

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Budget Workshop Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 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, Corey Yule, Jamie Cotner, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Janel Patel, Victoria Waugh, Mayor Todd Burke, Larry Kopp. Attorney Anthony McDonald was not present.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion by Corey Yule was made to dispense reading of and approve the minutes from the previous meeting of October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh. All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- No guest to be heard.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule for Borough Manager Larry Kopp to give a presentation on long-term financial analysis of the Borough and sources of income for the municipality. During the presentation Borough Manager Larry Kopp discussed the taxes the Borough collects along with the increased costs of expenses. Manager Kopp also went into the income and cost of electricity for the Borough and a projection of how much transmission costs of electricity are going to rise since the Borough is totally dependent upon PPL. Manager Kopp also went over the Boroughs sewer rates and cited the PA Sewer Rental Act of 1935 which prohibits transferring sewer revenues into the General Fund except to pay for salaries, benefits, etc., of employees that do work on behalf of the Sewer Fund. Sewer revenues may be used for capital projects at the sewer facilities. Manager Kopp continued to go over other areas of income for the Borough. President Doug Krum stated, "for next year the Borough could offset some of the expenses if we could find a low rate interest loan for the \$85,000 new truck." Borough Manager Kopp agreed. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh questioned about a street tax, stating that tax could only be used toward street repairs.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Manager Kopp pointed out that the Borough has not substantially increased income from Property Tax since 2005. Overall costs of doing business will continue to rise. Public Works and Electric trucks are in dire need of replacement which could cost \$200,000 each, etc. President Doug Krum inquired what is wrong with the trucks? Manager Kopp said they are old. President Krum stated "they might be old but they're in good shape."

- A motion to review the draft 2021 Catawissa Borough Budget was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner.  
Borough Manager Kopp made the suggestion to not go over the budget line by line instead to just discuss how to cut some costs or it will take all night. Council President Doug Krum stated he agrees the Borough needs to get more income. He again brought up about getting a low interest rate loan for the new truck which will put \$85,000 back in the Capital Fund and having put the CD into the Capital Fund so if we have to use it, we have to use it. Borough Manager Kopp concurred. President Krum stated he thinks we should hold off on everything but the streets unless we receive a grant.
- A motion was made for discussion of expense and income modification to the budget by A.J. McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel.  
During the discussion Councilman Roy Klinger inquired if they have looked at the agency who runs Hillside Village as far as charging them a security fee as other municipalities do, which would then go toward the

police budget. Councilman Klinger also pointed out the fee is going to be charged to the agency not the tenants and perhaps since the agency receives federal funding the Borough might be able to receive federal funds for the police department.

Manager Kopp brought up the question regarding raising funds. President Krum stated he is not for doing anything with the electric. Councilman Roy Klinger began discussing about recycling and charging a fee.

Councilwoman Jamie Cotner stated she doesn't want to have to pay more taxes.

Councilwoman Victoria Waugh stated that taxes haven't been raised in the Borough for sixteen years while everything else kept going up.

It was then brought up about raising rates a little at a time in small increments.

The suggestion was made to do a matrix for five years.

Also, the suggestion was raised about solar power, allowing the Borough to generate its own electricity.

A one mill street tax is to be looked into.

- A motion was made by A.J. McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to have recommendations to the Finance Committee.

Manager Kopp said they would look at cuts to keep the costs down, financing the truck, holding off on the paving until 2022, do a five-year matrix for increases and look at a one mill street tax for the Finance Committee meeting next Wednesday.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Virtual guest Pat Hess questioned "do we really have any choice in this?" Tax increase, light increase, school increase, when is it going to stop? Pat Hess stated she is on a fixed income as a lot of people in town are on a fixed income. She stated that they (Council) have to stop spending so much money on frivolous things. Ms. Hess then questioned about the new truck stating that \$85,000 is a lot of money. Councilwoman Jamie Cotner inquired if the truck was put out on bid. Borough Manager Kopp said it is through Costars at which Councilwoman Cotner stated there are numerous dealers on Costars with different prices. Treasurer Nancy Yost informed Councilwoman Cotner the truck was already ordered.
- Virtual guest Barbara Reese asked how far apart income and expenses are. Ms. Reese also mentioned if they go after Hillside Village in regard to charging a fee for the police department then they will have to go after Riverview as they are both section 8 housing. You can't do one without the other.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Nancy M. Yost  
Borough Treasurer/Admin. Asst.