

MINUTES
NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 18, 2023

PRESENT: President Peter Paone, Councilpersons: Mark Gioielli, Mike Macsisak, Jessica Cope, Dan Snyder. Solicitor Steven Goudsouzian, Secretary Tasha Jandrisovits

Also present were Police Chief Christopher Wolfer and Fire Chief Roger Scheirer

ABSENT: Michele Hazzard, John Yanek, Mayor Molchany

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve the minutes. 2nd by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PEOPLE PRESENT

Pete read a statement. See attached to the end of the minutes.

Bill Nothstein – here to represent the Betterment and Rec Committee. Committees met and have a joint idea for Trees in the Park program. Families, organizations, and businesses can sponsor and decorate trees that will be placed in the park. They remain lit all season. It draws people in. Palmerton does this and the community is very invested in it. Committees realized too much planning and lead time to order trees, will do in full next year, but would like to set up two trees this year as samples for people to view. Discussion continued around electricity, stands, ordering trees, where to locate, etc. Discussions will take place with Public Works. Ask is for council to approve two for this year and plan for 50 next year.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve the Christmas Trees in the Park program, with two trees for this year and plan for up to 50 next year. 2nd by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Michael Reed - Has a concern with 804 Locust Street. Asked if they had a business permit, as he believes they sell cars from the property, there are 9-10 cars there. They swap out license plates, cars have no inspections. Half the block is taken up. Roger stated they have a business permit for a car detailing business. Chief Wolfer and Roger stated they would review.

Marc Hillenbrand – Stated he has filed two complaints for the weeds at neighbor’s yard, they are as high as fence and over on his property. 5th street next to funeral parlor to the right of garage. Roger said he would pull and review. Marc then discussed Autumnfest . He is requesting the same streets closed. Marc asked if it was possible to put food vendors on the basketball court, they have two smaller trailers, unhook and keep at lower end. They could put plywood down, blocks of wood under. Pete asked Jess to discuss it with Travis and make a decision. Marc then said he believes he will have close to 20 Hometown Hero banners to order, not including the original 7. He plans to get the order done this week and hopes to have back and hung for Veteran’s Day. Marc also stated he attended the last rec committee meeting – suggested that one of police officers go to the next meeting and explain how they patrol, as members were questioning the police department. Chief Wolfer said he would gladly attend the next meeting. Marc mentioned that some members of the committee got out of hand and were not respectful of the Chairperson.

TREASURER REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

Tasha thanked Annette for returning part time and thanked Pam for stepping in. We are working very well as a team, day to day work on the Treasurer desk is current. We are reconciling all of the accounts from the past few mos. We are working to create standard work and training documents for all duties. One of the items we need to have moving forward is visibility into the finances and for council and all in the office and on council to be more active and have a better understanding of the finances.

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- Stratix IT review
 - Email upgrade -

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve upgrading the council and mayor emails. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Quote for police computers –

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to order 3 computers for the police department. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Ratify approval to accept Christina Czonstka’s resignation and to advertise for Treasurer position.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to accept Christna Czonstka resignation. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to advertise the position of Treasurer. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Budget worksheets were handed out to council.
- Keycodes
 - 2024 fees – no increase from 2023
 - Office/inspector schedule – Keycodes moved to a 4-day work week with Friday's off.
- Approval to advertise Ordinance #441 for Solid Waste Collection
 - Ordinance update to match language in current garbage contract. The Ordinance also added that we will use attorney to pursue overdue trash bills. Tasha discussed overall the office is looking to step up collection process on unpaid bills.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to advertise Ordinance #441 for Solid Waste Collection. 2nd by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Approval to advertise Ordinance #442 for Fire Department Regionalization
 - Council will hold on this. They will work with Steve's office to revise prior to approval, review at the next meeting and advertise on books by the end of the year.
- Trick or Treat – Saturday 10/28 6-8pm, with rain date Sunday 10/29 6-8pm
- Letter from KCE re: Currant and Chestnut Street property – Council should review and know that we intend to move forward on this property and all of its issues.
- Executive session – requested for the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett – no report.

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer

Motion to activate board to create a list and advertise the testing and interview dates.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to activate the Civil Service board to create a hire list. 2nd by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to advertise the testing and interviews once dates determined by Civil Service. 2nd by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

Large scale search on Saturday, Roger thanked all of the mutual aid departments that assisted us on Thursday and Saturday.

- North Catasauqua Police
- Catasauqua and North Catasauqua Fire Department
- Catasauqua Police
- Whitehall Fire, EMA and Police
- Coplay Fire
- Northampton Fire
- Lehigh Township Fire
- Lehigh County 911 dispatchers
- Lehigh County Spec Ops team
- Lehigh County Drone team
- Lehigh County EMA
- Allentown Fire
- Northampton Regional EMS
- Lehigh County Rehab Units
- South Whitehall Fire

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

- Enterprise Leasing quote – ratify email approval to purchase new pickup truck – Roger thanked council for approval via email to order. Cap ordered, Enterprise sourcing truck. Meeting tomorrow at 3pm.
- 26 calls August
- 1811 needed new tires, passed inspection.
- 1831 – inspected, new tires as well. Roger shared pictures of the engine blowing oil, Horwith fixing, hopes to be back in service in 1-2 weeks.
- Ariel testing 10/4 and 10/5

