

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY February 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**An Executive Session took place before the meeting at 6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

- The virtual meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Krum.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Virtually present were: Doug Krum, Corey Yule, Jamie Cotner, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Janel Patel, Victoria Waugh, Mayor Todd Burke, Larry Kopp, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion by Victoria Waugh was made to dispense reading of and approve the minutes from the previous meeting of January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney. All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- No guests to be heard.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Treasurer Nancy Yost presented a brief reading of correspondence received from Companion Life informing Catawissa Borough the current rates will not change upon renewal. She also noted the Borough received a notice from DISA Global Solutions, which is the company that performs random drug testing for the Borough's public works employees, will increase two dollars per test beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Due to the issues with the United Postal Service, the notice was just received.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Todd Burke addressed, in detail, the police department overtime hours. This was due to a comment made during a previous meeting concerning the overtime hours police officers were working. Mayor Burke stated having the fifth fulltime officer actually reduced the hours parttime police officers are needed along with the work shifts and Chief Laidacker being able to fill in any hours. Mayor Burke read a statement going over the overtime hours which indicated they are becoming less. Mayor Burke also stated, the police department had worked together with Treasurer Nancy Yost in order to better categorize exactly what overtime hours are being utilized for.
- Mayor Burke also spoke of the employee party held for Chief Joshua Laidacker's 20-year anniversary working for the Catawissa Borough Police Department. Mayor Burke wanted it to be known that the money to purchase the gifts for the Chief's 20-year anniversary party was totally from donations.

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp highlighted items in his manager's report.
- Manager Kopp included, in the meeting packet, the Catawissa Borough 2020 Annual Report for Council which, according to Manager Kopp, is required by the Borough Code. He stated the report will be posted on the Borough's website.
- Manager Kopp spoke of meetings with AMP and Utility Engineers about an Ordinance or Policy for solar energy. He believes having an Ordinance or Policy will ensure that all installations are safe and do not interfere with the operation of the electric grid in the Borough.
- Manager Kopp submitted paperwork to Department Heads for their input on Capital expenditures for the next ten years and their priorities. Once he receives their input, he will work with the Finance Committee, as well as other Committees to finalize and bring the report to Council for approval.

- Manager Kopp spoke with resident Gary Roberts, who is connected with the Historical Society, concerning the 250<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Catawissa Borough for 2024. Mr. Roberts is interested in working with the Borough on putting together a 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
- Manager Kopp informed Council the upgraded electric billing system from Diversified Utilities has begun to be installed. So far, the transition has gone smoothly. Manager Kopp said he liked the appearance of the upgraded software as it seems easier to use.
- Manager Kopp reported the grant from CDBG for the Quaker Meeting House repairs is ongoing. The County is to up the cost.
- Manager Kopp has received the Financial Statements for the Uniform and Non-Uniform Pension Plans for y/e 2020. He stated the Borough's net liability is down and also the investment return was 10%, which is higher than previous years.
- Manager Kopp went over the Main Street Streetscaping. Councilwoman, Victoria Waugh questioned if PennDOT has been consulted since some of the areas are theirs. She also would like to have PennDOT provide the Borough with things in writing. Manager Kopp is to reach out to Peters Engineers, since they are the liaisons, to request they contact PennDOT and also obtain things in writing that pertain to the bump outs and fountain where it may be in PennDOT's right of way, etc.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh said she noticed, in the Manager's Report, where Manager Kopp met with Representative Millard and Senator Gordner. She inquired if both of them will support Catawissa Borough with obtaining grants. Manager Kopp stated both, Representative Millard and Senator Gordner will write letters in support of grants for the Borough as they have also helped with the Kayak Launch.
- Manager Kopp briefly went over the LERTA tax incentive program again, stating he is waiting to hear back from Southern Columbia School Board.

#### WATER DEPARTMENT:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman did not attend the virtual meeting. Ms. Bachman did phone the Borough to inform them that she had nothing to report.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Council President, Doug Krum read the January totals prepared by Code/Zoning Officer Bob Jones.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the Police Department's Monthly Report which contained the following:
- During the month of January 2021, the department responded to 213 calls as reported by the Columbia County Dispatch Center.
- Both vehicle mileages were noted along with the mention that a battery was replaced on the 2019 SUV.
- The Department continued to abide by COVID restrictions.
- The Chief completed all year-end paperwork for 2020 as well as a study into overtime for the past two years.
- The Chief presented a year-end report to the Civil Service Commission.
- The Chief and Officer McNelis are currently involved in preparing for a State Police Audit.
- Officers McNelis and Kistner attended Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.
- All officers completed AED/CPR/First Aid training.
- Officer Kistner is scheduled to attend Search And Seizure class on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February.
- Chief Laidacker also thanked everyone for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party and gifts he received.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing to report.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Corey Yule gave a report of total doorhangers for electric and sewer as well as the total outstanding amounts for open and closed electric and sewer accounts.

#### PARKS, RECREATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner for a presentation/update on Economic Development activities in the Borough.
- Borough Manager Kopp provided a slide show presentation which included Catawissa opportunities, Economic Development, Main Street Facelift, Enhance Parks & Recreation, Identity & Branding, Fighting Crime & Drugs, Create New Housing Stock and Create Economic Development Authority.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made to discuss renewal premiums for Flood Insurance on the Control and Generator Buildings at the Wastewater Treatment Plant by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel. After a discussion, Victoria Waugh made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to pay the premium increase for higher coverage. All Aye.
- A motion was made to discuss the donation of the former Melick property and a Phase I Environmental Study on the property by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger. During the discussion, Councilwoman Victoria Waugh inquired what is the cost of Phase I? Manager Kopp stated Peters Consulting quoted between \$1,600 to \$1,800 which includes soil testing for contamination, etc. Manager Kopp was asked if Peters find something who is responsible to pay the clean-up. Manager Kopp stated the owner, which currently is not the Borough. Manager Kopp was asked where the funds will be taken from to pay Peters. Manager Kopp replied there are funds budgeted in the Economic Development line item. Council President Doug Krum inquired if the Borough accepted the property, what is the Borough going to do with it? Manager Kopp stated about the trail system along the Susquehanna River and ending at Catawissa and/or a gravel parking lot which would benefit those utilizing the Kayak Launch and also the Borough. The land would have to be leveled so the cost of the labor and the purchase of the stone would be the responsibility of the Borough. Council President Krum asked Mr. Kopp about the railroad right of way. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested Conservation be contacted also due to the land being close to waterways. Mr. Kopp is to reach out to the Railroad and also to Conservation.
- Councilman Corey Yule made a motion to discuss the installation of a new sink in the Senior Center. Councilwoman, Victoria Waugh 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Area on Aging Agency is purchasing a 3-bay sink and small handwashing station for the Senior Center but they will require installation.
- A motion to have Borough Employees do the plumbing to install the 3-bay sink and small handwashing station was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger. All Aye.

#### FINANCE:

- A motion to approve a policy letter establishing procedures for the George S. Eyer Fund was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney. All Aye.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion to discuss training/classes for Electric Department personnel in 2021 was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner. After a discussion, Councilwoman Victoria Waugh made a motion to approve but then rescinded her motion.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh made a motion to table a decision for the training/classes for the Electric Department personnel in 2021 pending more information. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule. All Aye.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion to approve Ordinance 01-2021 establishing requirements for the size, dimensions and location of signs within the municipality was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Pate. All Aye.

- A motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 establishing fees for the implementation of Ordinance 01-2021 was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner. All Aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion to discuss allowing Columbia County Traveling Library (Bookmobile) volunteers to utilize the restroom at Borough Hall was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel.
- After discussing the COVID restrictions currently in place at the Borough hall it was decided to have a porta-potty for the volunteers to use. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh made a motion to set up a porta-potty near the Catawissa Church, pending Pastor Mike's approval. Jamie Cotner 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Aye.
- A motion to discuss contracting with No Nonsense Neutering for trapping, neutering and releasing up to (50) feral cats for \$15/cat in 2021 was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney. After the discussion, Victoria Waugh made a motion to approve the contract with No Nonsense Neutering at the terms discussed. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel. All Aye.
- Corey Yule made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02 regarding a Banner Permit. AJ McKenney 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Aye.
- A motion to approve selling two sets of used truck tires for \$200/ set was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner. It was made known the tire size is 265 75R 17. Employee George Snyder is purchasing a set. All Aye.
- A motion to approve the electronic vote of 1/28/2021 for payment to Wex Bank for \$852.32 for invoice #6925237 was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney. All Aye.
- A motion to approve Resolution 2021-03 for the temporary closure of Bank Avenue between Main Street and Quinn Avenue during March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney. All Aye

#### FINANCE Payment of Bills:

- Roy Klinger made a motion to accept bills as written and any other that may arise before the next council meeting. Janel Patel 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All Aye.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Virtual guest Pat Hess spoke of two sidewalks that were not shoveled.
- Virtual guest Gary Honabach spoke of the dog park and also inquired if the Melick Property owner pays taxes.
- Virtual guest, employee Crystal Stoker informed Council of the new lawn mower needed by the Public Works Department. The estimate was not included in tonight's meeting agenda. It must be approved as it needs to be ordered now. Manager Larry Kopp is to do an electronic vote.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Nancy M. Yost  
Borough Treasurer/Admin. Asst.