

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 - Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting of council was held at Shannopin Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Cuteri, Davis, Georgalas, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Solicitor: Voltz of Tucker Arensberg

Ohio Twp. Police: Adam Beck

West View EMS: Justin Webster

Avalon Fire: Chief Carney

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Kati Von-Lehman, Bob Frisch

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Mr. Davis:

1. March 2013 Minutes:
- ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Berardi second by Mr. Cuteri to approve the March 2013 Minutes. They were ***approved unanimously***.
2. March 2013 Treasurer's Report: - ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Cuteri, and second by Mr. Berardi to approve the March 2013 Treasurer's Reports which was ***approved unanimously*** as distributed. Mr. Isherwood asked about the money left in the snow removal portion of the Budget. Mrs. Raves reminded him that we still have November and December months to get through for snow removal.
3. Fire Report: Nothing to report
4. Public Comment:
 - a. Arlene and Al Grubb from the Centennial Committee presented information regarding the activities for the Celebration. Invitations will be mailed May 4th and the Committee is expecting approximately 250 people each day. Friday afternoon June 20, is a Shannopin Golf event followed that evening with a Cocktail party. Saturday will begin at 10:00 AM with walking architectural tours of the neighborhood. At 1:00 PM games for adults and children will be open in the park as well as several open houses throughout the Borough. 5:00 PM the award ceremony, picnic and cocktails in the park begin followed by entertainment and a bon fire later that evening. Sunday has been left open for people to use as they see fit.

A concern was brought to Council's attention that several street signs need to be repaired before that date. Mrs. Raves stated that we were waiting for the weather to break before scheduling this work.

There are still calendars for sale if anyone is interested.

Traffic control from 4:00 PM – 10:00 PM was discussed. Mrs. Raves will contact the Crossing Guards to see if any interest

- b. Kati Von-Lehman presented an idea to Council regarding the installation of a walking trail around the park. She brought drawings and rough estimates of \$19,000.00 - \$23,500 for various path widths. Her proposal included the idea of selling engraved bricks to help raise funds to pay for the path.

Council reviewed her ideas and suggested she contact a landscape architect for ideas regarding paving, location etc. (Heather O'Brien might be interested in helping). We would need to review the future maintenance of a project like this as well, and verify that it fits into the future plans for the park.

Ms. Von-Lehman would like to know if this project is green lighted before the Centennial Celebration so bricks could be sold during those days.

An email can be sent to the community to gauge the interest of the residents regarding this idea.

Mr. Cuteri stated that he could get topographical maps to Ms. Von-Lehman for their use.

Mr. Georgalas will get a contact name to Ms. Von-Lehman from the "Rails to Trails" group for input regarding a hard packed stone pathway.

5. EMT: Chief Webster reported that there was 1 Response to Ben Avon Heights Borough last quarter and average response time was 5.0 minutes. 2013 -14 membership drive was sent to residents. This is a major fundraiser for the group.

6. Police: Assistant Chief Beck had to leave the meeting to respond to a call. A copy of the police report was given to Mrs. Raves... nothing unusual was noted in the report. There were the typical alarms, Road Department Call outs, Open Door, Animal complaints, building checks and routine patrols.

7. Park Report: Mr. Cuteri noted that we will be spending some money on the park this year but the money was previously budgeted. We will be having Walt's Landscaping replace the mulch at the playground, they will be digging out the areas where growth is occurring and spreading new product throughout. Evan Hudson has agreed to lead a volunteer group for a Park Clean up this year. We do not have his date as of yet. The thought is to replace the trees that were cut down two years ago if funds are available and the idea of widening Lynton Lane for parking is part of the new tree location consideration.

Note: there is a Road Clean up scheduled for April 20th.

8. Engineers Report: A report was emailed to Council earlier in the day from LSSE.
 - a. Mr. Davis, of Bridges & Company, noted that they will be in the Borough next Monday, April 15th working to finish up the 2012 road project weather permitting. (The outstanding work is mostly landscaping)

- b. Signage replacement was discussed. A catalogue and map of the existing signs will need to be developed. Mr. Isherwood and Mr. Keelan said that they would walk the neighborhood and develop a plan locating all signs. It was noted that the deadlines for completion of this project have been extended, but we need to get a plan in place for replacement.
- Mr. Cuteri suggested that the Brown signs with White letters are the least objectionable. Council has deferred to his suggestion.
- c. Mr. Isherwood will contact LSSE to get an estimate to complete all of Phase 1 of the Consent Decree.
9. Ordinance passing 2013 Millage: ***Mr. Cuteri made a motion*** to pass Ordinance #320 setting 2013 millage at 5.75 mills. Mr. Davis seconds the motion. ***The motion passed*** unanimously.
10. Building Inspection Underwriters: Council would like BIU to notify them as to when the outstanding inspection work will be completed as well as when we can expect that the County will be notified of the Building Permits. Discussion took place as to how long Building Permits are valid. Mr. Voltz noted that: Every *permit* issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by such *permit* is commenced within 180 days after its issuance, **or if the work authorized by such *permit* is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180 days after the time the work is commenced.**
- Council asked Mrs. Raves to compose a letter to BIU requesting a timeframe as to when work will be completed and to discuss the length of building permit validity.
11. Planning Commission: Mr. Georgalas is waiting for a return call.
12. Sewage Fund: Jordan Tax Service contacted Mrs. Raves to verify the details of the sewage charges. We have provided them with the \$5.00/ 1000 gallon charge, but we have not set the penalty or interest for late payment as well as notifying them if we are passing the \$9.07 quarterly service charge per bill on to the customers. Council decided to charge the highest interest fee permitted by law, (Mr. Voltz will review this and get the information to Mrs. Raves but he thought it was 1.5%) as well as to pass Alcosan's service charge onto the customer. Jordan will be notified of these decisions.
13. Executive Session: There was no need for executive session this evening.

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

This meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday May 14th at 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary