

## **Borough of Ben Avon Heights**

### **Tuesday, January 12, 2016 - Council Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of council was held at Avalon Volunteer Fire Department at 7:00 P.M.

A quorum is in attendance

#### **Present:**

Council Members: Cuteri, Davis, Isherwood, Smith

Council Elect: Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Firek, Lennon Smith Souleret

Avalon Fire Chief: Carney and President Zivic

Ohio Twp. Police Chief: Micklos

NWEMS: Dudash

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Public: Jane Cinicola (4 Kent), Betsy Wotherspoon (Real Estate Broker for 4 Kent), Dout Tait (Tait Engineering for 4 Kent), Robert Eadie, Matt Mertz, Lisa Mertz, Tara Robertson, Bryan Robertson (potential new owners of 4 Kent), Alexis McCune (14 Oxford Road), Matthew Secosky (14 Oxford Road), David Raves (6 Lynton Lane).

The meeting began at 7:05 PM. (Mayor Dismukes was caught in unusually heavy traffic and was not present at this time so the member heard reports at this time.)

1. Fire Report: No issues report. Mr. Zivic thanked Council and the Residents of Ben Avon Heights for their support all year and at their events such as Christmas Tree Sales and Fish Fries. Members of Council thanked the Fire Company for their service.
2. EMS Report: Mr. Dudash gave a recap of 2015 were the average response time to a call in Ben Avon Heights was approximately 7 minutes.
3. Police Report: Chief Micklos noted that there were no unusual incidents to report.
4. Engineer's Report: Mr. Firek – ACO discussion, It appears that Alcosan will be assuming ownership and O&M responsibilities for the multi-municipal trunk sewers 10" or greater. Based on the discussion during a meeting with Alcosan in August of 2015, the two line segments that were under consideration do not meet current regionalization criteria. In January 2016 LSSE issued a letter to Alcosan, on the behalf of the Borough,

requesting that the section of line from Church Ave, in Ben Avon, to the Borough's border be included in the regionalization scope. To date, the Borough has not heard from Ben Avon Borough regarding this section of line and the letter that was sent as a response to their letter requesting BAHB assist them with payment of CCTV work on this line.

No hauling permits were reviewed this month.

2016 Road work. LSSE transmitted information to Mrs. Raves for submission to AIM for a new loan consideration. The engineers suggest adding the section of roadway and inlets at the low part of Banbury Lane, (around 9 & 11 Banbury) to the 2016 project if possible since the collapsed inlet is contributing to the poor drainage at the intersection.

Sewer tap-in for 4 Kent Road was discussed. This property is under sales agreement but is required to add a sewer line due to its failing septic system. Mr. Firek reported that a grinder pump with a forced main would need to be added to the closest manhole, and would remain the property of the homeowner since it is a private lateral. A plan would need to be submitted to the Borough indicating the locations of the 1 ½" line and pump as well as requiring a review and inspection from the Allegheny Plumbing inspector. The homeowner will need to register with PA One call so that they would be notified for their private line when calls were made in the area. (Mr. Firek suggested that this item should be added to the agreement of sale.) Mrs. Jane Cinicola, of 4 Kent reviewed their process thus far regarding leaving the property on septic. This information seemed to indicate that adding the house to the main sanitary sewer line was the best option. Mr. Tait, of Tait Engineering requested a copy of the Borough's sewer map. Mr. Firek will provide.

Mr. Cuteri asked when we could bid the roadway work. Mr. Firek stated that they thought that Council could move to advertise in February, put the project out for bid in March, open bids April 11<sup>th</sup> and award a contract on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Notice to proceed would go the successful bidder in May. Mr. Firek was instructed to put the project out including all of Oxford Road and the remainder of Wilson Drive as the base bid with an alternate to add the work at Banbury.

5. Mayor Dismukes swears in Mrs. Janae Smith and Mr. John Radcliffe to Council.  
A quorum is in attendance at this time.
6. Nomination of Council President and Vice President: Mr. Isherwood nominated **Mr. Davis for President of Council.** Mrs. Smith seconds this nomination. **A vote took place electing Mr. Davis to the post. 4 votes Aye... Mr. Davis voted Nay.**  
Mr. Davis **nominated Mr. Cuteri as Vice President,** Second by Mr. Radcliffe. **The vote was unanimous.**
7. Mr. Davis **made a motion** to appoint Mr. Robert Eadie to Council for a 2 year term, seconded by Mr. Radcliffe. **The vote passed.**
8. Mayor Dismukes swears in Mr. Eadie to Council.
9. Mr. Davis Called the meeting to Order at 7:28 PM.
10. Council Committee member assignments:

Official Appointments: Discussion took place regarding the open positions and Ms. Alexis McCune attended and submitted her resume for consideration for appointment to the ACORD Board.

