

**MINUTES**  
**NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 3, 2023**

PEOPLE PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER – 7pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENT: Vice President John Yanek, Councilpersons: Mark Gioielli, Dan Snyder, Michele Hazzard, Mike Macsisak. Mayor Wm. Molchany. Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Treasurer Annette Englert, Secretary Tasha Jandrisovits, Jr. Councilperson Kaitlyn Lawton

Also present were Police Chief Christopher Wolfer, Public Works Supervisor Travis Brett and Fire Chief Roger Scheirer

ABSENT: President Pete Paone, Jessica Cope – joined the meeting virtually at 7:35pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the minutes from March 6, 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PEOPLE PRESENT

Chris and Becky Houser – regarding 1051 Howertown Road. He has owned this property for 4 ½ years. Chris thanked us for the opportunity to speak, he has owned property for 4 ½ years, he provides affordable living in expensive times. He spends a lot of time and money on his property and the police are rarely there. Chris shared his frustration with the rental inspection process and the fact that boarding houses which are an 8x10 room are charged the same as a full apartment inspection. He thinks the inspections are held too often and are too expensive. He thinks we are targeting boarding houses. Chris shared prices from other towns. Discussion continued on, Steve, the solicitor, stated that we appreciate Mr. Houser sharing his opinion, he reminded council that the people present section was a time for people to express their thoughts but that it did not need to be a question and answer forum. He reminded Mr. Houser that he was welcome to share his thoughts, but council has decided this is our current process and they were not going to get into it with him. He asked how we can just do this without notifying them. We shared that with any ordinance, it was advertised per the regulations, shared on website and Facebook and voted on at council meeting.

Adam Landis – here to discuss his proposal to place baseball netting at park to allow for games there again. Would go up in early May and come down at the end of June. Discussion around this and the groups using the park and any potential conflicts with other groups and/or scheduled events on the field or at the park. The carnival and car shows being large ones. Council agreed to purchase the netting with Public Works installing. Dan stated that he wished there was more time to discuss and items like this should be vetted through the committee first so that rush decisions did not need to be made at the council meeting. Council agreed that due to seasons starting soon, we needed to decide tonight, Dan said for that reason he would be voting no.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve the purchase of netting with PW handling install. Equipment being the property of North Catasauqua Borough. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele. John abstained, Dan voted no. No additional discussion, motion passed.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to allow CYAA to use the field as per requested in their letter and as long as there are no prescheduled borough events and in coordination with CYSA. Also need the insurance policy to reflect the Borough as additional insured. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele. All in favor. No additional discussion, motion passed.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to allow CYSA to use the field as per requested in their letter and as long as there are no prescheduled borough events. Also need an insurance policy to reflect the Borough as an additional insured. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. All in favor. No additional discussion, motion passed.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to rescind prior motion regarding the purchase of baseball netting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve the purchase of baseball netting spending no more than \$6052.00. Equipment will belong to the Borough of North Catasauqua and Public Works will install and take down. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. Dan voted no. Jess Cope abstained. No additional discussion, motion passed.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**April 2023 #1**

1. Approval to have Chrissy added to all of the account signature cards at Truist Bank.
2. Appoint someone to be the Trustee of the Police Pension Plan and Non-Uniform Pension Plan.
3. Update on the Grant Reimbursements-
  - a. D & L -
    - i. Liz from the D&L Heritage Corridor has submitted for the final reimbursement from DCNR, awaiting ck for \$63,318.30
    - ii. Public Works has installed the last sign, Sherry Acevedo from Northampton County is scheduled to do her final walkthrough and inspected on April 10 at 1 PM, waiting for release of final reimbursement of \$46,718.33
  - b. Riverfront Road Program –
    - i. Sent paperwork to Sherry Acevedo from Northampton County for reimbursement of \$75,000.00
  - c. Trail Connectivity Plan-
    - i. Submitted paperwork but received the last bill afterwards, waiting on approval of invoice from tonight’s list and then can prepare final reimbursement of \$7,488.00
  - d. North Catasauqua Park Improvements-
    - i. Waiting on education signs and a Maintenance Plan before Sherry Acevedo will sign off on the current purchases. We still have a balance of \$8,076.00 left to spend. Need to know if monies will be spent or should I close it out now.
4. We are offering two options to replace the Invoice Approval List- Open Invoices by Fund Report or Open Invoices by Department. We can enter all invoices into the system, print this report and upon approval by council either pay or pull any invoice prior to issuing checks. We would like council to decide which report they prefer.
5. An update on the Garbage invoices-of the 1,205 invoices a total of 920 were paid- 76 paid the quarterly option, 355 paid the full amount, 235 paid the normal discount and 254 paid the senior citizen discount.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to add Chrissy to the signature cards at Trust Bank. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak approving Resolution #374 – appointing Chrissy as the pension trustee for uniform and non-uniform pension plans. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Annette discussed with Jess the money left on grant. Jess and her committee will schedule a meeting to discuss and Annette will join them. Chrissy discussed the two new reports replace the old invoice list for council. Discussed we will be moving to a system report versus the manual report that Annette typed up which takes a significant amount of time.

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- Concern with intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and Chapel – Message FB, Jarred Snyder
  - Chief Wolfer discussed this is on his agenda to discuss as well.
- 2022-year end Planning Commission letter – asked council to read.
- Currently working to finalize the subdivision at 1021 5<sup>th</sup> street, also have subdivision application for 1425 Howertown Rd and 408 Buttonwood

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett – no report

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer

Corporal exam – due back 4/17 by 4pm. May 9 test, 5/11 interviews at 6pm

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

Safety for rail car incident response class in Whitehall

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

\$11k state grant, purchased 2 thermal image trucks, 6 personal air packs, 7 fire fighter lights.

Any questions on DCED answer

12 calls

2 members 16 hours each of training

6 members ariel ops 16 hours each



North Catasauqua Borough Police Department  
April 2023 1st Monthly report

March Dispatched calls-

2023 Total for March- 267

2022 March total- 365

2021 March Total- 231

% change year over year- -26.8%

- Traffic stops- 53.
- Domestic violence- 11
- animal complaints- 7
- Suspicious activity- 4
- EMS- 28
- Fire calls- 2
- MVA's- 6
- follow up investigations- 32
- citizen assists- 27
- 911 hangup's- 7
- Burglar alarm- 5
- Welfare check- 8
- Assist other PD- 9
- Theft- 3
- Vandalism- 1
- Assault- 2
- Harassment- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Wanted persons- 2
- Warrants served- 3
- -Threats- 1
- Protection from abuse order violation- 3
- Abandoned vehicle- 1
- Pursuit-
- Use of force- 3
- Missing person- 1
- Injury to officer- 1
- Parking tickets- 7
- Traffic citations- 12

› Traffic warning notices given-

• **Summary arrests- 48**

- 1- Vehicle equipment violation
- 2- Public Drunkenness
- 7- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 2- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 1- Operating vehicle without insurance
- 5- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 2- Possession of dog without proper license
- 2- Borough ordinance, dog at large
- 2- Parking in a no parking zone
- 2- failure to use turn signal
- 1- Operating vehicle without working headlights
- 1- Operating vehicle on wrong side of roadway
- 1- Failure to pay parking ticket
- 4- Operating vehicle without rear lights
- 2- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 2- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 4- Passing a school bus with activated stop arm (BusPatrol)
- 3- Careless driving
- 1- Abandonment of dog
- 1- Parked blocking sidewalk
- 2- Borough Ordinance disturbing the peace
- 1- Open alcoholic beverage container violation

**Misdemeanor arrests-**

- 2- Possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 4- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 4- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 4- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 5- DUI metabolite of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 6- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 1- DUI high rate of alcohol
- 2- Domestic violence assault
- 1- Domestic violence Harassment by physical contact
- 1- Disorderly Conduct
- 1- Criminal mischief, vandalism at park damage excess of \$1,000
- 1- Graffiti damage over \$150
- 1- Resisting arrest
- 2- Leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident

**Moving Forward**

- Active shooter drill conducted successfully @ CHS. 6 of our officers attended.
  
- Active Shooter drill conducted successfully @ Air Products in Allentown. 5 of our officers attended.

- Active Shooter drill conducted successfully @ Salisbury Middle School. 4 of our officers attended.
- Roger and I are working to set up a traffic study at the intersection of Chapel and Fourth Streets. In the last 6 months, we have had 7 motor vehicle accidents that either involved injury to an involved party or required a tow.
- CRASE course and self-defense to be conducted 4/15/23 at the Catasauqua YMCA. 9 registered for Self Defense. 26 registered for CRASE.
- Hire Michael Renner part-time pending his willingness to accept the obligations I set for availability.
- All officers and staff have been re-certified on CPR & 1<sup>st</sup> aid. This training was conducted by Ofc. Santiago.
- On March 20<sup>th</sup> Ofc. Santiago and I gave a Project Lifesaver presentation at the Catasauqua YMCA. Good attendance and all were very receptive and appreciative.
- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, I did a "show and tell" at Good Shephard Catholic School in Northampton. I brought the Peacekeeper and some of our equipment. The kids and faculty were very appreciative.

#### Handicapped parking request

- 1151 Railroad Street re-visit

#### TRAINING COMPLETED

- **Ofc. Douglas** completed Tactical communications and realistic de-escalation training through the Institute for Law Enforcement Education
- **Ofc. Santiago** completed Ambush Attacks training, Importance of physical wellness training, Mental Health and Wellness training, and casualty care training through the VALOR program.
- **Ofc. Santiago** completed DUI checkpoint training through the PA DUI Association
- **Ofc. Santiago** completed Police Supervisory In-Service training through the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute
- **Ofc. Hazim** completed cyber threats to public safety training through NW3C.
- **Ofc. Hazim** completed anxiety and depression training through NW3C.

- I completed PER-374 Active Threats on Campus Protective Measures and Response training through Louisiana State University National Center for Biomedical Research and training Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education
- **Sgt. Tramonte** attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Traffic Safety Seminar hosted by the center for traffic safety.

Motion to rehire Michael Renner – pending his willingness to accept conditions – no part time officer, willing and able to do the job – conversations will be able to meet – have not touched part time budget.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to rehire Mike Renner as a part time officer. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Discussion of 1151 Railroad Street handicap parking being placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

MOTION: By Dan Snyder to approve the handicap parking space for 1151 Railroad Street on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli. Jess abstaining. No additional discussion, all in favor.

OFFICE INSURANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT - Mark Gioielli – no report.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek – no report.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard – no report.

LAW COMMITTEE REPORT - Michele Hazzard – no report.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE – Michael Macsisak – no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE REPORT – Daniel Snyder – no report.

MAYOR REPORT – William J. Molchany, Jr.

Mayor Molchany shared that he was awarded Mayor of the Year by the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Bill stated it was an honor – council all congratulated him.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Steven Goudsouzian – no report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone



NEW BUSINESS

Jess – asked if we can look to improve our technology with virtual calls, asked the office committee to investigate.

Dan – just wanted to note they he is not against netting; he is just against rushing decisions and thinks things should be put to committee to review

APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve all the invoices. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Dan Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:



Tasha Jandrisovits  
Borough Secretary