

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Wednesday, December 14, 2011 - 2011 Council Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of council was held at Shannopin Country Club at 7:30 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Cuneo, Cuteri, Davis, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Fire Chief: Buckman

Ohio Twp. Police Chief: Micklos

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Ben Avon Heights Residents: Jim Georgalas

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Davis:

1. November 2011 Minutes
- *A motion was made to approve the November 2011 Minutes. They were approved unanimously as distributed.*
2. November 2011 Treasurer's Report
- *A motion was made to approve the November 2011 Treasurer's Reports which was approved unanimously as distributed.*
3. Public Comment – Jim Georgalas has accepted his election to Council and has returned his paperwork. We welcome him for the next 4 years and he will be sworn in by our Mayor at the January meeting.
4. Police Report – 1 Criminal Mischief Report / 1 Drug Violation (a car was stopped in the area not a resident)/ 1 Emergency Medical Assist/ 1 (911) call hang up/1 Assist other Agency call. That is all. We are waiting to test the One Call Now System but an incident has not occurred.
5. Fire Report – 1 call on Wilson Drive and the Department went through the area for a Roll-Over Accident on Ben Avon Heights Road. It is not clear how this accident occurred.
Mayor Dismukes and Council would like to express our Appreciation to Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department and Chief Buckman for their years of dedicated service. A certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Chief; however, it does not fully reflect how we feel regarding the situation.
6. The Budget Review – We have not spent \$99,000.00 that was budgeted for this year. That money will be rolled into next year and was accounted for in 2012 budget.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution to adopt the 2012 Budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Tax Ordinance regarding Millage for 2012 –

A motion was made to approve Ordinance 309, authorizing 6.5 Mill levied on Real Property, the same as last year. Several minutes of discussion took place regarding the outcome of the County Reassessment that is currently underway. Depending on what happens with this assessment, we may need to change our millage. Mr. Vogel stated that the Borough is not permitted to keep above a certain percentage (maybe 105%) of the anticipated income. The Borough could go before a judge to ask permission to keep the additional monies; however, court approval is not guaranteed. We will be permitted to pass another Ordinance to adjust the on Real Property later in 2012 in order to adjust the Borough's revenue. At this time we do not have a time frame as to when the assessments will be completed. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Engineer's Letter– Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering submitted a letter outlining their fee schedule for 2012. A motion was made to accept the new proposed rates of Lennon Smith Souleret for the year 2012. Discussion took place comparing their listed rates to 2011 and the increase was minimal. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Fire Contract: A motion was made to pass Resolution 2011-3, approving agreement for Fire and Emergency Services between Ben Avon Heights Borough and Avalon Borough. The motion was approved unanimously. Both the Resolution and the Contract were signed.

A question was posed regarding the need to sign an Emergency Services Contract with Avalon. At this time we have an Emergency Services Plan; however, we are in negotiations with Avalon regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement. It would be best to have that plan worked out in January. This agreement will put in place a chain of authority in the event of an emergency in the Borough.

10. Alcosan Sewage Agency Fund: We are required to keep money in our budget in order to pay delinquent Alcosan accounts. A motion was made to authorize a separate account in Quicken to be designated as the Sewage Agency Fund... taking money from the main Account in the sum of \$2,202.82. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Snow Removal Contract with Avalon. – This contract is the same as last year with the exception of the cost of the salt. A motion was made to approve the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Insurance Proposal Review: The new premium is approximately \$300.00 more than last year. The question is ... do we have enough coverage? Council may vote in January to increase coverage.

A motion was made to renew insurance policies for 2012 subject to review of appropriateness of the level of coverage. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Crossing Guard and Secretary/ Treasurer Pay Rate – Pay rate increases were budgeted in the 2012 approved budget. A comment was made that the Oxford Stop is not under control. Mrs. Raves will talk to the guard at that location to tighten control at this stop.

Guards pay will be increased from \$10.50 per hour to \$11.00 per hour. The Secretary/
Treasurer will be increased from \$18,000.00 per year to \$19,000.00 per year.

A motion was made to approve the budgeted Raise for Crossing Guards and
Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was approved unanimously.

14. Auditor's Proposal:

A motion was made to approve the Auditor's proposal. The motion was passed unanimously.

15. Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement: This item was tabled at this time.

16. Vacancies for Commissions- this will be handled at the January's Reorganization
meeting. A spot on the Planning Commission is currently open.

17. Briar Cliff Road work – Greg Mihalko was questioning whether the engineers looked at
the curb and the extra soil. It was decided that Mihalko Construction will push the dirt
back.

18. One Call Service Contract with Avalon – was reviewed and signed.

19. Sewer Review – Mr. Isherwood stated that the O&M Plan will be reviewed at a meeting
being scheduled with the Allegheny County Health Department. Lisa Sorg contacted
the Borough and a meeting will take place at Tucker Arensberg's offices. Mr. Cuteri,
Mr. Isherwood, Mr. Vogel and maybe Mr. Dismukes will attend that meeting

Executive Session was entered into at 8:36.

Meeting resumed at 9:10 PM

20. It was agreed that Mrs. Raves will be awarded a \$2,000.00 bonus for the 2011 year.

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

This meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January, 10th at 7:00 at Avalon Borough Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer