

MINUTES
Borough of Ambridge – Workshop Meeting
Ambridge Municipal Complex
April 28, 2009 – 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, Mike Mikulich, Ms. Miller, Joe Pucci and Gerald C. McCoy

Administration and Staff Present: Mayor Carl Notarianni, Borough Manager/Secretary Kristen Denne, Borough Solicitor Rick Start, Borough Engineer Frank Lemmon, Police Chief Mark Romutis, Fire Chief David Drownowski and Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer James Ivancik.

III. Invocation

Ms. Barb Costa, Trinity Episcopal School of Ministry

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mikulich asked if he could add something to the agenda – he wished to add The CFI Associates of 1693 Merchant St. and change the Hang Zone from item number 2 to item number 1. Mr. McCoy permitted. Mr. McCoy also announced that he was unaware of that the school board would be here today; unfortunately our engineer is not at this meeting. We can hear discussion but no decision will be made at this meeting.

Mr. Dave Sullivan, Vice President of CFI Associates spoke. He states that they are a specialty lighting manufacturer that is located a few blocks away. He would like to get together with the officials of Ambridge and discuss the lighting bills and some of the lighting in parking lots and ornamental lighting on Merchant Street. He had some samples with him. He states that he can retrofit these lights with LED light modules. He would like to analyze our current energy usage and work with Ambridge.

Mr. Cafarelli remarked that since Duquesne Light Co owns all the light fixtures and we pay a rental fee, he feels that they should be present for the meeting. Mr. Sullivan suggested that we find out which lighting fixtures Ambridge owns and which ones we rent. They will work with Duquesne Light on this matter, but he feels that they're light fixtures could save about 50% on consumption.

V. Citizen's Participation on Agenda Items Only (5 minutes per speaker)

No one wished to speak.

VI. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

1. March 24, 2009

Questions or corrections: None

Motion made by Mr. Pucci, seconded by Mr. Cafarelli

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

Motion Passes 6 ~ 0, 1 Abstain.

2. April 14, 2009

Questions or corrections: Mr. Cafarelli commented he was not absent. Ms. Denne suggested that his name was just omitted and we will make the correction.

Motion made by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi

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

Motion Passes 6 ~ 0, 1 Abstain.

3. **Treasurer's Report**—respectfully submitted by Marilyn Sheleheda, Treasurer.

Mr. Mikulich read the following report aloud “as of 4pm today, April 28, 2009”.

General Fund Analysis

\$1,399,921.63	General Fund Bank Account Balance 4/28/2009 4:00 pm.
\$15,037.92	2007-2008 Outstanding Checks 4/28/2009 4:00 p.m.
\$1,384,883.71	Available Balance 4/28/2009 4:00 p.m.

Totals are as follows:

	Deposits:	\$387,041.29
Treasurer's	Debits:	\$185,681.36
General Fund	-which include the following:	
NOTES:	<u> 61 </u> Checks	\$115,626.28
	<u> 1 </u> Payroll (s)	\$69,855.08
	<u> 1 </u> Debit Memo	\$200.00

Other Fund Balances as of 4/28/2009 -4pm

\$75,521.61	Grants/Special Funds (Insurance Proceeds - Garage Damage)
\$10,397.82	Liquid Fuels Fund
\$10,961.75	Escrow Disbursement Account
\$39,161.29	Recreation Fund
\$332,813.53	Sinking Fund (FEMA Grant)
\$468,856.00	Total Other Funds Balances (Restricted Use)

4. Boroughs Bills and Expenses

Motion made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Ms. Miller.

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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

5. New Business

Hang Zone

Mr. McCoy remarked that an adjustment was made per request of Mr. Mikulich concerning the School Board. Mr. Jeff Stenzel will speak. Mr. Stenzel states the situation with the “Hang Zone”. Mr. Mikulich was present at the school board meeting last month and stated that you wanted it returned to the state that it was previous with no tennis courts, which was different that was the actually plans as submitted to our engineering department when the school site was approved. It differs from the actual agreement for the variance that was approved by the Ambridge School Board and Ambridge Council four years. We said ok, we would just put in the three basketball courts, no tennis courts. A few days later Mr. Mikulich contacted him and suggested it would be a good idea to sit down and talk again and redraw what the site is supposed to look like at the end, maybe we could get more activities in that same area. Mr. Cafarelli, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Mikulich came to the Superintendants office and we spoke of deck hockey being added to that area of Ambridge. We thought we could re-draw the pictures and which tennis courts and which basketball courts would be left after we put in deck hockey. Mr. John Hummel, our architect is here to show the drawing and we may have to rebid this which may take an additional 3 weeks. We need to get on the road soon or we’ll be running into summer.

Mr. Hummel gave council a handout of an explanation of the bid documents with option A, B, C and D. The difference is just combinations of all the activities. He spoke of the degree of the slop in that area and maybe having to bring in dirt and introducing a dry stack retaining wall of maybe 3 or 4 feet tall.

Mr. Mikulich asked what about the issues the 11th Street guard rail and damaged sidewalks, repair and clean the restrooms, replacement of fence throughout the park.

Mr. Hummel remarked that the contract that the school district has with the contractor for that area, have been specified to be returned to original condition and it’s documented and pointed out. The contractor has ceased work over there per directive from the School District because of the stop order that was issued.

Mr. Mikulich also asks the double opening in the fence that was needed to get equipment in but the new configurations that are being shown, will they interfere at all with anything. Mr. Hummel remarked that it should not; the gate placement and sizing would be coordinated with that. He also commented that he has not been able to discuss this with Ambridge Borough Engineer, Mr. Lemmon yet, they just received the information yesterday, but he intends to discuss it with him. Of course they would submit it to the Borough Engineer for approval first. Mr. McCoy states that this is Ambridge Borough property and the tennis courts would benefit 5 other communities, would we not be taking away from the children of Ambridge to give to the

other communities. What would be getting in exchange for giving up this area for other communities? Tennis is a seasonal sport, that area would not be utilized until next season.

(Continued)

He suggested that we take it up with the Borough Engineer and that Council take the advice of the Engineer, how many basketball courts are we willing to give up for the tennis courts.

Mr. Stenzel commented that it's an improvement to the site, and we are willing to go back to the original plan. However, we have to have a minimum of 4 courts because of the rules of the WPIAL, how many matches can go on at the same time and how late they can play. Mr. McCoy asked how much usage would the citizens be able to use the courts. Mr. Stenzel replied that they could use it anytime there wasn't a practice or a match for the school. Mr. Cosgrove (Athletic Director for AASD) states that there are 2 tennis seasons: girls play in fall, and boys play in the spring. They are short season: boys start late March and finish by the first or second week of May, the girls start mid to the end of August and finish by the second week of October. He described the time line that it takes for practice and match. He also suggests that the matches would get done quicker because everyone is playing at the same time. The vast majority of the recreational opportunity of the tennis courts would be available to the older and senior citizens of Ambridge even though the courts would be available to the other communities when not being used by the school district.

Mr. McCoy suggested to Council, that since this is Ambridge property, he still feels that the residents should have a say so, he realizes that there is time constraints, and it should have been brought up at an earlier time, but it was not. Since the Engineer isn't here to advise us on this item, he would like Council's opinions. Mr. Mikulich comment, Ms. Miller suggested that the playground at Anthony Wayne could be an offset since we lost the Social Security building in exchange for the access road. Mr. Stenzel commented that property could not be separated from Anthony Wayne building, it's scheduled to go up for sale and it would diminish the value of that property considerable. Mr. Mikulich asked if we found a spot in town, would the school board consider it. Mr. Stenzel remarked that he would be willing to talk to the other board members about putting in a playground. Mr. McCoy states that this property has been vacant for 3 years and to do it right, another month or so wouldn't hurt. Mr. Stenzel said that because of the stop work order issued by Council and it slowed things down, but he agrees that time and limited recreation space in Ambridge and it has to be long term, long range. He is willing to talk to Council about this and for Council to advise him of any decisions. Mr. Dunn asked about the basketball courts behind Park Road building. Mr. Stenzel remarked that there is no short term play for getting rid of those courts, however, that building is going up for sale as well this year. The offices will be consolidate the administration & moved to the old Economy Elementary School on Ridge Rd Ext.

Mr. McCoy commented there are two issues: the Engineer must look at the plans, and he would like a town meeting to ask the residents opinion. Mr. Mikulich made the motion to have a public meeting. Mr. Cafarelli seconded. Mr. Mikulich asked how soon we can have the meeting. Mr. McCoy commented ASAP. Mr. Mikulich asked that all Council members be present. Mr. McCoy agreed and states the Engineer and the Solicitor should be present also.

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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Address for 911 Center

Ms. Denne explains that they need council to officially recognize this address so that we can forward the information to the post office. Mr. Mikulich asked if the address they want coincides with the other addresses in that area. Ms. Denne remarked that it does, they pulled it from the CAD system so that they would be in line. Mr. McCoy commented that they want it to be 351 -14th St. Mr. Mikulich makes the motion to accept, Mr. Cafarelli 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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Resolution for DCNR Grant

Ms. Denne states that she applied for approx. \$232,000.00 grant to build walking trails and pavilions in Walter Panek Park. While applying for this grant she came across another grant that awards between \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to communities that tree commission and urban in nature that replace trees. She would like council to approve to take care of both of those. Mr. McCoy asked if this is for item 3 and 4. She commented yes, and you can approve with one motion. Mr. Mikulich asked for copies of the documentation. Ms. Denne will comply and put copies in their mail boxes. Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to vote on items 3 & 4 together. Mr. Mikulich makes the motion and 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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Tree Vitalize Grant – See Above Vote.

Review of Right to Know Policy for Police Dept.

The solicitor commented that he reviewed it and he doesn't see any problems with this policy submitted by the police chief. Mr. McCoy asked the police chief is he is comfortable with this police. Chief Romutis replied yes, he is.

Motion made by Mr. Cafarelli, seconded by Ms. Miller.

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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Signage request for Soap Box Derby by Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Denne commented that she had several requests come in after packets were completed, if you choose you can do this in one motion to expedite things. The chamber had asked for signage for Nationality Days and Lou Capozzi was going to assist with Borough equipment but on his own time. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to allow the signage, seconded by Mr. Gagliardi.

All in Favor: Ayes 7 ~ Nays 0.

6. Other Unfinished Business

Crime Watch

Ms. Denne also announces that after the packets were completed she got a request from the Ambridge Crime Watch for the use of PJ Caul Park for “Movies in the Park” this summer. Mr. McCoy commented that he has no problem with it, and they should be commended for what they do for the citizens of Ambridge. Mr. Cafarelli made the motion to permit the Movies in the Park, Mr. Pucci 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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Mr. Cafarelli was recognized by Mr. McCoy. He commented that someone approached him concerning the trees in the paper allies. He was asking if a tree was in the beginning stages of dying or if it looks as if it's leaning or going to have a direct hit on the home and it's the Borough tree – should he report it to Mr. Mikulich. Mr. Mikulich remarked that you can report it either to him (Mr. Mikulich) or Mrs. Whitehair who will schedule a work order for the tree remover and he will take care of the problem and write us a bill. Ms. Denne asked Mr. Cafarelli to get her an address so we can be sure it's a Borough tree by the tax maps. Mr. Gagliardi asked how much do we spend on the trees each year. Mr. Mikulich mentioned that it was in the budget \$20,000.00 for tree cutting or maintenance, he also commented that it must be on Borough property, not private property.

Mr. Mikulich asked if the Solicitor and council looked over the vehicle policy that he submitted at the last meeting. He asked that if we could put it onto the agenda for next meeting. Mr. McCoy remarked no problem; he thought it was a good policy.

Mr. Dunn asked when the auctioned vehicles will be picked up. Ms. Denne commented that most of them are gone, but some of them needed more time because they needed to be towed.

7. Citizen's Participation (Citizens are limited to 5 minutes per speaker)

Corky Mihalic – 728 -24th St.

He spoke of the “hang zone” – we wanted to keep it for Ambridge citizens. He states that over the years our recreation areas attracted more than just our local kids, not just our local school district, he means outside our school district. He suggested that if we are going to go with LED lights, there already may be conduit there. It would be nice to have in the winter months when it gets dark earlier to have lighted areas with modern day lighting. This would be good to put in before it's finished.

Lois Guido – 931 Maplewood Ave.

She had lived all her life in Ambridge and a proud member of Crime Watch. She would like every member of Crime Watch to stand up. They did and the audience and council applauded them. She thanked Ms. Denne for all the work she has done on Weed & Seed. We want to be involved and that's why they are there tonight. Ms. Denne remarked that she will be calling on Crime Watch to attend the meetings in the future.

Cora Pucci – 651 Glenwood Ave.

She asked about the 2 hrs parking ticket, whether or not it was fixed. Discussion among Mayor, Chief & Council members of where the ticket is and who was going to look into it. Mrs. Pucci stated that the Mayor at the last meeting said he would look into it, and the Mayor commented that he hasn't done so yet, but if he said he would, he will. Mrs. Pucci then remarked about the “hang zone”. She commented that if anyone has ever driven past the Park Road School property on Maplewood, you will see how many kids play basketball there. If the school sells that property and the courts are gone, where will the boys be able to play basketball? The tennis courts are a good idea, but when she was younger and wanted to play tennis the school always monopolized the courts. Now if we put in the tennis courts and the school uses them and someone gets hurt, whose insurance pays for that, the residents of Ambridge? Mr. Stenzel made a comment that the Borough will be indemnified on the insurance. Mr. McCoy commented that it will be addressed at the meeting. Mrs. Pucci asked that they asked the kids for their input for the “hang zone”. Mr. McCoy commented that the meeting is for the residents of Ambridge, they could bring their children, but it's really for the residents. Mrs. Pucci still asked if they could somehow let the students K-12 know about the vote. Lastly, Mrs. Pucci commented to Ms. Denne about Municipal Authority letter that she wrote, they received the grant and they wanted to thank her.

Mr. Stenzel – School Board.

He reminded everyone that the original agreement states that there would be 3 tennis courts.

TAPE TURNED OVER.

(Continued)

He just wanted everyone to be aware of that fact. Mr. McCoy agreed and states that they are aware.

Barbara Costa – 699 Melrose Ave.

She asked Ms. Denne about an update on the Weed & Seed. Ms. Denne states that she has an intern starting Monday and she will start compiling information for a survey. Mr. McCoy commented that he and Ms. Denne were at the court house speaking to Mr. Amadio & Mr. Spanik with our concerns to get weed & seed. This council is doing everything we can to get it.

James Sas – 667 Merchant St. – Creekside Springs Office.

He states that they operate a water bottling facility between 3rd & 4th on Merchant Street. He commented on 3 different occasions this past week; we had police officers visit our facility asking if we were obstructing the sidewalks. They came by request of Mr. Cafarelli thru the Mayor. He has offered many times before his business cards and their number is listed in the phone books. If you have any questions on how we run our business, you can call any times. It seems like a waste of community resources to have someone ask the Borough Manager to ask the Mayor to ask the police chief to ask the officers to come and say “you are right, you are not blocking the sidewalks”. We know all our neighbors; we are trying to be a good citizen. He commented that the last meeting he attended he was so steamed up because he went back and forth from planning to zoning to planning and zoning and I was turned away from the council meeting without an explanation.

Phil Dennis – 1004 Kristafek Ave.

He spoke to the council about 2 weeks ago about the street sweeper and the petition. He reminds everyone that Bernadine, Kristufek and Pine Street residents want to be exempt from street sweeping and traffic fines. He got more than 50% of the residents with the exception of 5 vacant homes. Mr. McCoy asked to see the petition. Mr. McCoy asked when next street sweeping is, Ms. Denne replied next week. Mr. McCoy asked that it get put onto the next agenda, however, he asked that they stop the street sweeping and ticketing for next week, council needs a chance to look into the matter. Mr. Dennis wanted to know if it's passed; how long is the order in standing. Mr. McCoy states until it's changed back again. Ms. Denne commented that she will be happy to email him a copy of the minutes once they are approved. Council President thanked him for his efforts.

No other citizen wished to speak.

Mayor Notarianni questioned the reason for the delay in answering Mr. Dennis now, he commented to look at the signatures to prove it, what else needs to be done – he was asking as a citizen. Mr. McCoy states no disrespect to the Mayor but this is the way council handles these matters. Mayor Notarianni posed the same question to the Solicitor. The Solicitor commented that we just received the petition at today's meeting; it would be a disservice to the people if we didn't take a look at the petition closely to make sure everything is appropriate. Mr. McCoy remarked that Mr. Dennis came to the podium as a gentleman, he did what we asked him to do, he was satisfied with our answer, why would you more concerned than that. Mayor Notarianni commented the man came two times already, he did all the leg work, he wouldn't park there but its for the sake of discussion, they're just signatures, just approve it and that's all. He apologizes because it's not a police matter, he just wondered.

Mr. McCoy announced that Officer Slawianowski, an Ambridge police officer got an award by the District Attorney's office for his achievements in the County's Emergency Response Team. Ms. Denne commented that the D.A. office gives this award out at the Police Memorial every year. Police Chief added that Officer Dismuke is getting one as well. Mr. McCoy commented that is something that Ambridge should be proud of. Mr. McCoy asked Council if they wanted to give each of those officers a proclamation and be recognized in this manner. Mr. Pucci makes the motion to give the officers a proclamation. 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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

8. Official Reports

Motion made to accept the official reports made by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dunn.

After the motion was made: Mr. Gagliardi commented that he spoke to the police chief and he has applied for a grant for two new police officers for a period of 3 years and after that we pay for the officers. Mr. McCoy remarked that we have done this before. Mr. Gagliardi made comment to the chief that he is doing a good job.

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	

Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

Mr. Mikulich commented that the VFW & the American Legion will have a Memorial Day Service on May 25th at the PJ Caul Park.

Mr. McCoy asked for a motion to cancel the first meeting: May 12th, 2009

Motion made by Mr. Mikulich, seconded by Mr. Pucci.

After the motion: Mr. Dunn questions why we were cancelling the meeting, it's not on Election Day. Mr. McCoy commented that it's standard procedure, we always cancel the meeting right before election. Mr. Mikulich also commented that we will only have one meeting during June, July & August.

All in Favor: Ayes 6 ~ Nays 1 (Mr. Dunn)

Motion Passes 6~1.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Cafarelli moved to adjourn the meeting. 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	
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Motion Passes 7 ~ 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: May 26, 2009