

MINUTES

August 21, 2006

The regular monthly meeting of Ambler Borough Council was held Monday, August 21, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. President Anita O'Hara Pieri presided.

Mr. Kenney led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

Roll Call – Present: Mrs. O'Hara Pieri, Mr. G. Pasceri, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis and Mr. Dooley. Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Aversa also were present. Absent: Mr. Orehek and Mr. Pugliese.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) made a presentation to the assembly on the status of its investigation of asbestos dumpsites at Maple Avenue, Chestnut Street and the Reservoir. Mr. Larry Johnston (EPA/Community Involvement Coordinator) introduced Jerry Heston and Eduardo Rivera (EPA Region 3 Project Manager). Mr. Rivera stated that these sites involve the communities of Ambler, Whitpain and Upper Dublin, and that the total of 36 acres under review is considered one site/one unit by the EPA. Specifically, samples (air, soil and sediment) were taken in April to determine if there is a presence of asbestos along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek, Rose Valley Creek and Tannery Run. Toxicology currently is reviewing the data and final results are anticipated in about a month. The EPA has set up a website (www.epaosc.net/borit) so that individuals may regard the progress and processes of the EPA.

Mrs. Baigis asked if any of the specific samples (air, soil, sediment) resulted in a positive read. Mr. Rivera stated that soil and sediment were validated, but that air was inconclusive. He stated that four of the six air samples were overloaded with dust. Mr. Taylor asked whether these tests would be repeated. Mr. Rivera stated that 24 hour and 8 hour sampling time tests will be run, with the belief that 8 hour tests will be less clogged with dust. Further, Mr. Rivera stated that while creeks are natural barriers, the EPA will be looking at physical controls of the site and that there will be future security needs.

A representative of Congresswoman Schwartz's office was present as was Representative Eugene McGill, who stated that the DEP is now working better with the EPA.

A presentation was made by **Verizon** Director of External Affairs Dan Reevey who stated that Verizon has made its investment in fiber optics and was eager to bring the broad-band future to Ambler. Ambler is the 14th jurisdiction in the Montgomery County Consortium of 33 members to consider a franchise agreement with Verizon. Internet service from Verizon currently is available in the Borough. Mr. Reevey highlighted pricing, products and services offered by Verizon: channels, multilingual, genre line-up, parental control and competitive pricing. In response to Mr. Kenney's inquiry as to timeframe, Mr. Reevey stated that Verizon will be able to offer a full-service package by the first quarter of 2007, possibly even late 2006, if approved of by Borough Council.

In other business, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri announced the retirement, after 35 years service to the Borough, of Mr. Tom Futch. She announced that his retirement party will be held September 9th from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the LRB.

Mrs. Baigis made the following corrections to the July 17, 2006 minutes. Page One, paragraph 5, line 2 should read "Zoning Hearing Board **Alternate.**" Page One, paragraph 5, lines 2 and 3 should clarify that Miss Brnich was cited by name and that Mr. Miller was presented by resume. Page 5, regarding June invoices, Mrs. Baigis stated she had questioned a check made payable to "Betty Lou Yost" as the warrant document did not detail that the check was for Lower Gwynedd real estate taxes on Water Department property.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri moved the July 17th Minutes be approved with additional information. Seconded, carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee – Mr. Pugliese, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Isabella. Also present: Mr. Orehek, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Dooley. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Pasceri and Mrs. O'Hara Pieri.

The Public Safety Committee report was given by Mr. Isabella.

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed.

1. The Police Department report for July 2006 was reviewed.

Chief Wack notified the assembly that the parking meters have been certified by the State and currently are being installed. Installation should take about two more weeks. He anticipates that the meters will be operational mid-September. He plans a campaign to remind drivers that meters are in force. There will be no more free parking on Saturdays.

Mrs. Baigis inquired about the monthly Police Report, specifically on the detailing of category "assault." Chief Wack stated that the copy of the Police Report produced in the Agenda is the same report that he is required to file with the State.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if there were questions from the public. None were asked.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mr. Dooley, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Dooley, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Isabella. Also present: Mr. Orehek, Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis and Mr. Taylor. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Pasceri and Mrs. O'Hara Pieri.

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

In other business the following was discussed:

1. The permanent location of the batting cages at Pickering Field was discussed.

Mr. Mark Armstrong, an Ambler resident, urged the Committee to review the use of Pickering Field. He stated that of the 700 children who play softball nearly 300 do not reside in the Borough. He complained of dust from the field and the need for more grass to keep down the dust. He also stated a complaint regarding the lack of available parking during baseball season. Mr. Dooley stated that the Committee was already working on its plans for the field for next season.

No further questions, Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Public Utilities Committee – Mr. Orehek, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Orehek, Mr. Pugliese, Mrs. O'Hara Pieri. Also present: Mr. Kenney, Mr. Isabella, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Taylor and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Pasceri and Mrs. O'Hara Pieri.

The Public Utilities Committee report was given by Mr. Kenney.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. EVALUATION OF BELT FILTER PRESS REHABILITATION – Recommend preparing bid specifications and advertisement to have the belt filter press rebuilt including a new conveyor and polymer feed equipment with new control panels at an approximate cost of \$450,000.00.
2. CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)/CONNECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP) - The plant engineer submitted an updated flow plan to DEP as

required from a meeting on March 7th. DEP approved the piping and other equipment required to implement the items contained in the update. Authority is requested to have the plant engineer prepare and submit a revised Part I and II application.

3. STANDBY GENERATOR - Staff has received a cost estimate to repair the diesel engine for the generator from EMR Power Systems, Inc. The estimate is \$75,958.03 plus cost already incurred. Staff recommends replacing the generator set due to the additional KW load expected when the permitted flows are increased in upgrade being done in EPS-3 pumping station. Additional research is being conducted on the cost of a 1250 KW unit. Authority is requested to have the plant engineer prepare the specifications and bid documents and advertise this project.
4. AMBLER ROAD WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT – Recommend awarding the replacement of approximately 950 feet of water main on Ambler Road between Ellerslie Avenue and Orchard Lane to Caddick Construction on their low bid of \$139,721.26.
5. KNIGHTS PARK DRILL TEST – Authorization is requested to prepare and advertise for the drill test at Knights Park to verify water availability for a potential well at this site.

Mrs. Baigis asked about the other bids for the Ambler Road Project. She was informed by Jim Dougherty of Gilmore Engineering that two other bids were received, one at approximately \$145,000 and the other at approximately \$176,000. Additionally, she was advised that Plant Supervisor Bruce Jones could advise on the start date to replace the conductors from the switchgear to B-2 (DAF Building) alternate breaker.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had any questions. No questions received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee - Mr. Taylor, Acting Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Kenney, Mr. Pasceri, Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor. Also present: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Orehek, Mr. Isabella and Mrs. Baigis. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Pasceri and Mrs. O'Hara-Pieri.

The Finance and Planning Committee report was given by Mr. Kenney.

The Committee will recommend the following:

1. That the July 2006 invoices totaling \$455,841.83 be paid.

2. That the Main Street interest request (for interest payment on the Department of Community and Economic Development Grand received in 2002) be tabled.
3. Authorization is requested to purchase a new Ford Interceptor Police Car at a cost of approximately \$30,000.00.
4. That Subdivision 237 Trinity Avenue approval be tabled.
5. That **Resolution 2006-9** authorizing the acceptance of a franchise agreement between the Borough of Ambler and Verizon be adopted.

Mrs. Baigis asked regarding specific bills to be paid, which detail as payment for an easement and title search for a water main, for dump truck repair, and for dump fees for debris at the sewer plant.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had any questions. No questions received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

Salary and Personnel Committee – Mr. Isabella, Chairman

The Committee met on Monday, August 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. in Borough Council Chambers located at 122 E. Butler Avenue. Committee members: Mr. Isabella, Mr. G. Pasceri and Mr. Orehek. Also present: Mr. Pugliese, Mr. Kenney, Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Dooley and Mr. Taylor. Also present: Mayor Wahl, Solicitor Bresnan, Mr. Rocco Wack and Mrs. Mary Aversa. Absent: Mr. Pasceri and Mrs. O'Hara Pieri.

The Committee will make no recommendations at this time.

Mrs. O'Hara Pieri asked if the public had any questions. No questions received.

Mr. Pasceri moved the report be accepted and filed. Seconded, carried.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety Committee

None

Parks and Recreation Committee

None

Public Utilities Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

THAT the belt filter press be rebuilt including a new conveyor sand polymer feed equipment with new control panels at an approximate cost of \$450,000.00 and that bid specs be prepared and advertised. Seconded, carried.

THAT the plant engineer prepare and submit revised Part I and II flow plan (CAP/CMP) to the DEP as required. Seconded, carried.

THAT the plant engineer prepare bid specs and advertise for the replacement of the standby generator with a 1250 KW generator. Seconded, carried.

THAT Caddick Construction, low bidder at \$139,721.26, be awarded the Ambler Road Water Main Replacement job. Seconded, carried. (One Nay – Mrs. Baigis.)

THAT authorization be given to prepare and advertise for a drill test at Knights Park to verify water availability for a potential well at this site. Seconded, carried.

Finance and Planning Committee

The Committee recommends and Mr. Kenney moves:

THAT the July invoices in the amount of \$455,841.83 be paid. Seconded, carried. (One Nay – Mrs. Baigis.)

THAT authorization is given to purchase a new Ford Interceptor Police Car at a cost of approximately \$30,000.00. Seconded, carried.

THAT Resolution 2006-9 is adopted, sealing a franchise agreement between the Borough of Ambler and Verizon. Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Aye – Mrs. Baigis, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Dooley, Mr. Isabella, Mr. Kenney, Mr. Pasceri, Mrs O'Hara Pieri. Carried.

THAT discussion on Subdivision 237 Trinity Avenue be tabled.

THAT Main Street request for interest payment on the Department of Community and Economic Development Grant received in 2002 be tabled.

Salary and Personnel Committee

None

Mr. Pasceri moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Russell
Administrative Assistant
For
George W. Benigno
Assistant Borough Secretary