

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, July 12, 2016 - Council Meeting Minutes

The regular 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, Radcliffe, Smith

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Ohio Twp. Police: Beck

NorthWest EMS: Dudash

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Mr. Davis began the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. EMS Report: Mr. Dudash reported that the average response time to the Borough is 7.6 minutes. Mr. Radcliffe noted that he personally used their services and was very pleased with their efficiency and professionalism.
2. Garbage Service Bids: Mr. Davis opened the three bids (Republic, Valley Waste and Waste Management) received for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 contract years of our garbage and recycling project. It appears that Valley Waste Services is the low bidder. Mrs. Raves will review in depth and notify the bidders.
3. Vote to approve June Meeting Minutes: Mr. Berardi ***made a motion*** to approve the June Meeting Minutes as presented to Council earlier by E-mail. ***Mr. Davis seconds the motion.*** ***The motion passed unanimously.***
4. Vote to approve the June Treasurers Report: Mr. Davis ***made a motion*** to approve the June Treasurer's Report that was submitted to Council by email. ***Mr. Berardi seconds the motion.*** Mr. Davis reviewed the Borough's two loans for roadwork this year. ***The motion passed unanimously***
5. Public Comment: Bryan Robertson of 4 Kent was in attendance and asked for updated information to see if there was anything he should be doing to move the sewer line along for his property. Mr. Vogel noted that the Easement that was forwarded to him needed to be signed. Mr. Davis reported to Mr. Robertson that Council has agreed to move all paperwork through as quickly as possible and to not wait for Council meetings for approvals. Mr. Firek noted that Gibson Thomas Engineering had submitted the documents to Alcosan. They will typically take 30 days to review and then the submission will be forwarded to the PA DEP for their review and that they will likely take an additional 30 days for review.

6. Fire Report: Chief Carney called earlier in the day to report that there was nothing to report. He also reported that the Avalon Volunteer Fire Company will be receiving their new trucks in the next 6 – 8 weeks.
7. Police Report: Nothing out of the ordinary to report. A written report was forwarded to Council earlier.
8. Engineer's Report: ACO, LSSE drafted a letter submitting the Biddeford Road sewer replacement project as our "demonstration project". Mrs. Raves had the letter prepared and it was signed by Mr. Davis for submission.
Kent Road sewer line hookup: discussed earlier
2016 Roadway work was discussed. Mr. Firek reported that he would be on vacation next week but would schedule the preconstruction meeting for the 25th of July, Mr. Davis stated that he would be in attendance. The work on Banbury Lane was discussed as well as the need to maintain concrete curbs throughout the roadways regardless of their initial cost. The add alternate work involving the portion of Banbury Lane from Perrysville to just beyond the 11 Banbury driveway was discussed and it was determined that curb work can be added where needed using the unit prices submitted on the bid documents. The curbs along 5 Banbury Lane appear to be in good condition and will remain if they show stability during construction.
Wilson Road reconstruction must begin before the 26th of July per the AIM loan terms. The intersection at Wilson and Devon lane was discussed and it was decided that the turn at 21 Devon will need to be widened due to the grade and tight turn that area is always torn up by trucks.
MS-4: DEP forwarded a form letter stating that we may not be exempt from the next round of submissions and Mr. Firek stated that he did not think we would be granted another exemption and noted to Council that the request for waivers are due 12/15/2017 but the actual submissions are due 9/16/2017. The Mayor stated that it should be our goal to submit by September or October of this year.
MOU, Allegheny County Conservation District – Mr. Firek noted that since the Borough is almost fully developed that we are not really in need of this and that the agency had originally required annual submissions but has now changed that ruling. The State has a requirement of review for any soil disturbance of 5000 sq. ft. or more and could be the police agency for us in case of the future development of these areas.
9. Street sealing: Council reviewed and approved the \$1,405.00 proposal submitted by Tough Seal of Pittsburgh to seal the cracks on newly paved streets. Mr. Cuteri signed the proposal and noted on it that the work was to take place between September 15 and October 15, 2016.
10. Street Cleaning: Mr. Davis noted that Cambridge Road is in need of street cleaning. Mrs. Raves noted that she had been in touch with Avalon to have all the streets cleaned; however, as happened last year, the roadway is uneven and the street sweeping machine is not capable of doing a good job on this roadway. We have had the crew go in with shovels and brooms in the past. This may be necessary again.
11. Delinquent Payments: Mrs. Raves contact Keystone Collections regarding the procedure of obtaining the names of outstanding accounts. She was told that a non-disclosure agreement would need to be executed before information could be

received. Mr. Vogel will contact Keystone Collections regarding this matter and verify if an ordinance would need to be in place as well.

Mrs. Raves noted that obtaining the information regarding outstanding Real Estate accounts would be easy.

Council discussed when where and how often we would publish this list but no resolution was achieved.

12. Garbage Service Contract: Mr. Cuter ***made a motion*** to accept the apparent low bid for waste service contract subject to the mutual acceptance of the agreement. Mrs. Smith ***seconds this motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

13. Park improvements: Mr. Cuteri noted that he had found a new company to work with regarding the fountain design.

Mrs. Raves was instructed to contact Walt's Landscaping to not have the distressed Black Gum tree replaced till September and to get the tree over Wilson Road and the tennis court trimmed before Friday or we would contact another company for their services.

Mr. Cuteri discussed the memorial tree that was removed with the family who had it planted. He had noted that the trees removal was prompted by the fact that it was in bad health and was not marked as a memorial tree. The family will get back to us regarding how they would like the Borough to proceed. Mrs. Susan Dismukes had forwarded a report regarding the various unmarked memorial trees that are currently in the park for Mr. Cuteri's future reference.

Mr. Cuteri noted that we are working to have the playground equipment inspected in the near future and he had forwarded a contact for Mrs. Raves to move forward.

A request from Martin Knuth Jr. was forwarded to Council asking if there was a project that the Borough needed completed that could help him receive Eagle Scout level. Council discussed the need for the wood edges along the mulched play areas as well as assembling the new street signs. Mrs. Smith will discuss this with the scout to review his interest.

14. Road Signs: Mr. Radcliffe reported that Bethlehem Wire and Fence would have the sign poles by late August but asked Council to hold off on installation till all the roadwork was complete. Council agreed with this plan. Mrs. Smith offered to store the old signs after they are removed till they are successfully auctioned. It was also noted by the Mayor that the old sign poles should be recycled.

15. Street light conversion. Mr. Isherwood was not in attendance; therefore, this matter was tabled.

16. ATT request to be added to the website. Council decided to remove all companies from our website to avoid additional requests.

17. Roadway evaluation: Mr. Cuteri noted that Mr. Davis had requested Council to evaluate all the roadways in the Borough for this evening's meeting. Mr. Davis stated that a good deal of money could be saved if we changed the curb design to asphalt wedge curbs but if we continued to specify concrete curbs then we may need to consider raising taxes to pay for them. Mayor Dismukes had Mrs. Raves put together a 10 year amortization schedule for Council's review noting that we have borrowed our maximum amount and will not be able to afford additional roadwork for several years.

The roadways listed to be in the worst condition were... Briar Cliff, Banbury, Canterbury, Kent and Cambridge as well as Courtney Mill. (Although a portion of Courtney Mill was recently overlaid and now in good condition.

18. Executive Session: Council entered into executive session at 8:35. The meeting resumed at 8:45PM.

This meeting adjourned at 8:46 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday August 9th at 7:00 at Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer