

**Borough of Ben Avon Heights
Council Meeting
March 10, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Ben Avon Heights Council was held at the Mayernik Center located at Avonworth Community Park at 7:30 pm.

Present: Council Members Berardi, Cuteri, Davis, Isherwood, Cuneo and Dickson, Solicitor Vogel, Police Chief Micklos, Ben Avon Fire Chief Buckman and NorthBorosNews.com owner Paul Cusick.

The February 2009 minutes were approved with a minor change. The February Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed.

Public Comment: NorthBorosNews.com owner Paul Cusick enlightened Council about his online newspaper. He asked the Council Members that are running for re-election to provide him with a biography for his site. He said that his site receives approximately 2000 visitors per month and could serve as a nice way to provide the community with information for the upcoming municipal elections. He noted that he has a link to Ben Avon Heights' website on his website. He also noted that he is designing a website for the Chamber of Commerce.

Police Report: Chief Micklos provided Council with a monthly report and noted a few routine calls.

Fire Report: Chief Buckman provided a written monthly report and noted only one call-out to Shannopin Country Club due to a frozen pipe on an upper level floor which caused water damage.

Consent Decree: Mrs. Dickson reported the following items:

- Our engineer will get the camera work bids ready for our next meeting
- Fleming-Walker is asking for additional money for the 2008 Sewer Open Cut Repair Project due to time delays in looking for our sanitary sewer lines. Engineer Gaus will meet with them to discuss. Council discussed the condition of the park grass in the areas of the construction and asked Mrs. Phelps to let Engineer Gaus know that the area needs to be reseeded. The contractor should take care of the reseeding around April 1st.
- Mrs. Dickson will attend an ALCOSAN Basin Meeting on Monday, March 16, 2009 at 1 pm. Council asked Mrs. Phelps to ask Engineer Gaus to attend our April Council Meeting to discuss the Fleming-Walker issue and the 2009 street repaving project.

Mrs. Cuneo reported that resident Matt Wensel has stepped up to be our new Judge of Elections. A motion was made to accept Mrs. Colaianni's resignation as Judge of Elections. The motion passed. A motion was made to appoint Matt Wensel as interim Judge of Elections to replace Mrs. Colaianni. The motion passed. Mrs. Cuneo also reported that residents Nancy Fardo, Carmell Rattay and Jennifer Knuth have all volunteered to serve as election clerks. Mrs. Phelps will continue communications with Susan Trebilcock of the Elections Bureau to ensure a smooth transition.

Mrs. Phelps informed Council of Walt's request to extend our leaf collection contract for an additional 2 years. We have one year remaining on the current contract, therefore the two year

extension would provide for leaf collection services until December 2011. A motion was made to extend the leaf collection contract for an additional 2 years. The motion passed.

Mrs. Phelps provided Council with details pertaining to the grant application for the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund Grant. The grant application requires that Council pass a provided resolution, therefore a motion was made to pass the resolution for the purpose of confirming that we are formally requesting the grant, establishing a designated official to perform the required duties, and to certify the provision of local matching funds. The motion passed unanimously. The grant request is in the amount of \$101,000 for the use of repaving sections of borough streets.

Council and Solicitor Vogel reviewed the current Sidewalk and Curb Ordinance. The Ordinance specifies that sidewalks and curbs are the responsibility of the homeowners, not the borough. Council questioned whether or not the 1928 Ordinance should be updated. Council asked Solicitor Vogel to please set forth the borough's responsibilities and options with regard to replacing curbs when needed, prior to next month's meeting. They also asked if the borough can fund (with the intent of repayment by the homeowner) sidewalks for homeowners if the homeowner can not afford the expense. Solicitor Vogel will research the questions and get back to Council.

Mrs. Phelps informed Council that resident Jason Brown volunteered to run and maintain the borough website. He has successfully transferred our original website to a non-profit type website which will not have an annual fee, a savings of \$550. Mrs. Phelps reported that Jason has done a marvelous job with the site and is making many improvements, including the ability for the community club to send out their announcements through the site.

Mr. Cuteri received a request from Ben Avon Community Presbyterian Church for the use of the park for their annual Easter sunrise service on Easter from 6:30 to 7:30 am. Council approved the use of the park for the sunrise service.

Mrs. Phelps informed Council of the outstanding service from our new crossing guard, Sharon Weingartner. She has voluntarily taken over the care of the trash cans at the park, shoveling snow, and training the back-up crossing guards. A motion was made to increase Sharon Weingartner's hourly rate of \$10.00 p/hr. to \$10.50 p/hr. for handling the additional responsibilities. The motion passed.

Council discussed the delinquent Alcosan Accounts and decided to take action against the residents that are continually delinquent in paying their Alcosan bills. Mrs. Phelps will send them a letter letting them know that Council intends to take legal action if the bills are not paid. Solicitor Vogel suggested that Council pass an ACT 1 Resolution to aid in the collection of any taxes and/or fees. Solicitor Vogel will draft the resolution for our April meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer