

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY December 9, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

- Present were: Larry Kopp, Doug Krum, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Patsy Hess, Victoria Waugh, Barbara Reese, Mayor Jeff Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent: Roy Klingler until 7:35 p.m.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting with the following correction:  
Page 5, Bullet #8 under Guest to Be Heard "Mike Leister" changed to "Mike Lester".
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's budget workshop meeting. All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Guest Sid Furst with Penn Strategies handed out a report that showed the work with Catawissa Borough that happened in 2019. Mr. Furst gave a brief review of the approved grants for 2019, talked about the final report that will be submitted to the Stakeholder's Committee and Council, reviewed the list of future grant possibilities and thanked the Stakeholder's group for their efforts.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked what grant can't the Borough take. Mr. Furst told Ms. Helwig the recycling grant. Council President Doug Krum asked if the Borough can donate the recycling grant to Bloomsburg. Mr. Furst responded that is being looked into. Borough Manager Larry Kopp thanked Mr. Furst and Jason Fitzgerald for all the work they have done and mentioned that it was good working with them and has been very positive.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole reported the Borough received a thank you card from the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee thanking the Borough for their support.
- The Borough Council received an invitation to the Building Inspection Underwriters of PA's Christmas Party. A copy of the invitation was included in the agenda packet.
- Council President Doug Krum read a correspondence he received from the Department of Environmental Protection stating the review of the required 2018 Annual Wasteload Management Report is complete and considered acceptable.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Jeff Achy requested the "Yield to Pedestrians" signs be placed out next year especially at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets.
- Mayor Achy also expressed his concerns with traffic cutting through Weis parking lot to get to and from Berger Avenue.
- Mayor Achy reported the tree on the Maurer property still needs to come down.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- Mr. Kopp attended (3) training classes and (2) webinars that were very beneficial.
- Mr. Kopp has an upcoming meeting with Tony Defuria of Nextera Energy.
- Larson Design Engineers submitted all the paperwork for the Culvert Replacement Project. The plan is to have the bidding approved at the January 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting and opening the bids at the February 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting with the project being completed by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Larson Design continues work on the Waste Water Plant. A Water Quality Permit Package has been submitted to DEP.
- DEP inspected the Waste Water Plant and it passed.
- Quarterly newsletters went out the week before Thanksgiving.
- Doolittle Construction completed the retaining wall project at Quaker/Greenwood Cemetery. They did a fantastic job.
- Mr. Kopp met with Oren Helbok with The Exchange to discuss the logistics of the concert on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to be held at the Catawissa Community Center.
- Mr. Kopp thanked George and Chase for an excellent job installing the acoustic panels at the Community Center.
- Mr. Kopp has been working on trying to get insurance for the infrastructure for the electric grid. Mr. Kopp spoke with AMP's Risk Management specialists and they recommended 6-month cash reserve and insurance for our distribution systems. Mr. Kopp is working with PIRMA to get a quote to bring to the January Council Meeting.
- There is finally movement in getting the borough wide survey to challenge our summary data done thanks to Cindy Bachman. The survey will take place mid-January and the county will cover the cost.
- There is an AMP Scholarship available and so far, only one graduating senior has applied. The deadline is December 13<sup>th</sup> 2019. If no one else applies the only applicant will be the nominee submitted.
- Mr. Kopp gave a special thanks to Woody Heaps and the staff at Woody's for the beautiful Christmas display outside the Borough Hall.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp where the Borough stands with the grant for the Quaker Meeting House itself. Manager Kopp explained that the County is behind on grant projects.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.
- Council Members asked when will they be receiving a detailed report. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated it is a lengthy report and he could put a copy in everyone's mailbox in the morning.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked about the sidewalk at 715 Shuman Street. Council President Doug Krum and Manager Kopp stated they would have Code Enforcement Officer Randy Howell speak with the property owner.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read his monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of November 2019, the department responded to (194) calls for service.
- State funded Buckle-up Grant has been extended for another week due to inclement weather.

- The department donated the proceeds from the Red/Blue Softball Game to the Catawissa Redskins and the families of Chief Don Traugh and Mayor Tim Benner.
- The department has been working under the new schedule rotation. Some overtime has been generating due to personnel shortages.
- The Civil Service process was completed. The two applicants have passed the background test and all testing is done.
- Mandatory updates are continuing and the department has until the end of the month.
- The new Part-Time Officers are working shifts on their own.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a meeting was held for interviews.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Patsy Hess read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.
- Committee Chairperson Patsy Hess reported there were (42) electric and (12) sewer door hangers that were placed. (0) electric meters were pulled for non-payment in November.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to appoint Gene Powlus as our Primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Chris Bower as Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer as well as the SEO Fee Schedule for 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese to approve Resolution 2019-16 regarding electric service billing policy. Secretary Connie Cole explained that resolution 2019-16 changes the time residents have to pay their final electric bill when they move out from (3) days to (10) days. All Aye

#### PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to approve Penn Strategies contract for the 2020 Fiscal Year. All Aye

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to discuss Flood Insurance for Borough barns. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated this was just informational at this point. Manager Kopp got quotes from Brown and Brown and is working on getting quotes from PIRMA.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of a snow blower for \$799 for the Sewer Department. Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker explained the snow blower is for the Sewer Department to use at the Sewer Plant. All Nay

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Council President Doug Krum read the account balances.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2019-17 establishing base rates for electric service in Catawissa Borough. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck expressed his concerns with raising the cost of base rates instead of looking at cutting cost. Councilman Steinruck is concerned with what impact the base rate hike will have on residents on a fixed income. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained the borough needs to generate revenue. A roll call vote was taken. Barbara Reese; Nay, Patsy Hess; Nay, AJ McKenney; Aye, Gary Steinruck; Nay, Doug Krum; Aye, Victoria Waugh; Aye, Mayor Jeff Achy; Aye. Motion Carries
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve proposed 2020 Budget for the Borough of Catawissa. A roll call vote was taken. Barbara Reese; Nay, Patsy

Hess; Nay, AJ McKenney; Aye, Gary Steinruck; Nay, Doug Krum; Aye, Victoria Waugh; Aye, Mayor Jeff Achy; Aye. Motion Carries

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to approve Borough Manager Larry Kopp as the authorized user for the Borough's Debit Card. All Aye

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve hiring Lauren McNelis as FT Police Officer. A roll call vote was taken. Barbara Reese; Nay, Patsy Hess; Nay, AJ McKenney; Aye, Gary Steinruck; Nay, Doug Krum; Aye, Victoria Waugh; Aye, Mayor Jeff Achy; Aye. Motion Carries

Chief Laidacker requested Lauren McNelis be hired December 10, 2019 part-time until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to hire Lauren McNelis part-time until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. A roll call vote was taken. Barbara Reese; Nay, Patsy Hess; Nay, AJ McKenney; Aye, Gary Steinruck; Nay, Doug Krum; Aye, Victoria Waugh; Aye, Mayor Jeff Achy; Aye. Motion Carries

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve \$4,500 for preparation of the January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Actuarial Valuation Report and the 2018 GASB 67 & 68 Schedule for the Non-Uniformed Pension Plan. All Aye
- Council President Doug Krum asked for a motion to approve the purchase of (4) \$25 dollar gift cards for FT Police Officers and (8) \$15 gift cards for PT Police Officers. Chief Laidacker stated the department would like to donate the money back to the Borough.

#### UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported negotiations are done with the non-uniform union. The Borough is just waiting on paperwork from the union.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business to conduct.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Steinruck to approve the change of the Borough Council's Organizational Meeting date to Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese to discuss recycling for Borough Residents at the Town of Bloomsburg's facility. Borough Manager Larry Kopp received an offer from Bloomsburg for Catawissa Borough Residents to be able to use the recycling. Manager Larry Kopp got in touch with Charles Fritz in charge of Bloomsburg Recycling and asked if Bloomsburg would be willing to negotiate on what the cost would be for Catawissa Residents to participate. Mr. Fritz said yes, they would. Council asked Manager Kopp to see what he could get Bloomsburg down to for Catawissa Borough to utilize the recycling.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Patsy Hess to appoint Siana & Bellwoar as Catawissa Borough Labor Attorneys for 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve a resident survey to gauge resident's opinion on implementing a Residential Rental Property Registration, Licensing and Occupancy system. All Aye

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to accept bills as written. All Aye

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Council President Doug Krum read a letter received from Denise Rhone regarding the proposed Rental Ordinance. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck commented he has to agree with Ms. Rhone that the Borough is told about issues and the Borough is not following through.
- Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his concerns about the property next to his. Mr. Kitchen feels the property should be condemned. It was explained to Harold Kitchen that the Borough cannot make that decision. The decision would be up to the Building Inspection Underwriters of PA. Once the home is condemned it is up to the Borough to pay to have it tore down.
- Borough Manager Larry Kopp acknowledged and thanked the Borough Council Members Barbara Reese, Gary Steinruck and Patsy Hess for their service to Borough Council. Cards were handed out to them from Borough Staff.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck inquired from Attorney Anthony McDonald about the old Tattoo Parlor that was supposed to be part of the Flood Buyout and torn down.
- Guest Harold Kitchen also asked about getting a plaque for Southern Football for their State Championship win. Council President Doug Krum stated that could be looked into. Councilwomen Patsy Hess and Barbara Reese expressed the Borough has a Community Center if a place is needed to do something for the football team.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:  
Connie M. Cole

Borough Secretary