

ASHLEY BOROUGH

Donald Sipple, Sr., Mayor

John Gibbons, Council Chair
Donald Sipple, Jr. Council Vice Chair
Frank Sorokach

Gerald Maldonado
Donna Schappert
Brian Casey

Ashleypa.net

Greg Gulick, Borough Manager

William E. Vinsko, Jr., Esquire, Solicitor

ASHLEY BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES JULY 15, 2019

49 West Cemetery Street, Ashley, Pennsylvania

Meeting Start Time: **6:39 PM**

Meeting End Time: **7:20 PM**

Attendance:

Gerald Maldonado-	Present
Frank Sorokach-	Present
Donna Schappert-	Present
Brian Casey-	Present
Donald Sipple -	Present
John Gibbons-	Present
Mayor Donald Sipple, Sr.-	Absent
Borough Manager, Greg Gulick -	Absent
Police Chief David Fedorczyk-	Present
Solicitor William E. Vinsko, Jr. -	Present
Andrew Kratz, Code Officer-	Absent

Meeting was called to Order by Council President **John Gibbons**. **Attorney Vinsko** called roll call for the Council, Mayor and Borough Officials. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Mr. Chris Halecki addressed the issue of Ashley Ambulance. They are at the minimum number of volunteers, collection efforts are down, truck maintenance is needed, and they are trying to get members. They will back any decision Council makes. They have only made about 7 of the calls since April. There are only 4 people on the active roster, and they cannot cover one shift.

A **Resident** stated that the issue is that there is a decline in volunteers. The Ambulance has been around since the 1960s.

Mr. Chris Wolfolk – He is the Chief Paramedic of Hanover Township. He stated that the Ashley Ambulance is not alone. Hanover has covered about 99% of the calls, as only 7 out of 114 calls

were done by Ashley. Hanover Township Ambulance Association would like Council's approval to send out mailers to have residents join Hanover Ambulance. **Mr. Sorokach** asked the cost of the membership. He stated it is \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a family (unlimited).

Mr. John Gibbons stated that the insurance cost for the culvert is only \$1,000 for the year and \$80 per month. He confirmed that the grant that everyone was questioning is a Luzerne Count Redevelopment Authority Grant, and the Redevelopment Authority must make the request. However, the RDA needs to know by tomorrow at Noon whether Ashley Borough will take over the Culvert Street Bridge. **Mr. Sorokach** asked why the RDA doesn't just keep it. **Mr. Gibbons** responded that they do not want it.

Mr. Wes Saltz, the Fire Chief, asked about the limits of liability for the insurance. **Mr. Gibbons** confirmed that it would merely be added to the Borough's policy. **Mr. Saltz** was and remains concerned about the fire truck access. He stated that if Hanover Township's truck gets stuck, then the Borough cannot get our trucks in. A resident said the Borough can use the alley, and **Mr. Saltz** confirmed that the alley would have to be paved first. **Mr. Sipple** said the Borough could not get money to pave a private road. **Mr. Gibbons** stated that he would work on a second access. **Ms. Schappert** said she does not want it on her conscience if the culver is the Borough's and someone dies because a fire truck cannot get through. A resident suggested getting through and turning onto Preston Street. **Mr. Saltz** said it would be very tight.

Ms. Feszchak asked the Council to reconsider their vote because the culvert is an asset to the Borough. They would appreciate it as citizens.

Jennifer Watkins stated that she has a person able to do the fencing on top of the bridge and masons to repair the brick. Various residents requested that the Council respect their opinions on this. **Ms. Watkins** stated that the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority did no maintenance until last year on the culvert bridge.

LEGISLATION

RESOLUTION 61 OF 2018 – A Resolution authorizing Hanover Township Ambulance to solicit Ashley Borough residents for donations.

Date: July 15, 2019

Motion: **DONALD SIPPLE** Second: **FRANK SOROKACH**

Donald Sipple –	Y	Donna Schappert -	Y	PASS
Brian Casey -	Y	Frank Sorokach -	Y	
Gerald Maldonado -	Y	John Gibbons -	Y	

RESOLUTION 62 OF 2019 – A Resolution authorizing the Borough to save the Culvert Street culvert by having ownership transferred to the Borough and to pay the insurance (have it added to the Borough insurance policy).

Date: July 15, 2019

Motion: **DONNA SCHAPPERT** Second: **JOHN GIBBONS**

Donald Sipple –	NO	Donna Schappert -	Y	FAILED
Brian Casey -	NO	Frank Sorokach -	NO	
Gerald Maldonado -	NO	John Gibbons -	Y	

Meeting Ended at 7:20 PM.

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