

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday June 9, 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, Keelan, Smith

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Voltz

Ohio Twp. Police: Micklos

Avalon V.F.C: Carney

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Representative: David Raves

Residents: Robert Eadie, Jennifer Fery, Bert Fery, John Radcliffe

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mr. Davis:

1. **Police Report:** An arrest was made involving car break-ins at the Country Club, it was a former employee who admitted the robberies and is currently in jail. A Fraud report, Credit Card, One Ambulance Assist and a sick raccoon.
2. **Vote to approve May Minutes:** Mr. Cuteri ***made a motion*** to approve the April Minutes as presented to Council earlier by E-mail. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
3. **Vote to approve the April Treasurer's Reports:** Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the April Treasurer's Report submitted previously by email to Council. Mr. Keelan seconds the motion. Mr. Cuteri questioned the balance of the Sewage Fund and Mrs. Raves informed Council that the balance is where we stand today with Alcosan having already been paid this quarter. Mr. Cuteri then questioned the Planning Commission balance and Mrs. Raves informed Council that the \$39,000 in this account is from the previous two years. Nothing was added to the account his year. Mr. Davis noted that the footnotes on the account sheets indicate that the final payment of the 2009 A.I.M. Loan will be this year. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
4. **Fire Report:** No Report. Council informed Chief Carney that if there was no report he can send that information in by text or email, he does not need to arrive at future meetings to say "No Report."
5. **Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan:** David Raves, the Borough's appointed representative, came to update Council on the progress of the group. Thus far, they have been assembling basic background information. Ben Avon Heights' focus will be to keep the "Status Quo", or to keep the Borough as Single Family usage. Mr. Raves asked Council if they would be in favor of a combined Zoning Ordinance. Council said, "No". Mr. Raves indicated that if we are not part of

the joint zoning ordinance we cannot be protected from other usages. Mr. Cuteri, stated that Council has been advised from various legal council over the past five years that our zoning ordinance must be based on the comprehensive plan that includes all use groups, but we do not need to be part of the zoning ordinance to ensure our ability to continue with the current use groups, if there is something that Mr. Raves can provide that says this is not the case then we would need to re-consider”

The County has awarded the committee a \$35,000.00 grant for the Joint Comprehensive Plan and Kay Pierce is really pushing for community involvement and input. Once the group has something for the community to see Mrs. Raves will send an email Blast to the community. Mr. Raves stated that this process is anticipated to take 18 months and at this time they are in their 4th month. Mr. Davis questioned if we have paid any of the bills yet, and Mrs. Raves stated that she has not received a bill so; no funds have been paid out as of this date. Mrs. Raves will question Lorraine, at Avalon, regarding the billing process.

6. Public Comment: Robert Eadie, 17 Canterbury, and several other residents have formed a “Traffic Calming Committee”. They are planning to study ways to slow down the traffic and to research physical counter measures to slow traffic along Canterbury Road. Mrs. Fery noted that many drivers speed through the stop sign at Canterbury and New Brighton Roads. Mr. Davis noted that New Brighton is a State Roadway therefore the State would need to be petitioned in order to have anything changed along that roadway. Mr. Eadie questioned the need for a permit to go door to door with a petition regarding traffic calming and Council informed him that one was not needed. Mr. Davis requested that the committee study all the roadways in the Borough. Mr. Eadie passed out a copy of the Pennsylvania’s Traffic Calming Handbook.
7. Courtney Mill Road Discussion: Mr. Davis met with representatives from Kilbuck Township to look at the roadway on Wednesday May 6th. West View Water is still waiting for information from Kilbuck Township to proceed with replacement of their line along that roadway which is owned by both BAHB and Kilbuck. A copy of our Ordinance was forwarded to Mr. John Fader regarding street openings. Discussion took place regarding the fact that Kilbuck Township has asked BAHB to send a joint letter to West View Water outlining the requirements of their work along that stretch of roadway. Mr. Davis noted that he would contact Mr. Fader to discuss the progress of this matter.
8. Engineer’s Report (submitted by email) : The ACO Feasibility Study Report was submitted to the County on July 17,2013. The Annual Waste load Management Report was submitted to ALCOSAN on February 24, 2015 and the information regarding the CCTV information requested by the County Health Department was forwarded to them February 27, 2015.
Hauling Permit: One Permit was reviewed for 6 Lynton Lane.
2015 Roads: T.A. Robinson is scheduled to begin work on Wilson Drive Monday June 15, 2015.
9. AIM Loan Submission Review: Mr. Voltz reported that our submission is back to the A.I.M. office and is under final review of their solicitor. If an invoice was received by the Borough, it can be submitted to the A.I.M. office at this time.
10. Park Request: Michelle Dawley submitted a written request to hold a birthday party at the park for their son on Monday June 15th at 12:00 noon till approximately 2:30 PM. (In case of rain the day will change to Tuesday June 16th at the same time.) Ten guests have been invited. Council approved the use of the park for this party. It was discussed that the roadway construction is scheduled to begin that same day and Mrs. Raves was asked to notify the police department of the situation.
11. Street Sign Replacement Project: Mrs. Raves showed Council several options for the sign toppers that could be used on the street name signs. Discussion took place regarding the design and colors of the signs and the poles. Mr. John Radcliffe stated that he had been in contact

