

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
December 9, 2008 – 7:00 pm

I. Call to order

President McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: Tony Cafarelli, Bob Dunn, Orlando Gagliardi, Tina Iorfido Miller, Mike Mikulich, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Administration and Staff Present: Borough Manager/Secretary: Kristen Denne, Borough Solicitor: Rick Start, Borough Engineer: Frank Lemmon, Police Chief: Mark Romutis, Fire Chief: David Drewnowski, Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer: James Ivancik, DPW Manager: L. Kokoski.

III. Invocation

Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

V. Treasurer’s Report- Prepared & Respectfully Submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda

Mr. Mikulich read the following report – As of 4:00 p.m. December 9, 2008:

\$1,322,094.54	General Fund Bank Account Balance 12/9/2008 4:00 pm.
<u>\$115,671.65</u>	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 12/9/2008 4:00 p.m.
\$1,206,422.89	Available Balance 12/9/2008 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

Deposits:	\$123,707.25
------------------	---------------------

Debits:	\$167,275.86
----------------	---------------------

-which include the following:

<u>70</u> Checks	\$82,498.84
<u>1</u> Payroll (s)	\$84,777.02

\$75,463.72	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$162,453.62	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$5,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,131.26	Recreation Fund
\$332,558.41	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
<hr/>	
\$615,568.76	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

VI. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Mr. Cafarelli asked a question on the Columbia gas heating bills for 611 Eleventh St, is that for the whole building including the public works garage. He commented that it was high and he asked Mr. Kokoski to bring down the thermostat on the weekends to bring the temperature way down and Mr. Kokoski agreed to do so. No other questions on the bills, Mr. Pucci made the motion to accept the bills and expenses, Ms. Miller seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

VII. Citizen’s Participation on Agenda Items only (Citizens are limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Ms. Costa – 699 Melrose Ave.

She had a question concerning the Recreation Fund on the Treasurer Report, it seems that the figure of \$39,000.00, it seems that a substantial part of this fund should have been spend up at the park and it seems that this figure has been static for the last few months. She asked where we are with it. Ms. Denne commented that this money is restricted funds and we have spend about ½ of it, we did get a grant from DC&R for Walter Panek Park, and about a portion was transferred out. Ms. Costa also asked about the budget, how much it has increased from 2008 to the proposed budget of 2009. Ms. Denne did not have the figures right in front of her, however, the mills are not increasing, and they are staying exactly the same.

Mr. Cafarelli commented that we put things on hold at Borough Park until the building is torn down and then more would be done. Ms. Denne commented to Mrs. Costa that she would email the information that she wanted the next day.

Speaker Representing Castlebrook: Dave Laffey with updates of the new Emergency Services site. Two minor changes, we shifted the roadway over in lot 3 about 20 feet of the New Economy Business Park. We needed to reduce the new 911 Center by about 1 acre on the northern end because of it contained a transformer/power station that feeds the Centria Buildings.

Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Laffey if there was anything new to report on the new other than the new 911 Center that maybe wasn’t in the newspaper. Mr. McCoy announced that on December 12, 2008 there will be a ground breaking ceremony @ 14th Street. Mr. Laffey commented that there was nothing new to report.

VIII. Items for discussion.

1. Proposed 2009 Budget.

Mr. McCoy commented that council has met 5 or 6 times to discuss and review the proposed budget and he feels that it's at the point where it could be passed, if there are not questions. Mr. Mikulich asked if the budget was advertised for viewing, Ms. Denne stated that it was advertised before Thanksgiving and it's passed the seven days. Mr. Pucci made the motion to pass the budget for 2009, Mr. Dunn seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	N
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6-1.

2. Ordinance #1229 Levying a Tax of 34.5 Mills for Fiscal Year 2009.

Mr. McCoy remarked that the audience may be interested that means that we will not be raising taxes for 2009. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to accept Ordinance #1229, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

3. Ordinance #1230 – Establishing Delinquent Tax Collector for fiscal Year 2008.

Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to approved Ordinance #1230, Mr. Pucci seconds.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

4. *Resolution 2008-4 approving a Tax Anticipation Note in the Amount of \$400,000.00 From Citizens Bank.*

Mr. McCoy commented that we got a better rate than originally anticipated. Ms. Denne remarked that originally we had last year 4.23% and it's now 3.83%. Mr. Gagliardi asked if we have a longer time to repay, Ms. Denne replied "no it's the same amount of time- 1 year, but the rate is lower". Motion to pass the resolution made by Mr. Gagliardi, Mr. Dunn seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	N
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 6-1.

