

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Wednesday February 11, 2015 - 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, Isherwood, Keelan, Kolenda

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel

Ohio Twp. Police: Sargent Beck

Avalon Volunteer Fire Co.: Chief Carney

Lennon Smith Souleret: Firek

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: John Radcliffe: 14 Wilson Drive.

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

1. Engineer's Report: ACO: Semi-Annual Progress Report was submitted on January 30, 2015 as required.

Mayor Dismukes lead a discussion regarding the potential of sending a letter to the ACHD regarding extension request for ALCOSAN Consent Decree. No motion was made to ask for extension since the Engineers tell us that we are currently in compliance.

2015 Roads: Discussion took place regarding the roadway locations Council is considering rebuilding in the 2015 year. Wilson Drive between Perrysville and Penhurst has been estimated at approximately \$92,000 and contract documents have been started regarding this section of roadway. LSSE looked at Oxford Road between New Brighton and Biddeford Roads and then from Biddeford to Clovelly as well as Wilson Road from Kent to Devon and then from Devon to Newgate. All four sections of roadway are in such disrepair that the Engineers suggest rebuilding all four sections. The cost between wedge curbs and concrete curbs is considerable; therefore they submitted both costs for Council's review.

Mr. Davis noted that there are old concrete curbs under the asphalt wedge curbs along Oxford Road.

Council questioned Mr. Firek as to why underdrains were not included in the Wilson Road project to date. Mr. Firek estimated that an additional \$5600.00 would be needed

to include the underdrains along the Wilson Drive however; there is nowhere to connect them along Oxford Road.

Mrs. Raves noted that West View Water Authority submitted a letter stating that they do not have any lines along the roadway section of Wilson from Perrysville to Penhurst Roads; therefore, were not at the planning meeting. However, once they received the minutes from that meeting and noted that the Borough was considering work along the back end of Wilson Road as well as Oxford Road they may wish to consider replacing their facilities. Mr. Firek was instructed to contact Mr. Koleck of West View Water to let him know that Council is considering rebuilding these sections of roadway as well as the Columbia Gas Company representative so they are all on notice of the pending work. Mr. Firek was then questioned by Council to complete and bid the section of Wilson Road between Perrysville and Penhurst Roads. Then to get the documents started for the other four sections of roadway discussed. This work can be bid at a later date. Mayor Dismukes noted that we have funds in our Reserve Account that could be used to cover some of this roadway work.

Mr. Radcliffe asked if Council would consider adding a sidewalk along Perrysville Road from the crosswalk to the corner at Wilson. Mr. Firek was asked to show unit pricing for this additional work.

Mr. Davis **made a motion** to accept the proposal for additional engineering services indicated on the Service Order Authorization in the amount of \$12,000.00 for Lennon Smith Souleret to proceed with the work for the sections of roadway reconstruction along Wilson Road and Oxford Road. Mr. Isherwood seconds that motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Firek left the meeting.

2. **Vote to approve December Minutes:** Mr. Cuteri **made a motion** to approve the December Minutes as presented. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Vote to approve the December and January Treasurer's Reports:** Mr. Cuteri **made a motion** to approve the December and January Treasurer's Reports - submitted previously by email to Council. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. Mr. Davis reviewed the 2014 end of year Budget to Actual report stating that we were under our budgeted income. Mrs. Raves reminded Council that \$26,500 of that amount is due to Shannopin Country Club's reassessed value. Then Mr. Davis pointed out that total expenditures were under budget over the 2014 year, only the Solicitor's line was over budget. Mr. Davis then noted that some of the overage was due to unanticipated legal actions necessary last year.

Mrs. Raves was questioned as to whom the \$20,000.00 check for the Planning Commission was made out to and she notified Council that it was to be transferred to the Planning Commission account. Council reviewed the current Planning Commission account balance and decided to have that money deposited into the Reserve Account. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Police Report:** A written report was distributed previously to Council by email but it was essentially a quiet month in the Borough. Hunting calls have come in. Mrs. Raves informed the Police Sargent that she met a man on Courtney Mill Road who was asked by Shannopin Country Club to be on their property and shoot Coyotes.

5. Fire Report: Chief noted there was nothing to report. A weekly Fish Fry will be held starting February 20th at the Fire Station during lent.
6. EMS Report: The report was given last month.
7. Public Comment: Mr. Radcliffe had nothing more to add at this time.
8. Road Paving / AIM Loan Application: Mr. Isherwood voiced his concern regarding the condition of Courtney Mill Road. Mr. Davis noted that during a discussion he had with Harry Dilmore last year regarding a portion of roadway and it was understood that West View Water will be working to replace the line in the middle of the road this year. So, until that work is completed we will be holding off working on this stretch of road. Mrs. Raves stated that she will contact Avalon to get potholes patched shortly along Wilson and Courtney Mill Roads.

Discussion took place regarding all roadways being considered for reconstruction as well as funding these projects. Council reviewed the possibility of changing the AIM loan application to include the anticipated costs for the additional 4 sections of roadway that LSSE will be preparing for bidding. It was determined that due to West View Water's stated timeline that we will not be changing the application from the original \$92,766.00 request to get that portion of work completed in 2015. Mrs. Raves had submitted, by email, the application that she and Lennon Smith Souleret had compiled for Council's review.

Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to authorize the submission of the AIM Loan Application subject to comments raised by Council over the next few days. Mr. Kolenda seconds the motion. Discussion took place regarding Council's second review of the document before submission. ***The motion passed unanimously.*** Council was asked to take a final look at the application and make any comments by Friday February 13th. Mrs. Raves will submit the application early next week.

9. Council Terms: It was noted that, Mr. Berardi, Mr. Keelan, Mr. Kolenda and Mrs. Smith are up for reelection at the end of 2015. Mr. Dismukes will get the necessary forms to each of these members for their completion to be on the Spring Primary Ballot.
10. Real Estate Tax Collector: Mrs. Raves informed Council that the State of Pennsylvania has passed legislation requiring all Real Estate Tax Collectors to be qualified. This will mandate that each candidate take a class, pass a test and background check before running for office. All current Tax Collectors are grandfathered in but will be required to complete 6 hours of continuing education each year by November. Mrs. Raves asked Council if the Borough would pay these fees. Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the continuing education fees required for the Real Estate Tax Collector. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. Mr. Cuteri requested that Mrs. Raves look to see if the courses could be located for free elsewhere and Mr. Vogel suggested she ask Mr. Linnert of Jordan Tax Services and the State Tax Collectors Association for suggestions. ***The motion passed unanimously.***

11. Mrs. Raves asked Council to consider the fact that the Community Club had decided to go back to sending out the Heights Herald in paper form as well as updating the Community Directory and what their response would be the expenses of these items.

12. Council entered into Executive Session at 8:08 PM

Note; Mr. Davis left the meeting as Executive Session began. The meeting resumed at 8:13 PM.

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

This meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

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

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary