

**Minutes**  
**NORTH CATASAUQUA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**July 17, 2023**

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

**ABSENT:** Dan Snyder, John Yanek

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** By Mark Gioielli to approve the minutes from June 19, 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

**PEOPLE PRESENT**

Dave Kutzor – Zoning Officer

Robert Piligian – Bascom and Sieger, Inc – Engineer

Joseph Jones – owner 408 Buttonwood Street

- 408 Buttonwood – subdivision approval request
  - Dave Kutzor read his review letter – attached to back of minutes.
  - Robert Piligian stated they are still waiting for the sewer exception letter from Catty in order to obtain DEP approval. Stated this plan is actually a decrease in impervious as there will be no driveway.
  - Mike Macsisak asked about sinkholes, what are they doing to remediate. Pete stated the builder has done what is required.
  - Robert stated they have no problem with the \$1200 for open space, they will replace all sidewalk and curbing. There is a utility easement waiver for 10' vs. 20', the exterior easement is fine. Requested a partial waiver to 5' on lot divider, as lots are only 50' wide. Planning Commission also approved that they plant a tree on each lot but not in the right of way. They will ensure sinkhole remediation is done and homes will conform to the neighborhood.
  - Council had no additional questions.
  - A formal letter will be sent.

**MOTION:** By Jess Cope to grant conditional approval upon the recommendations of the borough engineer, borough solicitor and all conditions placed, and waivers requested. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

TREASURER REPORT – Christina Czonstka

- MRM dividend check
  - \$18169.66 – money into special projects
- Catty 2021 Sewer Audit adjustment
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and final 2021
    - 2021 - \$26,106
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter \$76,508

OFFICE REPORT – Tasha Jandrisovits

- 1060 Woodmont Lane – sewer relief average of local
- 985 Woodmont Lane – sewer relief – denied, normal grass watering.
- 810 Palomino - sewer relief

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli approving a sewer adjustment for 1060 Woodmont Lane. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve a sewer adjustment for 810 Palomino Drive. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REPORT – Travis Brett

- Sinkhole on Almond Street, Northampton used their new camera, there is not a break in the new line but there are additional breaks in the old line. We need approx. 130' of new piping to replace to the main which will be about \$55k - \$60k. All in, dig pipe, backfill, blacktop trench. Travis stated we are going to run into a lot more of this, pipe in town in getting old, mains in town getting close. Pete asked if we need to go out for bid or okay using our bid from the beginning of the year with Lorah for heavy equipment rental. Steve said that is ok. Also, if we purchase through Costars the material, we are okay and since this is an emergency sewer line replacement we do not need to go out for bid. Pete asked for a vote to authorize Lorah to proceed. Mark asked how we would pay for it. Chrissy and stated half should come from sewer and half from special projects. Pete agreed we should have some extra money due to snow removal being low for the beginning of the year.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to approve Lorah proceeding with the sewer line replacement on Almond Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

CIVIL SERVICE – Roger Scheirer - no report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

- Optimus Risk Services – annual audit
  - Roger shared that Optimus Risk did their annual audit and we were told we needed to install staircase to the storage area above the garage in the salt bin. Rober is asking for \$1k approval to have this permitted and built by public works. The other issue is the old fire truck. It belongs to the Charotin. Discussion around storage options and the amount of time the truck has been stored there with no change. Never moves, rarely worked on. Travis said it’s a shame, this should be in a museum not stored here. It will need to be moved in order to install a stairway. Michele suggested we send the Charotin a letter explaining and giving them a date to move it by. Council agreed to have it moved out within 60 days.

MOTION: By Jess Cope to approve spending approx. \$1k to build a stairway to storage area in the salt bin and to send a letter to the Charotin to ask them to make arrangements to move the old fire truck out of the salt bin within 60 days. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

- Roger and Chief met with Fast Signs – recognize that we need a larger scale map of the borough used for multiple situations but especially large-scale investigations. We can get an 8’x4’ map with 4x4 whiteboard next to it – for \$1057.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to order an 8x4 map/whiteboard combo for \$1057.00. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Macsisak. No additional discussion, all in favor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Roger Scheirer

25 calls June. Roger shared his fire report with the council.

Executive session – personnel matter

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Chief Wolfer



**North Catasauqua Borough Police Department  
July 2023 2nd Monthly report**

**May Dispatched calls- 299**

2023 Total for May- 299

2022 May total- 268

2021 May Total- 296

% change year over year- +1.1% from 2021 +11.5% from 2022

- Traffic stops- 41
- Domestic violence- 12
- Burglary- 3

- animal complaints- 3
- Suspicious activity- 7
- EMS- 22
- Fire calls- 3
- MVA's- 4
- Welfare check- 6
- Assist other PD- 7
- Theft- 5
- Vandalism- 3
- Assault- 1
- Fight in progress- 1
- Fraud- 1
- Warrants served- 3
- Psych emergencies- 1
- BusPatrol Stop arm violations- 2
- Use of force- 2
- Report of shots fired- 2
- Parking tickets- 19
- Traffic citations- 5
- **Summary arrests- 31**
  - 1- Parking within a crosswalk
  - 8- Operating vehicle with expired inspection
  - 5- Operating vehicle with expired registration
  - 1- Failure to stop at properly posted stop sign
  - 6- Parking in a no parking zone
  - 1- Failure to pay parking ticket
  - 2- Operating vehicle without rear lights
  - 4- Operating vehicle without a valid driver's license
  - 2- Passing a school bus with activated stop arm (BusPatrol)
  - 1- Parked blocking sidewalk

**Misdemeanor arrests- 15**

- 1- Possession of a small amount of Marijuana
- 2- Possession of drug paraphernalia
- 1- DUI Schedule 1 controlled substance
- 1- DUI metabolite of a schedule 1 controlled substance
- 4- Domestic violence assault
- 4- Domestic violence Harassment by physical contact
- 1- Terroristic threats Domestic Violence
- 1- Operating vehicle with a DUI suspended license

**Moving Forward**

- On 6/14/2023, Chief Wolfer, Corporal Santiago and Detective O'Donnell visited the New York City Police Department's Aviation Unit, Emergency Service Unit and the 75th Precinct Detective Squad, which is in the borough of Brooklyn. The purpose of the coordinated visit was to strengthen our partnership and to enhance our interoperability with the NYPD. This professional law enforcement exchange provided our team with an opportunity to discuss critical topics,

such as Patrol Operations, Crime Prevention, Violent Crime Reduction, Homicide Investigations, Emergency Rescue Techniques, Active Aggressor Tactics. As a Police Department, we know that we cannot operate alone and that every opportunity to serve alongside our partner law enforcement agencies is a chance to strengthen bonds and establish trust.

- Give brief overview of Eastern Arms Incident
- Coplay PD mutual aid coverage request
- Complaints of speeding in new development. Who is responsible for speed limit signs, and can we put a "children at play" sign up? Per Atty. Panella – this is the HOA responsibility; we can offer guidance.
- Both parties responsible for damage to gate on D&L trail have paid their restitution in full in the amount of \$1240.00
- Applied for assistance through the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association. We were awarded 3 lvl III ballistic helmets which have since been put in service.
- Applied for and were awarded the Trooper Kenton Memorial Foundation. We were awarded 2 top of the line portable breath test devices. 1 has arrived on 7/14/2023 and we are still awaiting the 2nd. No cost to Borough.
- The 2022 the Lehigh Valley DUI/Highway Safety Task Force presented it's awards for top DUI enforcement Officer and top traffic enforcement Officer. These 2 awards are broken down into State Police, Municipalities, Cities, and Borough's. The North Catasauqua Police won both Borough awards with Sergeant Tramonte making 59 Dui arrests and Corporal Santiago issued 105 traffic citations.
- Ofc. Pursell and I attended Active shooter training today at Western Salisbury Elementary School. Rest of Officers are going throughout the week. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> active school shooting training event attended this year by our department.

#### Handicapped parking request

- 1022 4<sup>th</sup> Street all info verified has off-street parking in rear, unable to walk to it. Placard verified.
- 1121 4<sup>th</sup> Street All info verified has off-street parking but is unable to make the walk.
- 655 Wyandotte St. Street all info verified needs spot in front of home for wheelchair van.

MOTION: By Jessica Cope to approve handicap parking at 1022 4<sup>th</sup>, 11231 4<sup>th</sup> and 655 Wyandotte Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Gioielli. No additional discussion, all in favor.

## TRAINING COMPLETED

- **Ofc. HAZIM** completed Legal Survival training & Warrantless Entry of Homes training through the Blue2Gold Training Academy.
- **Ofc. HAZIM** completed speed timing device operation training through the Lehigh Township Police Department.
- **Ofc. HAZIM** completed Stop the Bleed training through NCPD.
- **Ofc. Santiago** completed Sobriety Checkpoint Update Training & Field Sobriety Refresher Training through NHTSA & NCPD
- **Det. O'Donnell & I** completed TAC Officer training through PA State Police

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

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT - John Yanek (absent)

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Michele Hazzard  
1<sup>st</sup> concert last Wednesday – Steel Creek, approx. 350 people attended.

Shark sandwich 8/3  
Clap 8/11  
Next meeting 8/14 6:30  
Family night – 8/9  
Rec committee helped with Jess Finn fest this Saturday.

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 (absent)

MAYOR REPORT – William J. Molchany, Jr.  
Attending the Mayor's conference Wednesday to Sunday.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Atty. Steven Goudsouzian –  
Executive Session  
Atty. Brian Panella – no report.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT - Peter Paone  
○ 2024 Hotel Tax Grant applications

- Two applications submitted, one for the Concert Series for the Recreation Committee and one for the funding of the Community Days with PD
- River Central Comp Plan – please review prior to 8/7 meeting.
  - Discussion and a vote at the 8/7 meeting, LVPC will attend.
- Parking on Grove Street – Pete sent an email regarding the bollards.
  - Agreed for the Jess Finn fest we will use barricades to help save people from parking in no parking zone.
- Executive Session – personnel matters

NEW BUSINESS - No new business.

Executive session.

Return from executive session – 8:26 pm, session to discuss personnel matters.

MOTION: By Mike Macsisak to reject the grievances filed by Ofc. Douglas. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to approve Atty. Goudsouzian to move forward exploring the eminent domain process for 1494 Main Street. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Mark asked Chief Wolfer how the bus camera program was going. Chief Wolfer replied that it was going well, had 2 violations in May and 1 in June. School is out of session now, so obviously it will slow down.

#### APPROVAL OF BILLS

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By Mark Gioielli to adjourn the meeting at 8:29pm. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Hazzard. No additional discussion, all in favor.

Attest:

 Borough Secretary