5. *Resolution 2008-6 Resolution 2008-6 establishing filing, Permit & License Fees for the Borough of Ambridge.*

Mr. Cafarelli made the motion, Mr. Dunn seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

6. *Resolution 2008-5 -Providing for the Installments of Payments of the Tax Levy for the Year 2009 on Each Dollar of the Assessed Valuation of Taxable Property.*

Ms. Denne explained that this is passed every year allowing people to make installments on their property tax rather than making it all at once. Ms. Miller asked if the dates are the same as before, Ms. Denne replied yes.

Mr. Gagliardi made the motion, Mr. Mikulich seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

7. *Assistant Electrician Position.*

Mr. McCoy explained that this for Mr. Tom Patrician. This is for a mere \$25.00 a month- like a token, this is so that he is covered by our insurance, and there is no other way we could do this, because he does so much work for and around the Borough, like putting up and taking down our Christmas lights. Ms. Miller makes the motion to accept Mr. Patrician as Assistant Electrician, and Mr. Gagliardi seconds.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

8. *2009 Insurance Package.*

Ms. Denne explains that we have very good news; this is a \$50,000.00 reduction in our property casualty and workman's comp. insurance. Two reasons for this are: completing the safety committee requirements and the second; our losses are down substantially from past years. In 2004-2005 our workman's comp losses were over \$225,000.00, 2005-2006 were \$195,000.00, 2006-2007 were \$21,000.00, and 2007-2008 were \$13,000.00. Very similar loss reduction with our property loss & casualty --\$142,000.00 to \$95,000.00 to \$500.00 to \$7,000.00 to \$65.00. A great deal of measures have been taken improve safety in the Borough and it has made a significant difference in our insurance premiums. Our premiums altogether in 2008 -2009 is a negative 27%, which we went down 27% savings; and our experience mod in just 1 year went from 1.49 to 1.30, which is a 13% reduction. We are going to continue these actions to keep these premiums low. Mr. Mikulich asked if the premium went down \$50,000.00 with no reduction in coverage. Ms. Denne replied yes, and she continued to explain that she did go to different markets and we were declined by everyone except Harry & McKee Risks. What they look at is the past 5 years, and our past 5 years are still coming back to haunt us. Mr. Mikulich asked what last year was. Ms. Denne said \$185,000.00 and this year will be \$134,006.00.

Mr. Gagliardi makes the motion to accept the insurance package, Mr. Dunn seconds.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

*Mr. McCoy commended our Borough Manager for a job well done in keeping in touch with these insurance people and keeping the premium low. Ms. Denne also commended the employees who attend these safety meetings which keep 5% right off the top of our premiums and they are an example for everyone else.

9. *Bonus for Mechanical Devices Collector.*

Mr. Mikulich made the motion to pay the \$500.00 bonus, Mr. Gagliardi seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

10. *Curb Cut 901 Beaver Rd.*

Mr. Ivancik explained that the zoning board checked it out; there is no parking on this site where the resident wants the curb cut. Mr. Cafarelli asked if the across the street parking is an issue. Mr. Ivancik explained that there is already a curb cut across the street which is no parking also. Mr. Cafarelli stated he did take a ride and view this area and it looks ok to him. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to approve the curb cut, Mr. Cafarelli seconds.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

11. *Refuse Collection Contract.*

Mr. McCoy commented about the refuse collectors, he had issues because of one problem – they leave the emptied cans in the middle of the street, we have many handicapped people in this Borough and what are these people supposed to do; get out of their wheelchairs and move the cans. Any Wednesday on Beaver Rd, you can see the cans straight down the line on the sidewalks. Mr. Mikulich remarked that he has not attended a few meetings because he had an operation; he wanted Ms. Denne to elaborate on the contract. Ms. Denne remarked that the bids were put out and Brunner's came in with the lowest bid, by about \$100,000.00 difference. She gave the contract documents to the solicitor for his review and before the end of the year we can have the contract signed. Mr. Mikulich asked how much was the contract for and is it four days a week. Ms. Denne replied yes, four days a week and she believed the contract was for \$224,000.00. Mr. McCoy mentioned that he has a copy in one of his packets from when he was off. Mr. Cafarelli agreed with Mr. McCoy about the placement of emptied cans that seems like that is the biggest complaint. Mr. Pucci made the motion to accept the contract, Ms. Miller seconded.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

12. *First & Final Payment to Sangro, Inc. in the amount of \$13,004.75 for Street Improvements on 4th Street.*

Mr. Mikulich made the motion and seconded by Mr. Cafarelli.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

13. *Planning commission Notes*

Ms. Denne explained that in front of everyone there is a letter from the Planning Commission that they have approved the plans provided by Castlebrook Development for the amendment providing that they fulfilled all the needs for the engineer. Ms. Miller makes the motion to approve, Mr. Cafarelli seconds.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

14. *2009 Meeting Schedule.*

Some discussions about the schedule, it was discovered that no one had one except the engineer had his emailed copy. Ms. Denne apologized as it was an oversight, she commented that it was going to continue to be 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, during the summer months, of June July & August, it would only be the 4th Tuesday, and she would put it out for advertising. Mr. Mikulich asked about May 19 falls on Election Day, we should cancel it. Mr. McCoy suggested that it be changed, not cancelled, or if council wants we can have one meeting in May. Mr. Pucci read the scheduled meetings:

January 13 & 27, 2009: February 10 & 24: March 10 & 24: April 14 & 28: May 12 –we are cancelling & May 26: June 23: July 28: August 25: Sept 8 & 22: October 13 – October 17 2009 budget meeting begins @ 9am: October 24: November 10 & 24: December 8 & 22. All meetings will take place at 7pm unless otherwise noted in council chambers of the Ambridge Municipal Complex, 611 Eleventh Street, Ambridge, Pa.

Mr. Mikulich asked about the other budget meetings. Mr. McCoy commented that we start with the first one and we work from there, Ms. Denne commented that we advertise after the first one. Ms. Denne asked about the May's meeting – did we still only want to go with one meeting since it's not the 19th. Mr. Mikulich remarked that it should be the 19th, but it's marked the 26th. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to accept the meetings schedule for 2009, seconded by Ms. Pucci.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

15. *Dumpster Ordinance.*

Mr. Cafarelli explained that there were 3 accidents, one last night, that people hit roll offs dumpsters. They are painted dark green and are hard to see. We have to talk to the companies that own these dumpsters so that put reflector tape on them or some kind of sign that they are there. He was informed this evening by the solicitor that we drew one up but it was never adopted. The Solicitor explained that Ms. Denne provided the council with a draft of one about 14-15 months ago, and his suggestion is that the draft be re-circulated among the council member to be reviewed again. Mr. Cafarelli also wondered about the dumpster in the allies that are picked up regularly, if this would affect them too. The solicitor stated draft that was previously circulated regulated them on streets and sidewalks through the Boro to create some uniformity and responsibilities; it's not being prohibited but regulated to provide for safety. Mr. Cafarelli commented that the width isn't the issue, but when they drop these roll off at the curb sometimes they are far from the curb which means they are in traffic, and if it's a rainy ugly night, you are guaranteed to hit it. Mr. Start suggested that if it's still in our computer system we should print it out again and distribute it. Mr. Gagliardi suggested that some of these dumpsters don't have a company name or number on it, and we should require that on each dumpster. Mr. Cafarelli also commented that sometimes he sees them sitting on our Boro sidewalks which could crack the resident's sidewalk, and it may block the walkways. The Solicitor read the first paragraph of the previous ordinance draft about it being unlawful to obstruct in any manner the public. Ms. Denne remarked that Lt. Kuzma had done some research on this if anyone should have any questions. Mr. McCoy concurred with Mr. Gagliardi about the owners name & numbers being on the units in case we need to contact them, and Mr. Start suggested that we add something about reflectors on this draft. If anyone has any suggestions or comments to call Ms. Denne.

IX. Committee Reports

1. Administration & Finance

Mr. Mikulich commented about 10 yrs ago the Borough passed an ordinance against sexual sex shops in the Borough. We restricted them (he asked for Mr. Start to correct him if he's incorrect) to where they could go, and we restricted them from schools, daycare center, church, etc. and if you draw a circle around any of those it encompassed almost all of Ambridge except down by the river by the old American Bridge. However, we have a gap now because Anthony Wayne is no longer a school. He asked Mr. Start if we needed to revise it because of the school no longer being there. Ms. Denne asked if we could restrict them to "industrial areas". Mr. Start commented that it would be easier, but the way the law reads is the sexually oriented businesses have been recognized into the judicial system not to be illegal; they have the same status as say a barber shop. If they are legal businesses you can not exclude them from your town, they have a right to be here, even if we may not like it- they have a right. You want to be very careful because they can challenge the ordinance by saying we are manipulating them and their distances to effately prohibit us from doing normal business. So it would be easy to say only in industrial areas, but then you take the chance that the whole ordinance will be challenged. Mr. Mikulich commented that he remembers that it was with the distance because it would have been weak if challenged in court, that's why they went with church, daycare, school, but Anthony Wayne is no longer a school and that is why I asked for the solicitor's assistance.

2. Public Safety

Mr. Gagliardi remarked that he spoke to the Police Chief concerning the fines being increased for like the truckers coming off the bridge and so forth. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Gagliardi about the parking tickets for the holidays. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to delay giving parking tickets from December 10 until January 9th. Ms. Miller seconded.
All in Favor – Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

(Continued)

Ms. Denne commented about the negotiation for the fire department. The solicitor said it was ok to talk outside executive session. The wages are 3% to 3½ to 3.75. All fire employees will contribute 1% of their base wage to their health care starting 2009 and a wellness program will be implemented in writing to the Borough Manager by December 31, 2008. Motion made to direct Ms. Denne to have the contract prepared for passage made by Mr. Gagliardi, seconded by Mr. Mikulich.

Council	Vote		Council	Vote
Mr. Cafarelli	Y		Mr. Mikulich	Y
Mr. Dunn	Y		Mr. Pucci	Y
Mr. Gagliardi	Y		President McCoy	Y
Ms. Miller	Y		Mayor Notarianni	

Passed 7-0.

3. Public Works

Mr. Cafarelli commented that he had a meeting this morning with the Public Works supervisor- Mr. Kokoski with Mr. Dunn, Mr. Pucci concerning the salt mixture. Mr. Kokoski remarked that the cost of salt went up and we are going to use salt and cinder mixture on the hills, and straight salt on the main roads. All the trucks are ready to go. He also commented that they are still collecting leaves and doing patches. Mr. Cafarelli also asked that if we get a nice decent dry day we could pull out the sweeper and hit more streets. Mr. Kokoski commented that main streets first as a priority, then secondary streets, side streets and the alleys get last. Mr. McCoy asked that any chance we have when the forecast is good, have the fellows get the sweeper out and keep our town looking cleaner. Mr. Mikulich asked if we recycle the cinders for next year. Mr. Cafarelli commented that we can look at them to use the same year. Mr. McCoy stated it's something to look into. Mr. Mikulich also commented that some of the sewers are still clogged with leaves, maybe we can go again and clean these out, mainly by the Luther church on 13th St., also Mr. Mikulich commented about Kennedy Drive pavement is bad right off the bridge & on 10th & Kennedy, he saw a guy blow his tire. Ms. Denne commented that those are utility cuts. Mr. Cafarelli remarked that if there is a particular area or if a resident calls you --call Mr. Kokoski, when they have a good day, they are out patching.

Mr. Cafarelli asked if they could make sure that the gate is locked at Borough Park, people are going in and dumping. Mr. Drewnowski commented that he walked the whole park and he could not find one sign that said "no dumping". More discussions about the park signs.

4. Recreation.

Mr. Dunn remarked nothing new with recreation committee; however, we are waiting for Unis Demolition to knock down the old swimming pool building. Mr. McCoy asked if Mr. Unis has contacted him lately and Mr. Dunn commented no, but they wanted to get the school completed first. Mr. McCoy stated that maybe we should contact him and check.

X. Citizen Participation. 3 minutes per speaker.

Ms. Jennifer & Laura Cobin, 1002 Bernadine Ave., Ambridge

One September 11, 2008 a neighbor wrecked into her dad's truck, the person that hit it asked that her dad not call the police, but he did anyway. The police came and the plate on the neighbor's vehicle was confiscated because of no insurance. Unfortunately, before her dad's vehicle came back from the repair shop, he died. These people got another vehicle and this vehicle is now abandoned and sitting in front of 1015 Pine St. Ms. Cobin talked to chief personally a month ago and told him all this and that there is second car abandoned now with expired inspection and it's been there 3 months everyone in neighborhood called. They call police and they do nothing. Her dad has a curb cut in back yard for 30 years and they have to park up the block because of the abandoned car and someone always blocking the driveway. She was police officer for 10 years and its Pa. State law that if a vehicle doesn't have a current plate and a current inspection it's an illegally parked vehicle. She wants to know the ordinance states concerning and why isn't something being done. These people are the only ones on the block that don't own they house, they rent, and they are less than desirable neighbors, you can smell marijuana coming out the windows during the summer. All night long there are people coming in and out of this house. They weren't cited for driv8ing without insurance. And their visitors double park for hours. Nothing is being done. She commented she didn't want to give the Ambridge police a black eye, but it is a slap in the face for this to be going on so long. Mr. McCoy asked the chief if he can explain. Chief Romutis said that they have a special officer that takes care of this and he doesn't know why it wasn't taken care of. When she called last month with neighbors present the officer said that they would look into it. Mr. McCoy asked the chief to personally look into this matter and take care of it, and promised the woman that we will take care of it.

Ashley Gerard -510 Parkway Street, Ambridge.

