

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday September 10, 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, Georgalas, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda arrived at 7:23

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sgt. Beck

Avalon Fire: Chief Carney

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Engineer: Firek (LSSE)

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

1. August Minutes: - ***A motion was made*** by Georgalas to approve the August minutes as submitted. The motion was second by Mr. Keelan. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Treasurer's Report: ***A motion was made*** by Mr. Isherwood to approve the August Treasurers Report as submitted. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. Fire Report: - Chief Carney reported that they responded to two calls last month, one was a tree down and the second was a wire down on Kent. Chief Carney was dismissed by Council after his report.
4. Police Report: Sargent Beck reported that there were usual patrols and reports throughout the Borough last month, nothing out of the ordinary.
Mrs. Raves noted that the property cited with Obnoxious Vegetation has not made any additional effort to clean up their parcel to date. (She was on a neighboring property to review what West View Water had done on that property and could see the property in question. Photographs were taken.) It was discussed that another letter should be sent to the property owner stating that they will have till a certain date to make amends or that by that certain date the Borough will initiate action to clean up the site and place a lien on the property. Sargent Beck stated that he could cite the property owner again and ask for a large fine.
Mayor Dismukes wanted the letter to state that the property is a "Vector for varmints. Sargent Beck was dismissed by Council after his report.

5. Public Comment: Jim Georgalas of 15 Banbury spoke as a resident. Mr. Georgalas wanted to discuss the sidewalk situation across the street from his property. Years ago the Borough removed the sidewalk that runs along the edge of 3 Briar Cliff Road causing the sidewalk along 16 Banbury property line to abruptly end. Mr. Georgalas indicated this could be a problem with residents walking along the sidewalk and then getting to the end and falling. He also expressed concern for his property value since the sidewalk was not replaced.

Mr. Cuteri and Mayor Dismukes noted that sidewalks are the responsibility of the resident, not the Borough; however, in that instance Council deemed the area a hazard and due to the fact that the homeowner was not taking action the Borough removed the walkway. During that same time, it was discussed that maybe all sidewalks along Banbury should be removed when future roadwork takes place but that will be a decision that will be made when the roadwork is discussed.

Mr. Georgalas loudly requested that the work be completed now. Mr. Georgalas referred to the curb repairs on Banbury, Mr. Cuter indicated that there was rebar sticking out of the curb and it needed to be repaired. Mr. Cuteri stated that sufficient funding is not currently available to complete sidewalk replacement. Mr. Georgalas angrily stated that he felt that this was devaluing his property and that the Borough should take action to replace the sidewalk, he slammed the table with his hand and got up and walked out of the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Mr. Keelan stated for the record, that in the future he wanted the police to remain during the public comment segment of the meetings. (Mrs. Raves will notify the police.)

6. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 7:40 PM. 7:49 PM the meeting resumed.

Discussion took place amongst Council and it was decided that a railing would be placed at the end of the dead-end sidewalk in order to hinder pedestrians from continuing along that pathway. A sign stating, "End of Sidewalk" will be installed as well. Mr. Cuteri asked Mrs. Raves to see if Avalon could complete that work for us.

7. Engineer's Report: Mr. Firek reported regarding the 2013 Consent Decree Work: Change Order Issues:

1. A camera was sent through the line from 4 Oxford Road and it was suggested by Mr. Firek that "The End of the Line" be determined in the sewer line just above 15 Banbury Road. The grade at this location is steep and the installation of a manhole would be cumbersome and costly. In addition, the pipe appears to be clean at this time. Mr. Isherwood, who lives at 4 Oxford, was fine with the determination of "End of the Line" at this location.
2. The CCTV work from manhole 805-1801 to 1805 was completed and the determination is that manhole 805-1805 does not exist as indicated on current mapping. This line is a lateral and therefore, no manhole is necessary.

3. CCTV beyond manhole 805-1002 took place. A difficult time was had getting beyond the bend in the line and the debris found in the pipe. It was determined that a new manhole should be installed behind the garage located at 22 Banbury, where mapping indicated that one existed, so the line is accessible for future cleaning.

Mayor Dismukes asked, "Once these items are completed, will the Borough be complete with Phase I of the Wet Weather Decree?" Mr. Firek said, "Yes".

Landscape Issues from 2012 Sewer work:

Residents at 12 Biddeford Road and 1 Stratford are unhappy with efforts to restore their properties after last year's sewer replacement thus far. Grading, Forsythia bushes and grass have not been restored to their previous condition as the residents expected.

Bridges will be contacted to complete repair work to satisfy the residents within a reasonable limit. Photographs of the area before construction will be requested; however, Mr. Firek was not able to locate any to date.

In addition, the resident from 5 Biddeford Road requested that the curb in front of his property be repaired due to last year's road/ sewer work. Preconstruction photographs of this property indicate that the curb was damaged before work began and the issue of erosion has to do with the fact that grass was dead from the curb back about 3 feet into the property. Mr. Cuter stated that Bridges has agreed to reseed this area to alleviate the residents' concerns. Punch List Items: Mr. Isherwood noted two items that will need to be added to the punch list.

1. The Clean Out at his property was opened for camera work. That will need to be replaced
2. A pile of soil located in order to locate a manhole in the rear yard of 15 Banbury Road is still sitting there. This area will need to be restored.

Mr. Isherwood asked Mr. Firek to submit an estimate for 2014 O&M work necessary for our October Budget meeting. And once all the work is completed, updated maps should be sent to the Borough.

8. Planning Commission: No report

9. Garbage Contract Bidding Discussions: Mrs. Raves stated that the Garbage contract for the years 2014, 15 and 16 are out for bid. The first advertisement for this contract was published Friday September 6th and the second ad will run September 13th. In addition, Mrs. Raves contacted 4 vendors who all stated they were interested in bidding our contract. Bid documents were forwarded to each of them September 6th. They are: Waste Management, Brunner, Republic and Vogel.

10. Budget Meeting: 2014 Budget meeting will be held at 7:00 PM Wednesday October 9th at a location to be determined. This meeting will be advertised in Friday's edition of the Citizen. Mrs. Raves will notify Council as to the location.

11. Emergency Management: Mayor Dismukes noted that he will be meeting with Harry Dilmore next week to get the Emergency Management Plan worked out. He finally has a model plan in digital format and will work to complete the Borough's model.

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

This meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday October 8th at 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary