

Borough of Ben Avon Heights
October 13, 2009 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Ben Avon Heights Council was held at the Mayernick Center at 7:30 pm

Present: Council Members Davis, Cuneo, Cuteri, Grubbs, Isherwood, Mayor Dismukes, Solicitor Vogel, Police Chief Micklos, Fire Chief Buckman, Emergency Management Coordinator Wichmann, North Borough News Editor Paul Cusick, and Public Financial Management representative Gregg McLanahan.

Council President Davis called the meeting to order

Resident Budget Meeting Discussion

- Mayor Dismukes asked the following questions regarding the upcoming meeting: who will put the final touches on the power point presentation (Council collaboration) , will we have the final road repaving estimates from our engineer (Davis said, "yes"), will we have financing figures in time for the meeting (getting tonight from Public Financial Management, Inc.), etc.

September 2009 Minutes

- A motion was made to approve the September 2009 Minutes which were approved as distributed

September 2009 Treasurer's Report

- A motion was made to approve the September 2009 Treasurer's Report which passed unanimously

Police Report: Chief Micklos

- Chief Micklos said that Ben Avon Heights is a shining star with very few police calls. A report was provided. The Ohio Township Police and Ben Avon Fire Company will coordinate the Halloween at the Park event which is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 25th at 4 pm. They will provide a safety talk and candy to the children.

Fire Report: Chief Buckman

- A quiet month was reported. They will be in the neighborhood on Trick-Or-Treat night.

Street Repaving: Mr. Davis

- Excavation of Penhurst Road has begun. An executive decision was made to eliminate the installation of handicap ramps on the sidewalks since there is not enough room to install them correctly.

- The pull-off parking pad at 10 Penurst Road will remain as a parking pad and the contractor will depress the new curb at that location to accommodate. Mr. Davis stated that a precedent is being established here for pull-offs for future road and curb projects.

- Mr. Davis mentioned that he is going to ask the Penhurst Road contractor to get him a price to install wedge curb to fix some of the known curb and drainage issues in the neighborhood. If accepted, the extra work would be completed as a change order. The areas mentioned include: in front of Schleis' (12 Clovelly), in front of Morris' (2 Canterbury), along Mihalko's sidewalk, and along Wilson Drive. This work would be considered to be a band aid until those roads are repaved. Mr. Davis asked Mrs. Phelps to have two "sidewalk closed" signs made for along Mihalko's sidewalk.

Municipal Financing

- Public Financial Management, Inc. representative Gregg McLanahan presented Council with an overview of the Local Government Unit Debt Act (LGUDA) and how it impacts borrowing for Ben Avon Heights.

–The following information was presented based on LGUDA rules: BAH's borrowing capacity for 2010 is \$717,893 , a competitive RFP bank loan is economically the best option for a loan of that size, and upfront costs are only payable upon a successful settlement. Loan terms and payments discussed include: Option 1 – 9 yr term with an annual payment of \$97,000, Option 2 – 10 year term with an annual payment of \$89,000, Option 3 – 15 year term with an annual payment of \$66,000

– Council could opt for a Debt Act Referendum (electoral debt) where residents vote to raise millage for a specific project

Snow Removal Contract

- Avalon Borough provided a one year contract for snow removal and salting. Their on-shift (7 am to 3:30 pm) rate is \$135 p/hr (down from \$208 p/hr last year) and the off-shift (3:30 pm to 6 am) is \$150 p/hr (down from \$222 last year). Last year they billed in one-half (1/2) hour increments and this year they moved to billing at one-hour increments. The salt will be supplied at the rate of \$52.75 which is based on QVCOG pricing. A motion was made to accept the terms of the snow removal and salting contract provided by Avalon Borough for a term of one year. The motion was approved.

PA One Call Service Provider

- Avalon Borough provided a letter agreeing to be our PA One Call locator, however our Solicitor recommends that we get a contract in place. Mrs. Phelps will go back to Avalon to request a written contract. Mr. Davis said that he will call Mr. Dillmore to discuss the snow removal and the PA One Call contract. Mr. Grubbs mentioned that we do not know where all of our storm sewer lines are located.

Perrysville Road Berm Asphalt Issue

- PennDot said that their maintenance crew is reviewing the asphalt pile to determine if they will remove it

Consent Decree: Mr. Grubbs

- A motion was made to authorize our engineer to bid the remainder of the camera work in January 2010. The motion was approved.

– Mr. Grubbs reported that he attended a Consent Decree meeting which related to flow monitoring. A report was provided which showed flow rates from June 2008; which is clearly old data. We have corrected many of our lines since that data was collected, therefore we may need to establish that fact in the future. Their data is attempting to show how much storm water is still entering into the sanitary lines. Mr. Grubbs has a CD that has some of the flow monitoring data on it. Mr. Cuteri asked if our engineer can summarize the data (via averages) for our records. Mr. Grubbs will make the request.

- Mr. Grubbs informed Council that they are having difficulty finding all of the sanitary lines along Stratford Road. Our engineer will further investigate.

Emergency Management: Mr. Wichmann

- The updated Emergency Management Plan is ready to be copied. Mr. Dismukes will make the copies.

Committee Reports

- Mr. Grubbs recently received a few complaints from residents about the dumping of logs, branches, etc. over the Briar Cliff hillside. Mr. Davis will talk to the new residents.

Community Website: Mrs. Phelps

- Webmaster Jason Brown asked Council if the updated website (which he presented last month) can go live. Council gave the go ahead. He also wondered if the ordinances which relate directly to the residents (cleaning of sidewalks, nuisance, parking, etc.) can be summarized and placed on the website. Our Solicitor strongly urged Council not to place summarized ordinances on the website.

**Council entered into Executive Session to discuss legal matters at 9:23 pm.
Executive Session concluded at 9:40 pm at which time the meeting resumed.**

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

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Phelps, Secretary/Treasurer