

MINUTES
NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE
ROLL CALL

PRESENT: President Peter Paone, Vice President John Yanek, Councilpersons: Adam Landis, Mike Macsisak, Michele Hazzard. Mayor Molchany, Solicitor Stephanie Steward, Secretary Tasha Jandrisovits, Treasurer Annette Englert

ABSENT: Jessica Cope, Dan Snyder and Kaitlyn Lawton

Also in attendance was Police Chief Christopher Wolfer and Fire Chief Roger Scheirer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the minutes from the reorganizational meeting on January 2nd. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 2nd. 2nd by Adam Landis. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PEOPLE PRESENT

Marc Hillenbrand – Marc stated he was here as a taxpayer. He saw article in the Catty Press that an Operations Assistant Manager position was hired. Wants to know what the position does? How did we hire in executive session and not advertise.

Pete discussed that we hired the position to help the office, it was part time before and is now a full-time position. Annette retired, we hired a replacement who lasted 4 mos. We posted the treasurer position full time, but Annette offered to come back part time. We determined a need for the operations assistant position to go full time. Handles complaints, rental and co inspections, problem properties, etc. It was basically a swap of hours from Treasurer to this role. Position was advertised, Tasha confirmed it was advertised in the Catty Press in December and on the website. Pete noted we had another candidate who interviewed for the position as well. We went into executive session to discuss; however, the position was hired during regular

council meeting. It was also confirmed this is the only paying position Roger holds, the rest of the things he does are volunteer.

Marc then asked what is happening with our fire department – where is our equipment and when coming back here. Pete commented that last year we participated in the DCED study – looking for ways to cooperate with Catasauqua. North Catty fire has not disappeared, membership still the same, still a fire department, looking for a new truck to replace, nearing end of service, Catty looking at their own truck. Not sure what heard otherwise. As far as moving the equipment back up here to the fire station, we will do what serves both boroughs the best. Roger said they are going off the recommendations from the state study, not working separately as fire departments, response time is quicker, more volunteers, more calls, from both departments. North Catty only has 7 members. Pete discussed that the state study has been talked about for a year in meetings and published. Marc said we never had a problem before running out of both departments. Roger noted we have a 100% zero failure rate since working with Catty, no scratches = no failure to get an engine out.

Barry Hessinger – asked what additional costs are incurred due to being in Catty – Pete stated none; if anything is saves us money as their station is newer and set up better.

Marc – asked if merging then why two new trucks. Pete said we still have 3 pieces of our apparatus. We haven't seen a full merger coming for years. One truck is coming up on life span.

Roger stated its the NFPA lifespan, and that every 5 years we do an ISO study – which took us from a 5 to a 3 lowered our insurance rating, which for citizens is supposed to lower their fire insurance. You need certain levels to meet in ISO, to do inspection, pump capacity, gear, training, manpower and hours. ISO study is open to the public.

Barry Hessinger – concerns about expense, new truck. Appreciates we are filing for grants. But asked if it is necessary if merging, do we need 3 or 4 trucks.

Pete asked – so do you want to see us merged with Catty or not? Merger will not be done before a truck needs to be replaced. What is the community sense? From the state study, a lot of areas of cooperation were identified, we have been discussing this at meetings for the last year and a half, Roger shares the statistics, how the cooperation is working, how they have brought down response times. Marc asked how they can say it's faster to respond in North Catty from a truck in Catty. Pete said because half the time when North Catty ran from here, there was not enough volunteers that would show up to get a truck out. Or not have a driver.

Susan Hlrner– North Catty Fire Department, getting less and less, more quitting all the time, not enough people to fill the positions. She has never seen the department this small. Roger stated no firefighter has left in the past year. The only person who left was fire police person.

Mr. Druckenmiller – Asked what was being done at 1507 Lincoln. Stated there are already parking problems, Pete stated zoning allows, it will be a new double and has met the requirements for parking. There is not much we can do to prevent our subdivision and land

development is from 1996 – we joined the multi municipal comprehensive plan, we can split uses among the community. Issues, parking, zoning laws will all be reviewed over the next year and a half so we can tailor to fit the needs of our town.

Thomas Eroh – said he heard that 408 Buttonwood is going to be 2 ranch homes with no basements on slab.

Mrs. Yenser - \$1055 collected for Charotin from her husband's passing. She has lived here her whole life, trains and fire trucks are a part of town. Wondering what happens if someone donates to the Charotin, which is an excellent choice. Pete stated money still goes to the Charotin, they are the fundraising arm of the fire department. Mrs. Yenser said she is proud of North Catty and we outshine all boroughs. Pete stated he encourages any and everyone in the community to volunteer and thanked those who already do. Mrs. Yenser then also shared her appreciation and gratitude for Cpl. Santiago.

Discussion between people present and council members continued.

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- Working on upgrades and fixes with both Stratix and Diversified
- End of year close outs.

TREASURER REPORT – Annette Englert

- Weed Inc. Annual maintenance agreement.
 - Park \$972
 - Complex \$1866
 - 5% increase
 - Motion to approve 2024.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the Weeds Inc. agreements for the park and the complex. 2nd by John Yanek. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Year-end reports
 - Balance \$120, 788, 40
 - Balance – sewer fund \$307,631.90
 - \$125k sewer to general fund, start the year once monies come in to pay bill.
 - 1239 garbage invoices \$633k mailed tomorrow.
 - 1223 sewer invoices \$227k mailed January 12
- Hotel tax grant
 - Police association community days \$2100
 - Summer concert series \$4000
 - 1099, IRS 945, vendors, PennDOT actual use report, liquid fuels, annual recycle grant, PCED tax information forms, elected and appointed officials

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett – no report.

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer – no report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

5 calls for January so far. Fit tested today and successfully passed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Wolfer

December Dispatched calls-

2023 December Total - 266	{Baseline}
2022 December Total- 311	{16.9% decrease}
2021 December Total- 228	{16.7% increase}
2020 December Total-368	{27.7% decrease}
2019 December Total- 406	{34.4% decrease}
2013 December Total-107	{148% increase}

December 2023 Call-for-service breakdown

- Domestic violence in progress- 17
- Shooting/Stabbing- 1
- animal complaints- 3
- Suspicious activity- 6
- EMS- 21
- Fire calls- 3
- MVA's- 5
- 911 hangup's- 1
- Welfare check- 10
- Assist other PD- 12
- Theft- 3
- Vandalism- 2
- Assault- 1
- Fight in progress- 2
- Public drunk- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Harassment- 1
- Wanted persons- 2
- Warrants served- 4
- Psych emergencies- 3
- Terroristic threats- 1

- Emergency PFA's- 5
- Abandoned vehicle- 3
- Use of force- 1
- Parking tickets- 6
- Traffic citations- 20
- Vehicles impounded- 2

- **Summary arrests- 30**

- 2- Disorderly conduct
- 1- Parking in a handicapped spot without a placard
- 4- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 1- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 3- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 1- Turning without proper signal
- 1- Parking in a no parking zone
- 1- Operating vehicle without working headlights
- 2- Operating vehicle without working taillights
- 1- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 1- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 2- Careless driving
- 4- Passing a school bus with activated stop arm (BusPatrol)
- 1- Driving the wrong way on a one-way street
- 3- Failure to stop at a properly posted stop sign
- 1- Abandonment of vehicle
- 1- Failure to pay parking ticket

- **Misdemeanor arrests- 19**

- 1- Possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 2- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 3- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 1- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 1- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 3- Domestic violence assault
- 4- Domestic violence Harassment by physical contact
- 1- Criminal Mischief \$200+
- 1- Domestic violence Terroristic threats
- 2- Direct Violation of a Protection From Abuse Order

- **Felony Arrests- 0**

Moving Forward

- We have been invited to attend and provide a life coach to the 2024 PSP Camp Cadet in June. Cpl. Santiago has volunteered to represent our PD for the duration.
- Created and implemented a newly updated mandatory wear ballistic vest SOP.

Handicapped parking request

- 1340 3RD Street. Placard verified valid until 2026, no off-street parking available.

Purchases for approval

- 2 door locks for the Cpl. & Sgt. Office \$328.58 currently a \$90 promotion

TRAINING COMPLETED

- I completed dark web and cybercrime investigative training through NW3C
- **Cpl. Santiago, Administrative Assistant Bailey, and I** completed Pennsylvania Incident Based Reporting System Training through the Pennsylvania State Police

Handicap parking 1340 3rd street – no off-street parking placard verified.

MOTION: By Adam Landis to approve handicap parking at 1340 3rd Street. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Door locks – one CPL. And one SGT. - \$328.00 on sale now.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to the purchase of two digital door locks for Cpl. And Sgt. Offices, on sale for \$328 now. 2nd by Adam Landis. No additional discussion, all in favor.

OFFICE INSURANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT – Adam Landis - no report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek – no report.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard -
Next Recreation Committee meeting on Wednesday at 6:30pm in boro hall.

LAW COMMITTEE REPORT - Michele Hazzard - no report.

PUBLIC PROPERTY & PARKS REPORT - Jessica Cope - no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE – Michael Macsisak

PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE REPORT – Daniel Snyder

MAYOR REPORT – William J. Molchany CPL Santiago – thank you.

Mrs. Yenser – asked about the garbage rate. Expensive for single fixed income people. Pete said it is not meant to generate revenue we charge what we pay for the service.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Stephanie Steward

Received news that one of our liens was paid in full and will be satisfied.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone

- Roof leak – Pete discussed roof leak. We may need to patch as an emergency repair, but long term we need to have a structural study done to determine damage and permanent fix. 3 times in the past 8 years we have had major leaks. Dave, as borough engineer, will review and come up with prices. We can then do an RFQ and go out for bid. Reaching out to Senator Nick Miller and others for grant monies. We will also review making the 2nd floor accessible, by having elevator installed at same time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

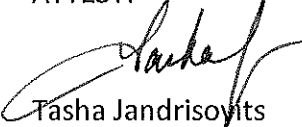
APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve payment of all invoices. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By John Yanek to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:


Tasha Jandrisovits
Borough Secretary