with Lake Shore and felt that their painted signs would meet the requirements. Mr. Cuteri asked Mrs. Raves to contact Mr. Firek for a list of requirements that could be forwarded to Lake Shore and other sign companies to see if we could obtain a different look other than the typical PennDOT signage. Council discussed the possibility of having residents vote on the signs regarding the color selections as well as the poles that will support them. It was discussed that samples could be installed at the park for all to see and to vote.

Mr. Eadie noted that there was a sign manufacturer in Aliquippa that might be able to bid on the project. (National Sign Inc. 724 266-1881)

12. Hedge Height Issue: Mayor Dismukes noted that the hedges at the inside curve of Wilson Road is over the height limit for that such location. Mrs. Raves will send a letter to the owner siting Ordinance enforcement.

Several properties in the Borough were discussed as to having "obnoxious vegetation". Council requested that Mrs. Raves forward an email blast to the residents reminding them of the Ordinance. Letters would be forwarded to offending properties in the future if not corrected. John Radcliffe noted that he felt that the hedges along Lynton Lane are too high, siting concern over small children running to parked cars along Lynton. Mrs. Raves noted that she had been in touch with Walt's Landscaping regarding cutting the hedges as well as the weeds along Briar Cliff and Cambridge Roads. Mr. Radcliffe noted that if the hedges were cut to approximately 1'-0" high in the fall the hedges would not be killed and they would be lower for next year.

Mr. Radcliffe then informed Council that there was a broken tree in the "climbing bush" at the park. Mrs. Raves will get Walt's on that project as well.

Mrs. Raves noted that she had a discussion with Avalon regarding street sweeping on Cambridge and that the bottom of that roadway was going to need additional attention. Mrs. Smith noted concern that since the Storm Sewer Inlets had just been cleaned that the roads needed to be cleaned soon to insure the inlets don't just get clogged again.

Mr. Fery asked about pothole repair. Mrs. Raves stated that Avalon was to begin that work later this week and if Mr. Fery, or anyone, saw a pothole that was missed after the work was completed to notify Mrs. Raves of its location.

13. Tennis Court maintenance: Mr. Cuteri presented prices from Lutz Tennis & Asphalt Co. for cleaning and resurfacing the court. Council agreed with his recommendation to have the court power washed, the cracks sealed and an application of two coats of Sportmaster Neutral Concentrate surface on the play area only. Line striping will be redone as well for a total of \$3,270.00

14. Ordinance Request: Mr. and Mrs. Fery requested to see all of the Borough's Ordinances. Mrs. Raves will forward them by email.

15. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 8:39 PM.

The meeting resumed at 9:26 PM.

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

This meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday July 14th, 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Submitted by Denise Raves, Secretary