

# Catawissa Borough Monthly Meeting

DATE: June 10, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Andrew Detwiler

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Andrew Detwiler, Jeff Fleming, Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Ernie May, John Mensch, Paul Hulse  
Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent: Mayor Todd Burke.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of previous month's meeting was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie May. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Gary Roberts brought Council up to date with the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration.
- Guest Brandon Richendrfer brought a letter to council asking for the backing of Council in the Fire Company's effort to purchase a new truck in the amount of \$752,000.00. Much discussion was held. Solicitor Anthony McDonald spoke of needing more information and if the bank needs an opinion letter, he charges 1% of purchase price in creating the opinion letter. Concern was voiced as to whom is responsible for paying for that? Atty. McDonald stated he will need a copy of the Fire Co. lawyer's opinion letter. It was requested that Mr. Richendrfer come to the Public Safety meeting next Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> with a list of things that he needs from the Borough as well as a financial report from the Fire Co. Councilman John Mensch has volunteered to coordinate needs between Borough, Fire Company and bank. Atty. McDonald asked that all information go thru him.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Borough received donations from Marinos & McDonald, Catawissa Police Officers Benevolent Association and Weis Markets for Kid's Day.

MAYOR: Absent

## Staff and Authority Reports

WATER: Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS:

- A motion was made by John Mensch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming to approve Unger Lawn Service to mow the baseball & softball fields, mow and weed-whack the 3 lots by the bridge and VFW every other week for \$495.00 per mow. Also spraying for weeds at various locations at a cost of \$175.00 per tank with payment for all coming from GL# 425.00 in Capital Fund. A brief discussion regarding how often the lots should be mowed and how many lots there are. Council member Sue Helwig asked why this was not bid out? Council member Sue Helwig stated that we have an ordinance that states we need 3 verbal bids for anything over \$1,500.00 which was established last year to keep a tighter rein on what is happening. Council President Detwiler stated the bidding process and numbers are on the agenda for consideration later in the

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meeting. Atty. McDonald stated that the above bidding numbers were not an ordinance, but a policy.

Councilman Jeff Fleming made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Mensch to approve Unger Lawn service to mow the baseball and softball fields, mow and weed-whack the 7 lots by the bridge and VFW as needed for \$495.00 per month. Also spraying for weeds at various locations at a cost of \$175.00 per tank as needed with payment coming from GL 425.00 in the Capital Fund. All Aye.

- Councilwoman Sue Helwig suggested an Executive Session is needed to bring everyone up to date on Committee discussions/decisions.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman Jeff Fleming read the Code Enforcement Report.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker read the Police report.
- Councilwoman Sue Helwig made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Mensch to add to the agenda ending the probationary period for Officer Cristian Vazquez. All Aye.
- Councilwoman Sue Helwig made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming to remove Officer Vazquez from probationary status. All Aye.

#### PARK RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Councilman Jeff Fleming made a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Mensch to approve a Community Garden at the N. First St. Borough property on the river side of the street. Cindy Bachman shared her concern about how to monitor the water usage. She also stated this is a FEMA property and not much topsoil there. John Mensch stated that 2-3 people would oversee the garden and have a key to water it. Gary Roberts suggested that this be advertised to see if there is any interest from the citizens before moving forward. Concern was shared over the quality of the soil and suggested that soil samples be obtained and sent to Penn State for evaluation before allowing people to plant there. More discussion to follow on this matter.

#### FINANCE/UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Sue Helwig read the utilities report.
- A motion to approve renewing the Wright Flood Insurance Policy for the Sewer Building.  
Option 1. Current coverage \$894.00  
Option 2. Increased coverage \$925.00  
A motion was made by Sue Helwig, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming to select Option 1. All Aye.
- A motion to approve closing the Electric Investment PLIGIT account worth \$570.56 and deposit in to the electric account was made by Ernie May, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Helwig. All Aye.
- A motion to approve closing the Liquid Fuels PLIGIT account and deposit into the Liquid Fuels account was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Helwig. All Aye.
- A motion to remove the previous policy of bidding requirements and follow the state guidelines for bidding and quotes process was made by John Mensch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Ferris. Sue Helwig stated she is against changing the previous policy. 6 members Aye, Sue Helwig Nay.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie May to submit a letter of intent to the Columbia County Planning Commission, to provide electric service to the Catawissa Water Authority's proposed water treatment building and concur with the location of the proposed overhead and underground electric lines and pole. All Aye.

#### PROPERTY BUILDING & MAINTENANCE/PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion to approve Larson Design to do a cost estimate for the Dry Hydrant project was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie May. All Aye.

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- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ernie May to approve the agreement between Larson Design and Catawissa Borough for the Blower Replacement Project at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for an estimated cost of \$98,000. This project will be funded by the LSA Grant. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Helwig to approve opening the bids for the Borough Hall roof repair. All Aye
- Bids were opened and reviewed. After a discussion of shingles vs metal, a motion was made by Ernie May, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Ferris to award the lowest bid for shingle roofing to Spaid LLC. for the amount of \$1,560.16. All Aye.
- A motion to approve entering into a contract with Columbia County Redevelopment Authority regarding the CBDG Grant Fund Program for an ADA front entrance and ADA compliant restroom was made by John Mensch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming. All Aye.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No business to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Helwig to approve advertising Ordinance 01-32024 regarding Special Event Alcohol Permitting and Ordinance 02-2024 regarding Flood Plain Management. A discussion was held and Atty. McDonald advised Council on options available for Flood Plain Ordinance, and what would be best for the Borough. All Aye
- Councilman John Mensch shared that council members are working to find a date in July and August on a Saturday morning to open the gate at the gun range for residents to dump yard waste themselves. This is more convenient for people who work during the week. Dates to be determined and advertised on the Borough website and Facebook.

#### FINANCE Payment of Bills:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Helwig to accept bills as written and any other that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A motion was made by Ernie May, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming for council to go into Executive Session to discuss Borough matters. Let the record show that Executive Session was held for 15 minutes beginning at 7:50 PM and regular council meeting resumed at 8:05 PM.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by John Mensch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Fleming to adjourn at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Snyder,  
Treasurer  
Catawissa Borough