Streets/Lights/Water -	Mark Davis, Rick Berardi and John Radcliffe
Fire/Police –	Mayor Dismukes
Finance –	Mayor Dismukes, Alan Cuteri and Mark Davis
Sewers/Consent Decree –	John Isherwood
Recreation –	Alan Cuteri
Insurance –	Rick Berardi
ANTCC (Allegheny North Tax Collection Committee) Representatives –	Alan Cuteri and John Isherwood

Solicitor	Tucker Arensberg Attorney - John Vogel
Secretary/Treasurer	Denise Raves
Engineer	Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineers
Police Chief	Ohio Township Police Department Chief Micklos
Fire Chief	Avalon Fire Chief William Carney
Zoning Officer	Tom Price
Zoning Hearing Board (3 year staggered terms)	Kati Von-Lehman – 2014 to 2016 Jason Brown – 2016 to 2018 David Raves - 2015 to 2017
Building Inspector	Building Inspection Underwriters of PA
Emergency Management Coordinator	Scott Dismukes working with Avalon on this appointment
Judge of Elections	Matt Wensel
ACORD Authority and Board	Ken Bernauer, Authority: Rob Spoharski Alexis McCune, board
Auditors	Hosack, Specht, Muetzel & Wood LLP
Earned Income Tax Collector	Keystone Collections Group
Elected Real Estate Tax Collector	Denise Raves
Deputized Real Estate Tax Collector	Jordan Tax Services
Planning Commission	Al Cuteri Peter Keelan
Legal Advertising	The Citizen
Bank	Northwest Savings Bank

**Mr. Davis made a motion** approving all the above listed appointments. Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**11. December 2015 Minutes:**

- **A motion was made** by Mrs. Smith to approve the December 2015 Minutes. Mr. Isherwood seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**12. December 2015 Treasurer's Report**

- **Mr. Isherwood made a motion** to approve the December 2015 Treasurer's Report. **Mrs. Smith seconds the motion.** Mr. Cuteri asked about and reviewed the current loans that the Borough has to date as well as questioning the transfer to the Reserve

Fund. Mrs. Raves noted that the transfer was the unused amount left from last year's budget. The ***motion passed unanimously as distributed.***

**13. Kilbuck Comprehensive Plan:** David Raves, 6 Lynton Lane, reviewed the plan submitted by Kilbuck Township for review by neighboring communities. Mr. Raves noted that the areas adjacent to Ben Avon Heights Borough have not really changed much. They have updated local trends and the land use map. Mayor Dismukes asked if there were any implications regarding this submission and what is currently being developed by the multi-municipal group involved in our Plan. Mr. Raves indicated that he did not see anything at this time. Council decided to not submit any comment regarding this matter.

Mr. Raves noted that he recently received a first draft of our new plan and had forwarded it to Mr. Cuteri. Mrs. Raves was asked to send the draft to all council and the solicitor.

**14. Adoption of Alcosan Rate Increase:** Mrs. Raves noted that Alcosan will be increasing their sewage treatment charges as well as quarterly sewage service charges. Jordan Tax Services needs to know if they are to pass these charges on to our residents, or will the Borough absorb them? Mr. Vogel noted that Council had previously passed a resolution that will perpetually pass these charges along to the residents. Mrs. Raves noted that she will inform Jordan.

**15. Park Improvements:** Mr. Cuteri reported that he has an idea of what the new fountain in the park should look like. It is a concrete unit designed to appear as natural stone with a number of heights for various users. He feels that with the donation from the Centennial Committee and Council's matching \$5,000.00 that the project would be feasible. Mr. Cuteri will contact the manufacturer to discuss pricing and will look for a contractor to perform the work.

Mr. Cuteri also reported that he felt that ornamental pear trees would be a good choice for replacing the missing trees along Lynton and New Brighton Roads. Mayor Dismukes questioned the use of this species of tree and Ms. McCune noted that she was involved with this type of work and would forward a list of trees to Mr. Cuteri for his review. Mr. Cuteri was hoping to get the trees planted this year with a yearlong contract for their care by the installer.

Council asked Mrs. Raves to contact Walt's Landscaping to obtain an estimate to clean out the underbrush in the Park between the ball field and the Penhurst Resident's properties.

**16. Roadway Reconstruction Prioritization:** Council deferred this matter till after the winter freeze thaw season. Mrs. Smith noted that she had been approached regarding the icy conditions along the property and below 4 Ben Avon Heights Road. Council noted that this property is not in our Borough and the road is owned by the State. Persons with concerns should contact the State.

**17. Final Payment for Sewer work behind Stratford:** Mrs. Raves reported that the final payment for the Sewer project was August 7, 2014 and that this would make this project eligible for submission regarding the ACO Phase 1 as a "Demonstration Project". Council asked Mrs. Raves to get that information to the Engineers for submission.

18. Notification to Shannopin Country Club regarding speeding: Mayor Dismukes and Mr. Davis will discuss this matter with the Club after they reopen in February.

19. Specifications for Sign break away poles: Mr. Radcliffe reported that he had not yet received a quote from Lake Shore due to their holiday schedule. He did discuss the fact that the aluminum pole that was obtained during the mock up period was lighter and less expensive and would like Council to consider using them.

Mr. Cuteri stated that he would get an acceptable break-away base for specification and bidding of the poles, break away bases and installation. Mrs. Raves has documents ready indicating the number of signs and their locations. Council and Mrs. Raves will compile names of contractors to contact to bid the installation portion of the project.

20. ACO Sewage Payments: Mrs. Raves asked Council for guidance regarding a discussion during the October Finance Committee meeting instructing her to pay ACO fees from the Engineer and Solicitor from the Sewage Fund. Council instructed Mrs. Raves not to proceed with that suggestion.

21. Tires in the Cemetery: A resident had noted that there were tires in the Cemetery and wondered if Council would pay to have them picked up if he dragged them out of the Cemetery. Council noted that the Cemetery is not owned by BAHB and could not perform work on their property. The resident could contact the Church that owns the Cemetery for Action.

22. Executive Session: Council entered into Executive Session at 8:03 PM

23. Council resumed session at 8:34 PM

This meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday February 9th at 7:00 at Avalon Volunteer Fire Company.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer