked for quotes with exact costs of what the police are looking to purchase. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to table until next month. All Aye
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if permit fees were looked at since last month. Council President Doug Krum said they have not been looked at yet.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked what the outcome of the Dempsey Uniforms is. Council President Doug Krum stated that is being worked on. Each employee was asked to write down all the issues they have with the uniforms. Then a certified letter will be sent to Dempsey.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated that a couple of months ago it was discussed to do a rental ordinance and Victoria Waugh brought it up again tonight. Ms. Kashner feels it cannot be put on the back burner again.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked what was going on with the culvert project behind the church. Council President Doug Krum stated he had the Administrative Assistant Nancy Yost send out letters to Representative Millard and Senator Gordner to see if there were any funds available for the project. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated that he had Penn Strategies come look at the project.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss a different location for the new recycling dumpsters. Cindy Bachman expressed her concerns with putting them by the new barn. Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his concerns about moving the dumpsters closer to resident's homes with the noise of being picked up so early in the morning. After a brief discuss about different locations, a motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to table this matter until next month. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to table new signs for the recycling site. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to discuss Computer Security Monitoring and Service. Councilwoman Linda Kashner explained all the issues the borough office has had with Computation. Ms. Kashner read all the quotes the borough received. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve Micro 1 for the new IT service. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve the Truthful and Accurate Information Packet. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the Quote Sheet. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve Dumpster Day 2019 for April 6, 2019 and with a rain date of April 13, 2019. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve Trick or Treating for October 31, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All Aye  
Guest Sharon Krum asked if there could be an age limit set for trick or treating. Council stated there was no way to police that.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss Railroad Street. Council President Doug Krum explained the south end of Railroad Street was never named even though no one lives there or will be living there. This must be done for the new 911 system. An ordinance will need to be done and advertised to name South Railroad Street.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to discuss the Sewer Plant Operation. After a discussion Council President Doug Krum stated another meeting needed to be held with Robert

Dunkelberger to make sure the borough is aware of what all is needed before a proposal is discussed with John Bauer.

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss the water damage at the Senior Center/ Community Center. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck explained where the water damage is located and offered pictures if anyone wants to see them. A quote sheet is prepared with the pictures and schematics for the repair work. Mr. Steinruck explained the mortar between the bricks on the outside of the building has deteriorated over time and with the heavy rains the water seeped through the walls.

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Gary Roberts expressed that 2024 will be the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Catawissa. Mr. Roberts is interested in rewriting the History Book of Catawissa that was coedited by Mrs. Jeanne B. Roberts and Reverend John R. Albright. Mr. Roberts stated people are talking about making committees for different activities for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Council President Doug Krum asked Mr. Roberts if he was interested in heading a committee and Mr. Roberts replied he wouldn't mind helping but not heading a committee. Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked Mr. Roberts if he wanted to rewrite the whole history book or add to it. Mr. Roberts expressed he wants to bring it up to date, add an index and add more photographs. Councilwoman Linda Kashner suggested using something from the VHS tape of Catawissa and putting it with current to see how things transpired.
- Guest Cindy Bachman expressed her opinion with not having a backup sewer operator. Ms. Bachman feels a backup operator is needed incase our current operator is not available.
- Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his opinion on the borough purchasing another Ford vehicle. Mr. Kitchen also expressed his concerns with the acoustics in the community center for the borough meetings. Mr. Kitchen stated it was very hard to hear what people are saying. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked if he could get styrofoam to put on the walls to help with the acoustics. Council asked Mr. Steinruck if he could get some pricing on styrofoam.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Council President Doug Krum about the cemetery restoration project. Council President Doug Krum is going to get (2) more bids and bring them to the next council meeting.

#### ADJORNMENT:

- A Motion made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to adjorn. All Aye.

#### MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Borough Secretary