She is concerned about the gang violence that goes on at the Locust Street apartments, and she is concerned also about the garbage that is all over and the pot holes in the street that need fixed. Why aren't the police regularly patrolling this area, because it's a dead end street? The only time they see police is when they call. I pay taxes too and I should feel safe in my neighborhood and I don't. The police chief commented that they do patrol there, he has patrolled there himself. Mr. McCoy commented that he doesn't see the police in the winter months but when he sits on his porch in the summer, he sees them all the time. Ms. Gerard commented that she is home a good bit of time and she never sees them and she has lived there for 6 months. Mr. McCoy thanked her for her comments.

Gene Pasch – Valued Properties – 2301 Duss Ave, Ambridge.

He wanted to share with council good news for a change. They are involved with the Regional Economic Development of this 10 counties of Southwestern Pa., there is an asset given to the 10 counties which is named the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. 5 months ago we got involved in a committee to preserve a piece of history, it the bow ornament from the USS Pittsburgh dates back to 1913. They were asked to store it until they could get the \$50,000.00 funds to restore this artifact and put it on display. We asked what the final product would look like when it was completed. We received artist rendering. We approached businesses and citizens' community in Ambridge and Harmony Twp area, and each one we approached stepped up and now this artifact is ready to ship on December 18. We are inviting council and anyone who wants to attend the ceremonies. He wants to thank the business community and would like everyone to attend.

No other person wished to speak.

XI. Engineers Report.

Mr. Lemmon reported that 6th Street is nearing completion.

XII. Borough Managers Report.

Ms. Denne reports that there is an interesting twist in the way finding system. Received a call from Pempco Industries, Guidance Pathway Systems and the County Legal Office, which our contract is with the county, we are just the recipients of the goods. The county had to send a letter to Guidance Pathway advising them that they are in breach of contract because the county put a deposit down and we have not received our product that we should have received in May. She states that she received a phone call today from Pempco Industries who claim that they have our signs but Guidance Pathway has not paid them yet and that's why they weren't released. The county is now looking into the legal way of helping us retrieve our signs, and Pempco are willing to get signs to the county at a reduced price.

Elm Street Program are meeting with a DCD representative and a state representative on January 19th 2009 in Beaver to make the proposals formal.

The Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the new 911 Center are this week.

There is a neighborhood stabilization state program, covering neighborhoods that have been affected by foreclosures. 60 million dollars available in Pa. and Beaver County is attempting to get 2 million dollars. Any properties that are abandoned for 3 years in Ambridge in the census track of 0621 and 0622. Jim Ivancik and Cindy have composed a list. These can be foreclosure, sheriff sale or upset sale. Bottom of 1st Street to 8th Street. All the way up to Duss and from 8th Street to 23rd Street down to 19th Street Hollow. Anyone can give her suggestions on any properties. She is going to try and get \$100,000.00 – this will include monies for acquisition and demolition. Mr. Mikulich asked if this included the burned down house , Ms. Denne replied that she has been on the county list for demolition.

XIII. Items not included in the agenda.

Mr. McCoy states to the audience that he is a Christian himself and everyone's faith is their own prerogative and whatever they believe. Mrs. Costa has been coming on a regular basis for a number of years and she says a prayer for us. He asked that everyone pay close attention when she says these prayers because Christ was born on Christmas and was the only person he knows that was perfect and we all make mistakes, council make mistakes, and the audience makes mistakes. He challenges everyone to walk up to a person that they don't like and wish them a Merry Christmas. He would like to wish all the audience a very Merry Christmas. Mr. Dunn asked if we are looking into the old vacant vehicles parked at the Borough garage. Ms. Denne remarked that Rob Gottschalk asked for one for the fire department for training exercise, if council will allow. The rest of the vehicles are ready for the scrap yard. Mr. Mikulich asked about the vehicle that was supposed to be used for Code Enforcement. Ms. Denne remarked that it is still being used by the police department. The police chief states that it is vehicle 304 and has transmission problems and would cost a couple of grand to put back on the road. Mr. McCoy suggested that we look into buying a used vehicle. Ms. Denne states that the state has a contract that we could get a Ford Focus for 4 or 5 thousand and would have better fuel efficiency. Mr. Mikulich suggested that we look into that. Mr. Mikulich made the motion for Ms. Denne to purchase a vehicle that did not exceed \$7,000.00 with painting for Code Enforcement. Ms. Miller seconded.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

Motion Passed.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Mikulich moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cafarelli seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: January 13, 2009

Respectfully submitted, by Kristen Denne, Borough Manager

I hereby certify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Ambridge Council for December 9, 2008.

Borough of Ambridge Seal