

**Albion Borough  
Council Meeting  
May 11, 2023**

**PRESENT** President Jason Harayda, Vice President Jim Vorse, Scott Seaton, Brett Hall, Donald Bambarger, Jacqueline Ksenich, Charlie Stiles, Borough Mayor Will Rogers, Manager Gary Wells  
Absent:

**CALL TO ORDER** 6:30pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Approve 05/11/23 Agenda** **J. Ksenich:** Motion to approve 05/11/23 agenda  
**J. Vorse:** Second motion  
**Discussion:** Add to New Business: Crosswalks and Planning Commission Vacancy  
**Vote:** All in favor. Motion passed

**Approve Bond Payment** **J. Ksenich:** Motion to approve ACH Bond Payment of \$85,200.00  
**S. Seaton:** Second motion  
**Vote:** All in favor. Motion passed

**Public Comment** **Joi Van Slyke, 18 West Avenue:** I have some questions regarding this fire department situation, I hear rumors but would rather come to the source, you guys are the source. I have some concerns because that building is the Borough building. Are we still going to be responsible for that building? **J. Harayda:** 100% absolutely yes. **Joi Van Slyke:** Well, why is this not going to be shared with the other municipalities that are in this **J. Harayda:** Ok so here is what I will tell you real quick, **Joi Van Slyke:** Do you want me to finish my three minutes? **J. Harayda:** I know what you are saying, I know where you are going to say. You can finish it, but I can help you if you want. But you can finish it. **Joi Van Slyke:** Ok **J. Harayda:** I was just trying to save you from talking. **Joi Van Slyke:** You want to save me from talking? **J. Harayda:** Yeah, cause there is an easy answer to it. **Joi Van Slyke:** There is an easy answer to it? Because there was an agreement for years that the Borough would take of this building, I have researched it and that has never been approved by Council. That's a null and void agreement so is the Borough coming up with another one that only the Borough is going to be paying for it? If any other municipalities are not going to be participating with that, is that going to be used for a fire department too? Or is it going to be back to the Borough taking care of it? I want to know who is going to be responsible. What's going to be done? And what is this going to cost us? What is it going to cost the citizens? Are you leasing the building, selling the building? And if it comes down to the Borough being solely responsible, I would like to know why? **J. Harayda:** Ok, are you ready? **Joi Van Slyke:** Sure. **J. Harayda:** Ok, it comes down to the Borough being responsible because Cranesville doesn't want that building. They don't want another fire station. Out of all the meetings we've had for two years, anytime the public

has been here, their biggest concern was that Cranesville is on the other side of the tracks. We have seven paid individuals, fire fighters EMTs, that are being paid from the monies from the four municipalities. So, the coverage isn't the issue, everyone's concern is what if there's a train or what if something happens and they can't cross the tracks. Craneville agreed that if they are our primary provider that they will do the best they can to house an ambulance and possibly a fire truck in that station. For our residents, not for them. So that is why it is our sole responsibility for the building. We are not looking to tear down the building and upgrade it or do anything crazy like that. The building in itself is pretty good, except for the fact that the bathrooms desperately need to be updated. They should have been updated 20 years ago. **Joi Van Slyke:** Where's our equipment? We bought those. **J. Harayda:** Albion took all of the equipment. The ones that left, they took everything with them. **Borough Mayor:** They owned the equipment. **J. Harayda:** We have no right to tell them what to do with the equipment. We can ask, and we did ask, and they took it. There is nothing in there, it is completely empty. So, for two years we tried to get the Chief and the President to come to our meetings, but they always refused. **Joi Van Slyke:** From Albion? **J. Harayda:** Yes, from Albion. The only members that would come was Al Duda, Jodi Boratyn, and Shirley Braddock. But they were not able to answer any questions cause they weren't the ones on charge. The others refused to come. I seriously think they thought this was just going to go away. This all started from the merger that was originally going to happen between the two departments. When that didn't happen, we started asking questions. When the four municipalities came together, we hired a consultant and that was when we discovered that they were grossly overpaying each other to run calls. They were paying each other \$75.00 per call and \$50.00 for the other call. So essentially, they were paying about \$150.00 per call times 600 and some calls. We asked nicely for them not to do that anymore, and they said were still gonna do it. So that is basically how we got here today. The reason why we are not splitting the cost of the building is because one Cranesville doesn't want it and two we are not splitting the cost of Cranesville's building. **Joi Van Slyke:** The things I hear about the Cranesville Fire Department are all so positive, they seem to have a really good group of people there. They do a lot of fundraising. **J. Harayda:** The problem is, what I've always said, is was the Albion Fire Department was split. All the individuals wanted to help people, but not everybody should be in the leadership roles. You have people with really big hearts like Al and Jodi who wanted to give their all into the fire department but then you had the other ones that did not want to be a part of it. I would text Bruce all the time and please come to these meetings I want you to be a part of this planning and he would refuse. So those guys did not want to be a part of positive change. Our goal was not to shut them down.

#### **Attorney General**

Letter was received from the Attorney General regarding the Albion Volunteer Fire Department and requesting any and all information pertaining to the support AVFD previously received for the Borough such as payment of taxes, use of buildings, or any other type of assistance.

- MMESC** Received a letter for the Cranesville Volunteer Fire Department stating with no formal all-inclusive processes in place in either Borough's, they are requesting to assist in the annual flushing of hydrants, color coding the hydrant caps, providing annual/5-year hydrant flow test, installing municipal supplied hydrant markers, and basic greasing and operational checks. **Ryan Kennedy:** I spoke with Robert Fuller, Chief Sewer Plant Operator, and he informed me that you guys already have a system in place and do flush your hydrants annually. Cranesville does not anything like this in place, they do not have the manpower. **Borough Mayor:** Marcus will be your point of contact here because you cannot do anything to our water system without the operator. As far as color coding all of our hydrants are color coded based off of the last flow data. That is why they are all red, because they are under 500 gallons per minute. **S. Seaton:** I was part of the ISO yesterday and Albion's system did very well, and I was there to witness Cranesville's and you are right they are going to need your assistance.
- West County** **J. Harayda:** I went to the West County meeting everyone was there except Conneaut Township. Brenton Davis was there and stated the County knows there are problems, and the County wants to try and help to fix it.
- 19 Smock Avenue** Review and discussion reading a lease between the Albion Borough and the Cranesville Volunteer Fire Department.
- Albion Park Master Site Plan** Discussion regarding the old tennis courts being transformed into new basketball courts. The current basketball courts would then be transformed into pickleball courts. Currently applying for a grant for this.
- 53 Elk Street** Discussion regarding transforming property into an are for our residents to take their debris, which could be turned into mulch for residents to use the following year. Another possibility would be to place a small playground there for the kids. There is a fee of \$88.00 to transfer the deed.
- Crosswalks** **Robert Fuller:** We have the guys scheduled to replace the crosswalks with reflective strips on the main roads and we are painting the other crosswalks. We will also be putting up crosswalk signs as well.
- Motion to Appoint Planning Commission** **B. Hall:** motion to appoint Rebecca Marshall on the Planning Commission  
**C. Stiles:** second motion  
**Vote:** All in favor. Motion passed.
- Borough Manager Succession Pan** **Borough Manager:** I have until September to produce plan, But I would like your feedback What exactly do you want? What do you see working or not working? **J. Ksenich:** I would like to see in writing the current employees' job descriptions and what their responsibilities are and the chain of command.

**Adjourn  
Meeting**

Motion made by **J. Vorse** seconded by **J. Ksenich**  
to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Angela Telega

Angela R. Telega  
Signature

May 26, 2023  
Date