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to confirm approval to order new pickup truck. 2nd by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Wolfer



North Catasauqua Borough Police Department September 2023 2nd Monthly report

July Dispatched calls- 295

2023 Total for July- 295

2022 July total- 372

2021 July Total- 271

% change year over year- 2021-2023 +8.9% 2022-2023-21.3%

- Traffic stops- 94
- Domestic violence in progress- 15
- animal complaints- 10
- Suspicious activity- 6
- EMS- 18
- Fire calls- 3
- MVA's- 4
- follow up investigations- 30
- citizen assists- 15
- 911 hangup's- 5
- Burglar alarm- 3
- Welfare check- 11
- Assist other PD- 6
- Theft- 3
- Vandalism- 6
- Assault- 3
- Fight in progress- 2
- Harassment- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Warrants served- 3
- Psych emergencies- 4
- Terroristic threats- 1
- Fireworks- 1
- Noise Complaints- 2
- Use of force- 3
- Missing person- 2
- Report of shots fired- 1
- Vehicle fire-
- Parking tickets- 5
- Traffic citations- 32
- Vehicles impounded- 6

Summary arrests- 45

- 1- Unauthorized use of registration
- 1- Unauthorized use of registration plate
- 8- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 3- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 3- Operating vehicle without insurance
- 8- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 1- Parking in a no parking zone
- 1- failure to use turn signal
- 2- Operating vehicle without working headlights
- 2- Failure to pay parking ticket

- 4- Operating vehicle without rear lights
- 3- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 2- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 1- Careless driving
- 2- Harassment (Domestic disturbance related)
- 1- Disorderly conduct
- 1- Careless driving
- 1- Parked blocking driveway

Misdemeanor arrests- 33

- 1- Harassment by physically fighting
- 5- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 7- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 5- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 5- DUI metabolite of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 7- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 2- DUI highest rate of alcohol
- 1- Disorderly Conduct

Felony Arrests- 0

Moving Forward

- **Corporal Santiago** attended the national Crisis Intervention Team conference in Detroit Michigan. He brought back very useful and relevant information. This was fully funded by Northampton County Crisis.
- Resolution needed for LSA grant application.
- 2nd preliminary breath test device has been received from the Trooper Keaton Memorial Foundation at no cost to the Borough. I would like to formally express my gratitude to the Keaton family for their generous donation.
- **Unit 75** Starter replaced (*Marc's Auto*)
- **Unit 74** Water pump failure (*Faulkner Chevrolet*)
- **Unit 72** new tires (*Service Tire Center*), mounting & alignment (*CJ Tires*).
 - **Unit 72** alignment- \$75.95 | tires- \$540.00 | Tire mount & disposal- \$100.00
Total cost = \$715.95
 - **Unit 74 Total Cost = \$0.00** covered under powertrain warranty
 - **Unit 75 Total Cost = \$442.65**

TRAINING COMPLETED

On 9/5/2023, we hosted a medical marijuana training course here at Borough Hall. 13 officers from around the state were in attendance. **Ofc. HAZIM** from our department attended as well. Everything was a great success

Chief Wolfer thanked all parties involved in the events as well. Lehigh County radio did an amazing job as well.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve Resolution #xxx to apply for LSA grant for off road police vehicle for trail emergencies. 2nd by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

OFFICE INSURANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT - Mark Gioielli – no report.
Thanked all personnel involved for their dedication and our borough.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard

LAW COMMITTEE REPORT - Michele Hazzard

PUBLIC PROPERTY & PARKS REPORT - Jessica Cope
Jess stated she designed the sign for pollinator garden and provided it to Tasha who will order.

PUBLIC SAFETY-POLICE – Michael Macsisak - no report

PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE REPORT – Daniel Snyder - no report

MAYOR REPORT – William J. Molchany, Jr. - Absent

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Steven Goudsouzian - no report

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone

National trail clean-up day – 9/23 – will be in North Catty 9am to 11am and 9/30 – Catty 9am to 11 am.

Pete then discussed that we have been getting vexatious requests for information in the office. Some RTK, others just via email or in writing. After Thursday's horrific incident, we received a request email from resident Scott Holmes. Scott requested copies of the Emergency Management SOP's, because he said he felt our Emergency Management person was on the scene without the proper attire. Pete stated our concern is our EMA respond to a scene quickly

and with the appropriate training rather than worry about what they are wearing. We do not have an SOP that requires certain attire for Emergency Management.

This is not the first email or letter we have received from Mr. Holmes, he has emailed ridiculous statements to both the Office and the Police Department. Examples such as the time the fire department sent out a donation letter and he sent back in copies of monopoly money because he does not like the Fire Chief. It is a personal vendetta, and his emails are based on his own personal opinion and issues and are wasting borough resources. Pete asked the solicitor for guidance on how to deal with this. Steve said unfortunately when someone abuses the RTK process, it costs money and time and effort, and there is very little recourse to stop and behavior. It's a shame, because you spend resources, instead of using those resources for the good of the community.

NEW BUSINESS - none reported.

APPROVAL OF BILLS -


MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve payment of all invoices. 2nd by Mike Mascisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Executive session – started at 8pm. Personnel issues. Resumed meeting at 8:22pm.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm. 2nd by Dan Snyder. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:


Tasha Jandrisovits
Borough Secretary