

## Borough of Ben Avon Heights

### Tuesday, January 8, 2013 - Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting of council was held at Avalon Borough Building at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

#### **Present:**

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

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Chief Micklos

Avalon Fire: Chief Carney

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Mr. Cuteri:

1. Police Report: General Calls to report, all quiet. Chief Micklos will get Mrs. Raves in touch with personnel from their office to access the Emergency Call System. Chief Micklos stated that he has a meeting scheduled January 9, 2013 with the Superintendent of Avonworth School District as well as all the building principals and several Board Members to discuss school safety in light of the Connecticut shootings
2. Fire Report: No calls to report
3. December 2012 Minutes:
  - ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Georgalas second by Mr. Kolenda to approve the December 2012 Minutes. They were ***approved unanimously***.
4. December 2012 Treasurer's Report: A question was raised regarding the movement of \$142,380.00 to a new account. Mrs. Raves noted that Council had agreed to move the Reserve Fund from Federated to Northwest Savings due to the fact that no interest was being compounded in the Federated account. A new Reserve Fund was opened with the transfer of these funds and later this month the Federated Account total will be transferred to that account as well.
  - ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Berardi, and second by Mr. Keelan to approve the December 2012 Treasurer's Reports which was ***approved unanimously as distributed***.
5. Public Comment: No Public present.
6. Engineer's Report:
  - a. The Borough's ACO, Semi-Annual Progress Report was sent in July and the Borough received a letter of "Incompleteness" from the County in October of 2012. This will need to be completed as soon as possible.

- b. 2012 Road Work is almost complete. Bridges & Co. submitted their 5<sup>th</sup> payment request that was approved by LSSE for the sum of \$35,197.88. Currently outstanding is the Punch List work from the December 18, 2012 meeting. That work is restoration work that will be completed in the spring, probably by April or May depending on weather.
- c. The Feasibility Study for the ACO is due July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013 and LSSE will provide scope and Service Order Authorization for the February meeting. Mr. Firek cannot make the February meeting but will forward this information.
- d. MS4 Map is incomplete since the outfall locations must be indicated on the map. Mr. Isherwood was contacted by phone and stated that he would get this information to LSSE by the end of January. Once the fallouts are located, please forward the map to LSSE and they will input the information on our digital map for final submission. LSSE needs to have the submission fee of \$500.00 forwarded as well; Mrs. Raves stated that the check was forwarded several weeks prior to this meeting.
- e. FEMA proposing changes to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. LSSE previously urged Council to consider adoption of an Ordinance that meets the National Flood Insurance Program requirements.  
Mr. Vogel asked the Engineers if there is a "Simple" Ordinance that would cover this requirement. Mr. Firek will forward.

7. Ordinance Act 20. A ***motion was made by*** Mr.

Berardi and Second by Mr. Keelan to Pass Ordinance No 319 for Jordan Tax Services to collect the Sewage Fees as advertised. The ***motion passed unanimously.***

8. Real Estate Value Review – Mrs. Raves received notice from the County that the 2013 Real Estate Value will be based on \$43,049,400.00. However, Mrs. Raves also showed Council that the outstanding Appeal Decisions totaling \$5,510,345.00. Shannopin Country Club's Appeal will make a large difference to our base value "therefore, we will keep up to date on this decision. Our actual Millage Rate will be determined after the County decisions are final. Mrs. Raves needs to file various reports for the Borough by the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month and has spoken with representatives at the State determining that the millage rate can be input at this time and changed at a later date. At this time Mrs. Raves is filing the reports at a rate of 5.6 mills.

9. 5 Year Budget: Mrs. Raves forwarded a draft of the 5 Year Budget to Council prior to the meeting. Mayor Dismukes and Council had several questions, they are as follows:

- 1. Why on the Revenue Sheet, is there no sum for the years 2016, 17 and 18 in the "Transfer from Reserve Fund? Those figures indicated in 2013, 14 and 15 are to help pay down the quarterly payments of the 2012 Loan. Once the AIM loan is paid off we do not anticipate needing to transfer money from Reserve.
- 2. Would we gain any benefits from paying off the AIM loan early? Mrs. Raves will look into this item.
- 3. Is a 3% annual increase on Assessed Values a good figure? Mr. Vogel felt that it was since this would also include individual improvements as well as basic inflation.
- 4. On the Expenses list... is the ACORD number correct? This number changes annually and this number was decided to be safe.

5. Why is the supplies budget line increasing? Annual items cost more and Mrs. Raves was anticipating replacement of equipment as well.
6. Borough Solicitor line is missing a decimal point in years 2014 and beyond.
7. Why does the Planning Commission budget line go from \$20,000.00 for 2013 and 2014 then drop to 0? The money allocated at this time for Planning Commission indicated is for a project and it is anticipated that that project will be completed by 2015.
8. Why under Health and Sanitation is the Deficiency Corrections so small this year? The \$20,375 listed in the O&M line should be moved to Consent Decree Deficiency Correction line of the budget. And the O&M line should read \$5,000.00 for all lines from 2013 – 2018. Then under the Deficiency Correction line, the 2014 – 2018 years should read 0. Mayor Dismukes and Mr. Cuteri noted that the Sewer Fund that we are starting this year will be used to help pay the Consulting Engineering fees. In the future when treasurer reports are created, the funds for the Alcosan Payments and the Fund Reserve will need to be indicated separately.
9. Why have the Sewage Engineering Fees increased? The Feasibility Study work that will be necessary in 2014 will trigger additional Engineering Fees. It was determined that this line item should be \$10,000.00 in each of these lines.
10. Why are the Sewer Connection Fees and the Delinquent Alcosan fees in one line? We need to break those three items into separate lines.
11. Why the increase in the Walt's Maintenance line item? Mr. Cuteri noted that the increase in the Park improvements is to cover new wood carpet at the playground and new trees along Lynton Lane. Mrs. Raves will ask Walt's to submit a quote for these items.
12. Under the Streets section of the Budget, After the AIM loan is paid off is the thought that that money will then go into the Street Paving line item? Yes and that same thought process will explain why the Consulting Engineers line item increases as well.
13. It was determined that the Sewage Fund should reflect \$25,000 annually starting in 2014 and the additional \$10,000.00 we expect to bring in will be budgeted for The Health and Sanitation Consulting Engineers fees.

10. Executive Session: Council went into Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

11. The Meeting resumed at 8:18

12. Mr. Georgalas discussed the progress of the Planning Commission. Kilbuck officials will need to be approached regarding the joint Zoning and Planning.

13. Council asked Mrs. Raves to request of the Zoning Officer a letter describing why the sign off of Newgate Road was out of compliance with our Zoning Ordinance. Based on the lot subdivision plan submitted it appears that this structure may be in Ben Avon Heights Borough.

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

This meeting adjourned at 8:30P.M

**The next monthly meeting is Wednesday February 13th at 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.**

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary