

Minutes
NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Councilperson Dan Snyder, Jr. Councilperson Kaitlyn Lawton

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: By Jessica Cope to approve the meeting minutes from the February 5th meeting. 2nd by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PEOPLE PRESENT

Collin Paone – Eagle Scout Service Project

Collin is a Life Scout working on his Eagle Scout. He is here for approval to begin work on his project with the first step being to submit all paperwork to Minsi Trails Council. Collin shares a packet with photographs of the project. The 1st page is a diagram for an Information Kiosk. 2nd page is a map, the area in red is where kiosk will go by entrance to trailhead. Along w/kiosk, he heard there are old wooden tables from the park that are in the borough complex. He would like to redo those tables, sand and paint them. Then build a gravel bed along the trailhead in our area. 3rd part is a bike pump station, closest one is in Bowmanstown, that would be something that would attract people to our section of the trail. Along with needing approval from council he will also need a project coach to watch over throughout the project and interject on behalf of the council with their thoughts, and also need a borough representative – this can be the same person. These would be appointed by council. Collin, once approved, will look to fundraise for this project, the DL has up to \$2500 available for trail improvements.

Mayor Molchany asked about his timeframe. Collin said the boy scouts go to age 18, he has 4 years to complete. He estimates the project will take 1 to 1.5 years. He has it broken down almost as 3 projects in one. John asked what would go in the information kiosk and Collin stated he would leave that up to us, but his thoughts include map of trail, information on town, etc. Jess asked if he will need help? Collin said his plan estimates the need for 12-18 volunteers. Allows other scouts to get volunteer hours. Roger asked what was being done with

tables? Collin said they will be refinished and used as a place to rest. Chief Wolfer stated the project is a great idea. Pete confirmed that he will remain out of the voting, but the first step is for council to approve allowing the project to take place on their property. Jess asked if there is any anticipated upkeep long term? Collin stated we could possibly need to redo the tables at some point, but he is looking for materials that will last for a while. Collin stated the coach/representative won't need to spend a ton of time with him, just oversee, initial ideas about where things should go.

Travis agreed to be the borough representative. Collin can provide council updates as needed. Chief Wolfer mentioned we do have a trail camera that might be able to be used for this, we would just need to look into a cell plan for it.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve Colling starting the project. Travis will be the borough representative. 2nd by John Yanek. Pete abstained from voting. No additional discussion, rest in favor.

Ms. Walters commented that Collin had an excellent presentation. She then wanted to comment on behalf of her neighbors across the street, they were unaware of the snow emergency, signs up over 2 years but never called before. Pete stated the ordinance was passed 2-3 years ago, this is the first time we needed to call one. Mayor Molchany replied that it was announced on WFMZ and is on their website and Facebook post, along with being posted all over the Borough Facebook pages and website. The Mayor and the Police Chief and staff met to discuss what can be done differently. 3 cars ended up being towed. People need to be aware if they park on a snow emergency route and it snows, to monitor.

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- No report.

TREASURER REPORT – Annette Englert

- A&S maintenance contract. 2024 \$1665 a \$33 increase over 2023. Annette stated they come out twice a year to replace filters, we don't get a discount if we have a service call. Very displeased with them over the last few years. Annette recommended we do not proceed. Council agreed.
- Roger noted that we had a different company come in to repair the heater.
- RCN franchise fee for 2023 was \$28,062.75 – decrease of over \$5k from last year.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett

- Travis suggested we do a letter to homeowner notifying them of upcoming paving, because once paving done you can't open the street for 5 years, so if anyone is thinking of doing work now such as having a gas line installed, it would be good to do prior to spring. Travis will provide the office with a list of roads that are slotted to be paved. We will post it on the website and Facebook to make people aware. Travis will be working to get pricing on milling.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Greg Scheirer

Greg noted that over the next few months they will bring a 5-year Hazzard plan to council for approval.

FIRE/CIVIL SERVICE/OPERATIONS – Roger Scheirer

- Fire report attached.
- 90% of the firefighters will be up to fire fighter 2 level, which is outstanding in the state.
- Civil service, meeting on 2/27 at 7pm.
- Belfor will make temporary roof repairs once the snow melts.
- First floor heating system is not working, had Henderson Heating on site to make temporary repairs, got it up and running, but no guarantees as to how long it will last. System is 30 years old, no parts available for it anymore. We need to determine if we need to go out for bid, we estimate well over \$30k based on quotes from a few years ago. Stephanie will review if this falls under emergency service and what we need to do.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT= Chief Wolfer –



Borough of North Catasauqua
Police Department

Bi-Monthly Borough Council Report

2024, February {2 of 2}

January Dispatched calls-

<u>2024 January Total - 224</u>	{Baseline}
<u>2023 January Total - 253</u>	{12.9% decrease}
<u>2022 January Total- 366</u>	{63.4% decrease}
<u>2021 January Total- 161</u>	{28.2% increase}
<u>2020 January Total- 218</u>	{2.7% increase}
<u>2019 January Total- 412</u>	{83.9% decrease}

January 2023 Call-for-service breakdown

- Domestic violence in progress- 17
- animal complaints- 2
- Suspicious activity- 2
- EMS- 27
- Fire calls- 2
- MVA's- 7
- 911 hangup's- 6
- Burglar alarm- 5
- Welfare check- 14
- Assist other PD- 9
- Theft- 2
- Vandalism- 1
- Wanted persons- 4
- Warrants served- 6

- Psych emergencies- 3
- Terroristic threats- 2
- Emergency PFA's-
- Abandoned vehicle- 1
- Use of force- 3
- Parking tickets- 12
- Traffic citations- 6
- Vehicles impounded- 3
- Burglary- 1

- Summary arrests- 27

- 7- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
- 4- Operating vehicle with expired registration
- 5- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
- 1- Parking in a no parking zone
- 3- Operating vehicle without working taillights
- 1- Operating vehicle on wrong side of roadway
- 2- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
- 2- Operating vehicle with suspended driver's license
- 1- Disorderly conduct
- 1- Failure to use turn signal

- Misdemeanor arrests- 17

- 3- Possession of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 1- Driving while suspended*7th Offense, habitual offender*
- 2- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 3- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 1- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 1- DUI drug metabolite
- 2- DUI general impairment unsafe driving
- 1- DUI high rate of alcohol
- 1- Domestic violence assault
- 1- Domestic violence Harassment by physical contact
- 1- Medical Marijuana Act violation

- Felony Arrests- 0

Moving Forward

- I taught at the Allentown Police Academy last Friday, Saturday, and yesterday.
- Hire Quentin Knecht full-time effective immediately. Quentin was next on the list, worked for us part-time prior and will be an immediate asset to the department.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to hire Quentin Knecht full time effective today. 2nd by Jessica Cope. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Handicapped parking request

- 1316 3rd Street Placard verified. Off-Street parking is not available. Placard is a 4-month temporary expiring June 30th of this year, it is a temporary placard. Chief Wolfer believes this does not meet the criteria in our ordinance or what is stated on the application. Mike Macsisak then commented on the status, Secretary Jandrisovits made council aware this was Mike's own personal request. Pete suggested we review in more detail offline and revisit at the next meeting. Jess asked Stephanie to further clarify for council.

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek

Thanked the borough crew for wonderful job and thanked the Mayor for calling the snow emergency way ahead of time and cancelling when snow stopped. John discussed a concern from one of his neighbors about a property behind her and the paper alley. This is an area where the development all have an agreement and someone's junk and fence is encroaching on her property. Discussion continued, but the bottom line is we cannot give legal advice and we suggest they come in to the office and fill out a complaint form so we can address directly.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard

Meeting this wed. borough hall at 6:30 pm.

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 – no report.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Stephanie Steward

Stephanie mentioned she was having difficulty hearing from home. She did review the borough code, section 1402, and stated emergency repair and replacement, including heating system, does not require advertisement. We should declare it an actual emergency by resolution at the next council meeting. Pete authorized Roger to solicit quotes for repair or replacement.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone

6:30 cub scout meeting on Wednesday will be held at borough hall and we will hold a sample council meeting and tour the police department. Pete also let council know that Whitehall sent us a copy of a zoning hearing for the 2/24 agenda for 3161 East Church Street to allow outdoor storage without a use permit.

NEW BUSINESS - no new business.


APPROVAL OF BILLS

MOTION: By Jessica Cope to approve payment of all invoices. 2nd by Mike Maccisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mike Maccisak to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. 2nd by Jess Cope. No additional discussion, all in favor.

ATTEST:



Tasha Jandrisovits
Borough Secretary