

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Wednesday November13, 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: Cuteri, Davis, Keelan, Kolenda

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sgt. A. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Michael Slenska

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

1. Vote to approve October Minutes: Mr. Kolenda ***made a motion*** to approve the September Minutes. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. Mr. Davis abstained from the vote. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the October Treasurer's Report: Mr. Kolenda ***made a motion*** to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. Fire Report: ***No Fire personnel were present.***
4. Police Report: The usual calls and patrols took place (3 alarms, 5 thefts, 2 medical Emergencies, 1 animal complaint, traffic citation); however, there were a number of calls reporting car break-ins again this month. Sargent Beck reported that neighboring communities have experienced the same thefts. The police are making headway regarding apprehending these thieves. Hopefully an arrest will be made soon.
5. Public Comment: Mr. Michael Slenska, 31 Banbury Lane, attended to hear about the Alcosan rate increase. Mr. Cuteri assured him that the subject will be discussed later in the meeting.
6. Engineers Report: Mr. Cuteri read the report submitted by Mr. Firek. The punch list for the 2012 Roadway and Sewer Improvements is still underway and the Engineers have transmitted Change Order #5(Final), on October16th, to the Borough for signature increasing the contract by \$58,369.00. Partial Payment No. 7 was planned to be held till all Punch List Items were completed; however, Mr. Cuteri approved partial payment in the amount of \$54,280.00. This withholds \$7,500.00 to cover the remaining

outstanding Punch List Items. Mr. Cuteri will notify Lennon Smith Souleret of this decision.

No Hauling Permits were reviewed. At this time, Mrs. Raves noted that there were no Hauling Permits active at this time throughout the Borough.

7. Garbage Contract: Mrs. Raves reviewed the 2 bids submitted at the October 8th meeting. Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to Award the Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services Contract to Valley Waste Service Inc. as bid:

\$23,089.20 for 2014 with \$144.00 per household per year for back-yard pick-up service.

\$23,668.56 for 2015 with \$144.00 per household per year for back-yard pick-up service.

\$24,260.28 for 2016 with \$144.00 per household per year for back-yard pick-up service.

Mr. Keelan ***seconds the motion.*** Discussion took place regarding what differences were in the contracts? Mrs. Raves assured Council that there were no differences in the contracts. E-Waste will require a resident to schedule individual pick-up and payment. Back yard pick up will be more expensive next year. Waste containers can remain the same. Yard waste is to be picked up as well. This contract is approved subject to Solicitor Review. Once approval is obtained, signed contracts will be forwarded to Valley Waste Service Inc. for their review and signature.

Mr. Davis stated that it will be important to make the residents aware of the change in vendor and especially the change of collection day. Mrs. Raves will get a letter to the residents. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

8. Planning Commission Update: Mayor Dismukes had spoken with Mr. John Fader of Kilbuck Township and discovered that they are interested in preceding a Joint Comprehensive Plan with BAHB as well as Avalon. Council is in favor of this development and asked Mayor Dismukes to discuss the plan with Harry Dilmore of Avalon and Kilbuck Townships.

9. Alcosan Rate Increase: Mr. Cuteri updated Mr. Slenska regarding the Wet Weather Consent Decree and the fact that the Borough has been mandated to complete specific sewer line repairs to date and to be aware that there will be additional future repair mandates. Mayor Dismukes added that the County has instructed the Borough to develop a vehicle to collect money in order to pay for these future repairs as well as continuing reviews of our lines every 5 years. We have a maintenance component to all lines downstream and those negotiations will take place in the future.

Alcosan recently announced that they are increasing their rates which the Borough will need to adopt into our fee structure. Mr. Cuteri noted that Alcosan is raising the monthly bill by approximately 8% this next year and at different percent for the next 4 years.

Mr. Cuteri questioned why the Solicitor used a percentage example on the proposed Resolution when the actual figures were available on page 2 of Alcosan's Resolution. Mr. Vogel will amend the Resolution for signature at the December meeting.

Mr. Davis made a motion, to approve the amended Resolution 2013-2 adopting the proposed Alcosan rate increase into our fee structure based on the increases noted in Alcosan's Resolution. **Mr. Keelan seconds the motion**. **The motion passed unanimously**.

As a related matter, a resident requested information regarding the installation of a Deduct Meter in order to eliminate their lawn watering calculation from their sewage bill. At this time, Ordinance 318 does not permit a residential customers to install deduct water meters. Mr. Cuteri stated that the thinking behind this decision was that the Borough thought they would be burdened with the cost of meter reading. Mrs. Raves stated that in her research that is not the case. Alcosan currently bills each homeowner directly for meter reading services and the resident is responsible for the cost of installation, inspections and maintenance of these meters. The Borough will not receive any of the expense for these meters.

Council agrees that in this case, the Ordinance could be amended to permit such use. Mr. Cuteri requested that a County Health Department Inspection be required as well as all inspections required by Alcosan and that all inspections results be copied to the Borough for its knowledge. Mr. Vogel will look into Amending this Ordinance and will bring language next month for Council's review.

10. Sign Management: Mayor Dismukes asked that Council continue working on the Sign Management Program. Mr. Keelan stated that Mr. Isherwood had a spreadsheet on his computer with the survey that was compiled. All street signs are required to be changed to meet the retro-reflectivity guidelines set by the government. Mayor Dismukes wanted to note that he felt it important that the Community get a vote on the esthetics of the new signs when we get to replacing the "street signs". Council would like to begin compiling information on replacement of traffic safety signs at this time. Mr. Isherwood will be contacted to get the database to Mrs. Raves so that pricing can be obtained for replacement. Mr. Davis proposed putting a five year plan together for signage replacement.

11. Fire Contract: Mayor Dismukes reported that the Avalon Fire Department approached us regarding an additional 10 year extension to our contract with no cost increase. The Mayor was unable to attend the Department's meeting and will need to discuss this matter further with the Avalon Fire Department. Mayor Dismukes concern was to verify that this extension would be a legally supportable contract. "They have served us well", stated Mayor Dismukes, "and I have no problem with the extension". **Mr. Keelan made**

a Motion to authorize Mayor Dismukes to engage directly with Avalon Volunteer Fire Department regarding the extension of their contract with BAHB. Mr. Davis seconds this motion. Mayor Dismukes will review the contract before submitting to Council. **The motion passes unanimously.**

12. Bidding Requirements: Mr. Vogel presented a memo outlining the guidelines for bidding and the requirements regarding contracts. Contracts for goods and services in excess of \$18,000.00 require bids. Price Quotes from 3 qualified contractors shall be requested for all contracts in excess of \$10,200.00. It was noted that the dollar amounts change January 1st of each year. This will be revisited after the 1st of January. Below \$10,200.00 the Borough had leeway regarding how to handle a contract. The situation where no bids were submitted for a previous contract was discussed. The Borough will need to keep records regarding the bidding process and their results. The prevailing Wage Rates cut-off is still \$25,000.00. Mr. Davis asked what was the threshold requiring Multi-Prime Contracts? These formulas would need to be reviewed.

13. Mr. Georgalas's Resignation: Earlier today Mr. James Georgalas submitted a resignation email to the Borough. The Chair **made a motion** to accept Mr. Georgalas's resignation. **The motion passed unanimously with regrets.**

14. Avalon Contracts: Mayor Dismukes had discussion regarding our Community Emergency Management Plan with a person proposed by Avalon Borough be the Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Dilmore, of Avalon, stated that Avalon's Council was to meet tomorrow to approve the appointment of a person to this position. Mayor Dismukes will continue with these discussions.

One year contracts for PA One Call and Snow Removal / Salting from Avalon Borough were presented. Both these contracts are written for the same terms as this year's contracts. **A motion was made** by Mr. Kolenda to approve the contracts. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

15. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 8:15 PM
The meeting resumed at 8:25.

16. Salary increase: Council informed Mrs. Raves that she will receive a \$2,000.00 Bonus this year and a \$3,000.00 raise in salary for 2014. Mrs. Raves thanked Council for this gesture.

17. Election Results: Mrs. Raves was asked to obtain the names of the write-in votes from the earlier election.

18. 2014 Proposed Budget was reviewed. The worksheet needed to be revised to reflect the salary increase. Mr. Cuteri reviewed the numbers as they will be changed... the Total Revenues and Expenditures will now read \$439,081. Council requested that Mrs. Raves reformat the advertised Budget to make it clearer. Simply the Revenues and Expenses will be indicated on the advertised Budget.

A discussion regarding increasing taxes took place. No one was in favor of increasing taxes at this time. **Mr. Davis made a motion** to advertise the proposed budget. **Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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

This meeting adjourned at 8:59 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is **Wednesday** December 11th at 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary