

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Wednesday December 10, 2014 - 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, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sargent Beck

Lennon Smith Souleret: Firek

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Bob Frisch: 15 Devon Lane.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mr. Davis:

1. Vote to approve November Minutes: Mr. Berardi ***made a motion*** to approve the November Minutes as presented. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the November Treasurer's Report: Mr. Cuteri ***made a motion*** to approve the November Treasurer's Report - submitted previously by email to Council. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. Mr. Davis asked if the \$40,000 + short in the Real Estate Tax Collection are normal for this time of year. Mrs. Raves reminded Council that \$26,500 of that amount includes Shannopin Country Club's assessment before the appeal and will not be collected; therefore, we are approximately \$20,000 short in collections for the 2014 tax year. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. No Fire Report: 350 Christmas Trees have been sold so far. The Chief stated that they are ready for the January 13th meeting at the Fire Station.
4. Police Report: A written report was distributed previously to Council by email but it was essentially a quiet month in the Borough.
5. Public Comment: Mr. Frisch questioned if Council had yet applied for a loan to do the Wilson Road reconstruction. Council stated that they have not yet decided to take out a loan and nothing can move forward regarding that matter until the Budget is approved. (That should happen this evening.)

The second item Mr. Frisch wanted to discuss was the new signs. He had driven through several communities who have 4 x 4 sign posts. They seem to be new and he thought they were nice. Bob Firek stated that the signs and posts must meet specific

requirements regarding their retroreflectivity, letter size and style as well as the fact that all poles must meet specific breakaway specifications. Mr. Firek then stated that we can use all Capital letters but they would need to be all 6" high letters. Mr. Frisch pointed out that there are several other new developments in the area that have used similar posts. Mr. Firek stated that he believes that those developments have installed noncompliant signage.

Mr. Firek will forward the information regarding compliant break away round sign poles to Mrs. Raves for review; however, he warned that they are VERY expensive.

6. Engineer's Report: 25 Oxford Hauling Permit was reviewed and released.

Mr. Firek submitted a schedule to Mr. Davis for an April 14th contract award date for the Wilson Drive 2015 Roadway construction.

Lennon Smith Souleret's proposal includes, design, survey, estimate is \$12,900 + reimbursable expenses. This work will include new drainage to alleviate the current water problems. It was Mr. Firek's thought that the existing storm sewer in the Park will be utilized for this project.

Sanitary Sewer inspection will be needed this year as well. Mr. Cuteri asked Mr. Firek if the O&M Sewer work will be visual inspection of 20% of the manholes. Mr. Firek confirmed that that is the work that will be done this year and the engineer's cost will be as submitted under the 2015 Rates.

Mr. Davis **made a motion** to accept the proposal from LSSE to complete the engineering work for the reconstruction of Wilson Road from Penhurst to Perrysville Road. Mr. Cuteri seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

7. LSSE 2015 Rate Review: LSSE submitted rates for 2015 that are the same as the 2014 rates. Mr. Keelan **made a motion** to approve the 2015 Engineering Services Rates submitted by LSSE. Mr. Cuteri seconds this motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Isherwood asked if we need to do any work to the Borough's Storm Sewers. Mr. Firek said that we do not need to do anything to the Storm Sewers at this time since we were granted a waiver under the current MS-4's. Mr. Firek does not believe that any waivers will be granted under the next review period. This year only requires our manhole inspections.

8. Insurance Rate Review: Mr. Berardi reviewed the submission from Higbee Insurance stating that all coverage for 2015 is the same as it was in 2014; however, the property values have been increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Berardi made **a motion** to accept the rate quote of \$7,100.00 from Higbee Insurance Agency Inc. for the 2015 Insurance. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Staff Salary Review: Mrs. Raves reported that our crossing guards are paid \$12.00/ hour and had discovered that Bellevue pays \$12.90/ hour and their guards are unionized. Mrs. Raves asked Council if they wanted to raise their salary in 2015. Mr. Davis **made a motion** to raise the Crossing Guards pay to \$12.50 per hour. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

10. Budget Review: Mr. Vogel guided Council by reviewing Resolution 2014-09 to pass the Budget then we will need to approve Ordinance 328 to set the new millage rate for 2015. Mr. Keelan ***made a motion*** to adopt Resolution 2014-09 passing a budget of \$593,704 for 2015. Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. Mr. Cuteri questioned the movement of \$19,560 from the Reserve Fund and asked to verify that the AIM loan was included in the Budget. Mrs. Raves noted that those two items were both included. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
11. Ordinance No. 328: Mr. Cuteri ***made a motion*** to adopt Ordinance No. 328 setting the 2015 Tax Rate at 7.95 mills as well as confirming the penalty and interest rate for current and delinquent taxes as advertised. Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
12. Mrs. Raves left the room for Council to discuss her salary. Mrs. Raves reentered the meeting at 7:38 PM. Mr. Davis made a motion to award Mrs. Raves a 2014 \$2,000.00 bonus. And to give her a \$2,000.00 raise in 2015. Mr. Berardi seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
13. Council entered into Executive Session at 7:40 PM
The meeting resumed at 7:55 PM. Note; Mr. Davis left the meeting during Executive Session.
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. ***The motion passed.***

This meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday January 13th, 7:00 at ***Avalon Volunteer Fire Company.***

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary