

MINUTES
NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
January 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER *Immediately following Reorganization Meeting

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the minutes from December 4, 2023. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PEOPLE PRESENT

Dave Kutzor – zoning officer/borough engineer

Rob Pilligian – 1507 Lincoln Street

Wilbur Hill – 1507 Lincoln Street

Marc Hillenbrand – Betterment Committee

1507 – motion subdivision – who made the motion?

Dave Kutzor read his engineer letter dated 12/12/2023 – attached. Discussed the waivers requests, agreement on the \$600 per lot for open space, Rob and Will had nothing to add. John Yanek asked when the plan to start was? Reply was late spring, early summer. They need one sewer and one water to the lot. It is a low impact site with 2 story twins with front garages.

Waivers:

Waiver – 425.2 –

Waiver – 425.4 –

Waiver – 492.42 – partial – further on lot, trees.

Waiver – 463.22 – storm sewer requirements

Acknowledgement \$600 per lot in lieu of open space

MOTION: By John Yanek to approve the waivers as listed in the engineer letter dated 12/12/2023, council granted conditional final approval. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Marc – behalf of Betterment Committee submitted his activity report for 2023. Attached. Pete thanked the committee on behalf of the borough for all of their donations.

Car cruises – Marc asked Travis to put dates on the signs closer to event.

MOTION: By Adam Landis to approve the car cruises for 2024 on the 1st Monday of the month from May to September. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Carnival –

MOTION: By Michele Hazzard to schedule the Carnival from June 12th to June 15th. 2nd by Adam Landis. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Autumnfest –

MOTION: By John Yanek to hold Autumnfest on October 13th with a rain date on October 19th. 2nd by Jessica Cope. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Tom Kish asked what the St. Lawrence school building is being turned into? Pete replied that it is being turned into multi-apartment.

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- Ordinance #443 –

MOTION: By Jessica Cope to approve Ordinance #443 the 4 way stop at Chapel and 4th Street. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- 2024 bids for Heavy Equipment - reported no bids were received. Michele asked now what happens? Pete asked Travis to call local firms and try to line up and go out for bid again.
- 1507 Lincoln Street Subdivision – discussed under people present.
- 2024 Fee Schedule Resolution #363 – reported that we reviewed all of our fees and created Resolution #363 to ensure that we are revenue neutral and not in a deficit when processing appeals/hearings/subdivisions/permits, etc.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve Resolution #363 2024 Fee Schedule. 2nd by Adam Landis. No additional discussion, all in favor.

TREASURER REPORT – Annette Englert

- Generator Maintenance agreement for 2024 Hunter Street pump station - \$585.00 same price as last year.

MOTION: By Adam Landis to approve the Dynatech maintenance agreement for \$585.00. 2nd by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Annette stated she received \$12,222.83 back on the Livable Landscapes grant. Pete, thanks to Annette and Jess for working to get the money back.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett

Thanked Marc for donations for the park decorations. Received numerous compliments on playground. Travis did want to discuss that some of the new banners say Catasauqua – Marc was aware, these people decided to purchase through the Legion, so they say Catty.

Heavy equipment bid – he has not able to get ahold of them, can he call anyone out for snow, will be over \$20k. Pete asked that he call and we will rebid. Pete also asked the the new plow truck gets the borough insignia on it. Travis stated the crew was well prepared for the snow it if does arrive.

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer – no report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer – no report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

28 calls for December. Year-end report provided. Copies attached.

Thanked Marc for all the donations that committee gives to the borough.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Wolfer

November Dispatched calls

2023 November Total – 200 {Baseline}

2022 November Total - 294

2021 November Total - 291

November 2023 Call-for-service breakdown

- Domestic violence in progress- 9
- animal complaints- 5
- Suspicious activity- 8
- EMS- 18
- Fire calls- 4
- MVA's- 4
- 911 hangup's- 5

- Burglar alarm- 1
- Welfare check- 10
- Assist other PD- 5
- Theft- 3
- Burglary- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Assault- 3
- Harassment- 1
- Wanted persons- 3
- Warrants served- 3
- Psych emergencies- 1
- Emergency PFA's- 2
- Use of force- 2
- Parking tickets- 9
- Traffic citations- 18
- Vehicles impounded- 3

- **Summary arrests- 18**

- 1- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 1- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 1- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 1- Operating vehicle without working headlights
- 3- Operating vehicle without working taillights
- 1- Operating vehicle on wrong side of roadway
- 4- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 2- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 1- Operating vehicle with DUI suspended license
- 1- Careless driving
- 1- Turning without proper signal
- 1- Failure to stop at a properly posted stop sign

- **Misdemeanor arrests- 16**

- 2- Possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 1- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 2- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 3- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 3- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 1- DUI highest rate of alcohol
- 2- Domestic violence assault
- 2- Domestic violence Harassment by physical contact

Moving Forward

- Submitted a statewide LSA grant for **\$139,000** for a multi-purpose all terrain 5-person vehicle. This has the top of the line equipment and is a tool no other department in the Lehigh Valley Has. Letters of support were obtained from Senator Nick Miller, State Representative Zack Mako, County Executive Lemont McClure, Whitehall PD Chief of Police, Northampton PD Chief of Police, and Coplay PD Chief of Police, The grant was extremely cumbersome and consisted of over 97 pages. I have provided all of you with the documents provided which include the long-term goals of the project.
- Submitted a MPOETC grant for **\$15,000** to incentivize future officers with a \$5,000 hiring bonus.
- We taught a Mechanics of Arrest class to class Lackawanna College Police Academy class #261 (31 Cadets) on Monday, November 13, 2023. This was led by Corporal SANTIAGO
- Discuss 3 new doors and addition of more.
- Thank you letters for lockers.
- Officer Hazim Commendation – Chief Wolfer read his commendation for Ofc. Hazim.
- 2023 PA State Police Sexual Assault Kit backlog audit completed with no issues.
- Drone Pilot Program discussion

Motions Requested

- Conditional offer of employment to Samuel Saffadi for the full-time Patrolman position pending successful completion of required backgrounds
- Change administrative assistant Deborah Bailey to full-time

TRAINING COMPLETED

- I attended Taser Instructor training in Weatherly PA on Dec. 4th through Axon. Certification remains valid for a period of 2 years.
- Dangerous dog laws have changed act18 – 2023 – Zach Makko – details to the law – allows law enforcement to have more authority in cases of repetitive dangerous behavior. Also hiring of more dog wardens across the state.
- Hiring of FT Police Officer – Samuel Safadi pending successful completion of all background checks –

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to hire Samuel Safadi as a full-time officer pending successful completion of all background checks. 2nd by John Yanek. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Confirmation of police admin Deborah Bailey to full time.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to move Deborah Bailey to full time after the successful completion of her probation. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek –

John asked that we look into a 4 way stop at 4th and Buttonwood next. John asked Travis for the handicap parking can we paint the curb in between. Pete and Travis stated no, because when we remove the signs the paint would remain, also curb paint is approx. \$180 per gallon. Pete mentioned that the resident at 4th and Chapel has decided to paint their own curb, not the correct color, and does not follow standards. Travis said he would review.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard -

Recreation committee will begin discussing the summer program at their next meeting.

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, J – no report.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Stephanie Steward –

- Will review the street opening ordinance and advertise.
- New bidding thresholds for 2024
 - \$12, 600 – require no bid
 - \$12, 601 – \$23, 199 – 3 written or phone
 - Over \$23, 200 – full bid process

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone

Executive Session – resumed at 8:13pm reason was personnel issue.

MOTION: By Adam Landis to hire Roger Scheirer as the full-time Operations Assistant \$21.00 per hour. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan – asked why the snowflakes come down so early. Annette discussed the cost – they are expensive to keep up. No set date when they come down – depends on weather and PW availability.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Dan Snyder to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. 2nd by Adam Landis. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:



Tasha Jandrisovits

Borough Secretary