

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday November 12, 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: Davis, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sargent Beck

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Phyllis Colaianni, 9 Canterbury Road: R. D. Fardo, 4 Stratford Road: R Neidinger, 9 Briar Cliff Road: John Radcliffe, 14 Wilson Drive: Carmell Rattay, 9 Biddeford Road: Joe Rattay, 9 Biddeford Road: Michele Rooney 9 Canterbury Road.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mr. Davis:

1. Vote to approve October Minutes: Mr. Keelan ***made a motion*** to approve the October Minutes as presented. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
2. Vote to approve the October Treasurer's Report: Mr. Isherwood ***made a motion*** to approve the October Treasurer's Report - submitted previously by email to Council. Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. Mr. Davis asked if the \$62,000 short in the Real Estate Tax Collection is normal for this time of year. Mrs. Raves stated that it can be. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. No Fire Report
4. Police Report: A written report was distributed previously to Council by email.
5. Public Comment: Joe Rattay asked if there was a 5% increase limit on the Real Estate Millage. Mr. Vogel stated that only during a reassessment year is Council limited to a 5% increase.

Discussion took place where Mr. Davis reviewed the last two year's millage rates in relationship to the County's Reassessments, the successful appeals and what the two of them mean to the Borough's revenue. This information was the basis of the Finance Committee's decision to propose a 7.95 Mill rate for 2015. Mr. Isherwood reviewed the Consent Decree and its impact of almost \$700,000 to the Borough's expenditures in the last 8 years thus taking that money from the roadway work.

The Sewer Fee was reviewed informing the residents in attendance that we are required to build up funding for the impending and mandatory Phase 2 of the Consent Decree.

Mr. Davis informed the residents that if Council was to ignore the requirements of the Consent Decree they could be personally arrested and placed in jail.

Mr. Fardo asked what the collective value of the Borough was... it is \$38,000,000.00 thus one mill generates \$38,000.00 to the Borough.

Residents were informed of the items that the Finance Committee considered cutting from the budget... such as charging residents for Trash and leaf collection, eliminating Police services and Crossing Guards. However, these reductions are not being considered at this time.

Mr. Fardo noted that a millage rate increase of 38% is what the Finance Committee is proposing.

Ms. Rooney asked when the last Real Estate rate increase was. Mr. Isherwood noted that the last rate increase took place in 2009.

Mr. Davis noted that the Borough also had to build a retaining wall along Briar Cliff Road in 2012 costing approximately \$180,000.00; this is the equivalent of 5 mills.

6. Engineer's Report: A report was emailed to Council earlier today since Mr. Firek could not attend this evening's meeting.
7. Avonworth Community Park 2015 Budget: Mr. Davis **made a motion** to approve the 2015 Budget, submitted to Council by e mail earlier, for the Avonworth Community Park. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
8. Jordan Tax Service Resolution 2014-07: Mr. Keelan **made a motion** to pass the 2014-07 Resolution submitted to Council by Mr. Vogel Deputizing Jordan Tax Services as the Real Estate Tax Collector. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
9. Jordan Tax Service Resolution 2014-08: Mr. Isherwood **made a motion** to pass the 2014-08 Resolution submitted to Council by Mr. Vogel Appointing Jordan Tax Services as the Delinquent Real Estate Tax Collector. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
10. Ordinance No. 327: Mr. Keelan **made a motion** to pass advertised Ordinance No. 327 submitted to Council by Mr. Vogel amending Ordinance No. 309 "Adopting a schedule of attorneys' fees in connection with the collection of taxes, tax claims, tax liens Municipal Claims and Municipal liens". Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously**
11. 2015 Meeting Schedule: Mr. Davis **made a motion** to approve the 2015 Meeting Schedule as presented by Mrs. Raves. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously**
12. PA One Call and Road Salting Contracts: Mr. Davis **made a motion** to accept and sign the 2015 Contract with Avalon Borough for PA One Call Services submitted by Mrs. Raves, noting that the terms and fees are the same as they were in 2014. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Davis **made a motion** to accept and sign the 2015 Contract with Avalon Borough for Snow Removal submitted by Mrs. Raves noting that the terms and fees are the same as they were in 2014. (Actual costs of salt will be passed on to Ben Avon Heights Borough, as in the past, with salt price documentation submitted with each invoice.) Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Davis took this time to let the residents in attendance know that the cost of rock salt has been reported to be increasing significantly this coming year thus causing the Finance Committee to add an additional \$10,000.00 to the road salting budget for 2105.

13. Request for Nonprofit link on Borough's website: This discussion was tabled.

14. BAHB 2015 Budget presented to Council: The Finance Committee presented a budget of \$493,704 to Council for consideration. Discussion took place regarding the need to pave the portion of Wilson Drive from Perrysville Road to Penhurst Road. This project is estimated at approximately \$100,000.00 thus causing Council to discuss the need to borrow money for this work. The decision was made to apply for a second AIM loan. Therefore with this additional sum, Council was looking at an operating budget for 2015 of \$593,704.

Mr. Davis **made a motion** to advertise the Ben Avon Heights Borough 2015 Budget at \$593,704.00, noting that this figure includes a proposed loan of \$100,000.00 for road work. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Isherwood **made a motion** to advertise the Ben Avon Heights Borough 2015 Real Estate Tax Millage at 7.95 mills. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Keelan and Mr. Isherwood questioned the figures in the 2016 Budget indicated on the 5 Year Projected Budget sheets that Mrs. Raves distributed. If the borough is successful in obtaining a second AIM loan then the debt payments will need to be added to the next 5 years.

15. Council entered into Executive Session at 8:19 PM.

The meeting resumed at 8:50 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 9:00 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is **Wednesday** December 10th, 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary