

**Minutes**  
**NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**August 7, 2023**

**PRESENT:** President Peter Paone, Councilpersons: Mark Gioielli, Mike Macsisak, Jessica Cope, Dan Snyder. Mayor Wm. Molchany. Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Treasurer Christina Czonstka, Secretary Tasha Jandrisovits

**ABSENT:** Michele Hazzard, John Yanek

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**PEOPLE PRESENT**

- LVPC re: River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan
  - LVPC representatives were there for support. Stated working with several communities and everything went very smoothly, communities all worked well together and were active and attended the meetings. This is meant as a community feedback session and then asking council to vote to approve adoption of the River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan.
  - Vote on River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan

**MOTION:** By Mike Macsisak to adopt the River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Resolution #378 River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan

**MOTION:** By Mark Gioielli to approve Resolution #378 for the River Central Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Rodney Wolfe – discussion about rental property next to him. Police issues with tenants that were addressed, issues with condition of the property, has tried to have addressed. Grass, weeds, stagnant pond. He went to the state due to no maintenance on the pond in 2 years, it is a mosquito breeding site. He filed a complaint with the state, they came out and tested and came back positive for West Nile virus. Roger stated that he is aware, and he contacted the owner of property, who claims to know nothing about condition of the property or the tenant issues. Rodney stated the owner allowed him to throw chemicals in the pond, but they will only work for so long. Rodney stated he knows the PD addressed tenant issues, but still things need to be fixed. Allowing rentals to get like this is what causes towns to go downhill. Pete explained that we do have a rental ordinance and there are requirements and codes that we hold people to, but it is a process. Tasha stated that once a property gets to this level, all departments are aware and are addressing it from all potential angles.
- Eric Snyder – is here to discuss why rental properties need to be inspected every two years. Why are we targeting rental properties. There are homes between his rental properties that are in bad shape, why aren't we going after them. People have cars in their years, boards on windows. Pete explained we just started the process a few years ago and that we continue to review. We do require a CO inspection when people sell a home, and we also address complaints as they are reported to us. We have processes to deal with these issues. And we will continue to review and refine. Tasha stated that we are not yet at the point of looking to reduce timelines on rentals, we still are finding too many issues and we are only halfway through our second round of inspections.
- Marc Hillenbrand – The carnival was a success, the car cruises have been sluggish, the hometown heroes' banners are for sale. Cost may increase in September; betterment is putting \$25 towards each banner right now. Council agreed to keep the banners up from Memorial Day to Veteran's Day. Probably for two years. Autumn fest is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be finger printing, a bounce house, pumpkins, crafts, pony rides and other things. There will also be a cornhole tournament, run by Adam and the rec committee. And there are 100 new American flags coming next week. Pete thanked Betterment once again for their hard work.

#### TREASURER REPORT – Christina Czonstka

- Sewer relief request for 1115 Front Street – pool filled 6/14 to 6/16

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve the Sewer Relief request for 1115 Front Street for filling their pool between 6/14 and 6/16. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder.  
No additional discussion, all in favor.

#### OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- RRS recycle event – September 9<sup>th</sup> 9-11 am - cost \$855.00.
- Dan asked why it is more expensive – discussed overall costs for everything go up annually.

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

- Stratix IT review
  - Email upgrade \$5.50 per month per email
  - Quote for police computers
  - Reviewed high-level of these upcoming costs. Will meet and discuss police computers with Chief Wolfer.
  
- 408 Buttonwood 2021 taxes \$1917.41. Taxes were missed when the borough purchased. Discussed with Steve, stated it is at the borough's discretion if they want to pay. Council agreed to reimburse.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve the borough reimbursing the \$1917.41 in 2021 past due taxes that were paid. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Stipend for Code Enforcement Board Appeals
  - Resolution #379
  - \$25.00 per person, per hearing, lines up with Zoning Hearing Board stipend
  - Need to add to 2024 Fee Schedule.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve Resolution #379 Stipend for the Code Enforcement Board of Appeals to approve the minutes from xx. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Resolutions for subdivisions – Resolutions include the language of conditions and final review from Steve's office.
  - 1425 Howerton Road – Resolution #380

MOTION: By Dan Snyder to approve resolution #380 and the conditions outlined in it for the subdivision of 1425 Howerton Rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- 408 Buttonwood Street – Resolution #381

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve resolution #381 and the conditions outlined in it for the subdivision of 408 Buttonwood St. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- 1021 5<sup>th</sup> Street – Resolution #382 Mark/Dan

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve resolution #382 and the conditions outlines in it for the subdivision of 1021 5<sup>th</sup> Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Hometown Heroes Banners – posted on Facebook and website. Betterment committee supplementing cost for first round of banners. The cost for now is \$180.00, need to complete application, bring in 5x7 service picture to the borough office.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett - no report.

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

Roger reported to council that the permit for the salt shed was approved and the steps are being started.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

- 18 calls for service for July. Roger shared reports with council.
- Enterprise Leasing quote – Roger reviewed with council the cost for a new pickup truck with 2 side boxes for gear and a clean box installed for the fire chief. It is coming time to trade in vehicles. Roger's car would go to the PD for the detective – who has the oldest vehicle. Roger also discussed that the old squad truck is up for discussion for sale or move to public works. It does not get used; it just sits there. It was noted that the fire police now operate out of their own vehicles. Roger will bring details to council at next meeting along with current leasing costs for PD vehicles. Vehicle #77 would then be traded into Stratix to reduce the cost by about \$24k.
- Roger made council aware that we will need to begin to discuss replacement of engine 1811, new builds are 3 years out and it takes almost a year to spec out. It is recommended to replace it at 10 -15 years or 150k miles, by the time a new truck comes in we will be almost out to 24 years. Trucks over 20 - 25 years the fire apparatus will be seen as replaced. Discuss more in depth soon.
- Roger and Chief Hertzog are working to secure money from the state to help with equipment.
- Pete asked when he needed to decide on the Silverado. Roger said trucks are limited through Enterprise and they have one to hold. Steve's office will draft information needed if we decide to sell squad truck, Roger will review with Travis. Pete also asked Chrissy to look up the existing fire truck loan for the next meeting. All will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Marc from the Betterment Committee stated they would chip in towards the clean box – can help pick up the difference.



North Catasauqua Borough Police Department  
August 2023 Monthly report

**June Dispatched calls-**

2023 Total for June- 294

2022 June total- 269

2021 June Total- 282

% change year over year- 2021-2023+9.29% 2022-2023+4.3%

- Traffic stops- 55
- Domestic violence- 16
- Armed suicidal/homicidal person- 1
- Armed suspicious person- 2
- Burglary- 1
- Suspicious activity- 6
- EMS- 28
- Fire calls- 4
- MVA's- 4
- 911 hangup's- 9
- Burglar alarm- 10
- Welfare check- 8
- Assist other PD- 11
- Theft- 6
- Vandalism- 2
- Assault- 1
- Fight in progress- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Wanted persons- 2
- Warrants served- 4
- Psych emergencies- 3
- Protection from abuse order violation- 2
- Abandoned vehicle- 2
- Use of force- 3
- Missing person- 1
- Missing juvenile- 3
- Report of shots fired- 1
- Vehicle fire- 1
- Parking tickets- 10
- Traffic citations- 18

- **Summary arrests- 35**

- 1- Ordinance violation open burning
- 1- 72-hour parking violation
- 1- Operating vehicle with fraudulent registration
- 4- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 2- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 2- Operating vehicle without insurance
- 1- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 1- Parking in a no parking zone
- 1- failure to use turn signal
- 7- Failure to pay parking ticket
- 4- Operating vehicle without rear lights
- 2- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 1- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 1- Passing a school bus with activated stop arm (Bus Patrol)
- 2- Careless driving
- 2- Parked blocking driveway
- 1- Reckless driving
- 1- Borough ordinance illegal storage of abandoned vehicle

**Misdemeanor arrests - 21**

- 1- Possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 2- Harassment by physically fighting
- 2- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 2- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 2- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 2- DUI metabolite of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 5- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 1- DUI highest rate of alcohol
- 1- DUI high rate of alcohol
- 1- DUI alcohol and drug combination
- 1- Trespass by motor vehicle
- 1- Fleeing the scene of a motor vehicle accident

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek (absent)

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard (absent)

LAW COMMITTEE REPORT - Michele Hazzard (absent)

Pete reported that Wednesday 8/9 is family night. Band The CLAP – they collect for the food bank at that concert.

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.

- Summary of the 2023 Mayor’s conference
  - Mayor Molchany reviewed the topics discussed at the 2023 Mayor’s conference. There was discussion on FEMA and working with emergency managers, National cybersecurity strategy, gun policies, recent legal developments, and the challenges for urban communities large and small.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Steven Goudsouzian – no report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone

- Traffic study at 4<sup>th</sup> and Chapel – Roger and Chief working to finalize the study.
- Mayor asked about the red blinking stop signs. Pete stated they are \$3k each x 2.

NEW BUSINESS

- Roger – noted there was storm damage tonight on Arch Street – the wooden sign is down, will call PW to confirm no live electricity. No other damage as of now.

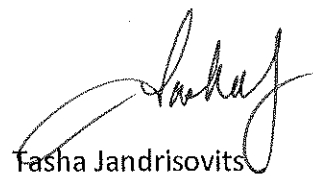
APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: By Dan Snyder to approve payment of all invoices. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli.  
No additional discussion, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Snyder.  
No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:



Tasha Jandrisovits  
Borough Secretary