

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 - Council Meeting Minutes

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

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Brown, Cuteri, Hebert, Radcliffe, Smith, Stiller

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

Engineer: Heyl, Lennon Smith Souleret

Avalon Fire: Chief Berie

OTPD: SGT. Beck

Secretary/Treasurer: Raves

Residents: Kati Von-Lehman, Clayton Morris

Mr. Cuteri began the meeting at 7:04 PM.

1. January 2018 Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the January, 2018 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mrs. Smith seconds the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**
2. January 2018 Treasurer's Report: Mr. Radcliffe made a motion to approve the January 2018 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. **Mr. Hebert seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously as distributed.**
3. Fire Report: No calls to report. The Fire Company will be hosting two Fish Fries during lent this year as well as a purse bash. Council asked the Chief to forward information regarding these events so we can pass them along to our residents.
4. Police Report: Sgt. Beck read the previously forwarded monthly report. It was another quiet month. Sgt. Beck reviewed items regarding his function as our emergency management coordinator and collected contact information for Council, the Mayor and Secretary/ Treasurer.
5. Engineer's Report: 2016 and 2018 Roadway Improvements –Mr. Heyl noted that the repair work to the two storm sewer inlets was completed and the blankets, which protected the newly poured concrete, have been removed.
2018 Roadway Improvements – Mr. Heyl passed out a bid tabulation sheet showing Council all submitted bids. The low bidder, Shields Asphalt Paving Inc., submitted a bid of \$171,582.10. LSSE also prepared a breakdown of the pricing regarding what would be Columbia Gas' costs (\$100,120.46) and what will be the Borough's (\$71,461.64). Discussion took place regarding the condition of the curbs along Banbury Lane. It was determined that the engineers will discuss milling the roadway surface deeper along the edges

of the road to expose the buried curbs once we have a signed contract. Mr. Heyl's estimate for this work was between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Discussion regarding past projects related to the sidewalks took place. It was discussed that when previous roads were paved, the Borough paid to have the sidewalks replaced. Mr. Cuteri indicated that this is not the policy of Council and that sidewalk repair and maintenance are the responsibility of the residents per ordinance.

Council then reiterated that the work underway in 2018 is due to Columbia Gas' work and that they will be paying for the repair of the roads, we are only adding base repair to extend the life of this work along affected roads and the work along Cambridge has been added due to the condition of the road as well as the fact that the Borough's main sewer line runs parallel to this roadway. We do not have the funds to do the concrete curb work at this time since that also includes underdrains and other additional work. It is the intention of the Borough to continue the road reconstruction projects throughout the Borough in the same manner as done at Oxford Road going forward after borough debt is reduced.

- 6. Public Comment:** Kati Von-Lehman asked Council if any additional efforts could be made to attract members to volunteer for the ACORD Park board. There are currently 4 members on paper for the 5 positions; however, there are only two active members. Mrs. Von-Lehman reported that Alexis McCune has stated that she has resigned from the committee; however, the Borough has not received notification of this resignation.

Mrs. Von-Lehman stated that they are discussing updating their website and the Park's logo. Mrs. Raves was asked to forward the information the Borough used for the Borough's logo contest to Mrs. Von-Lehman for her review.

Mr. Brown asked Mrs. Von-Lehman to submit marketing material to the Borough so we can add it to the Borough's website.

Mrs. Von-Lehman thanked Council for their concern and comments.

- 7. Zoning Hearing Board Applications:** Mrs. Raves stated that several residents expressed interest in the open position on the Zoning Hearing Board and only Mr. Morris showed up for the meeting to discuss with Council. Mr. Morris stated that at this time he would not be able to join that Board. Council asked Mrs. Raves to reach out to those who responded to the email and request they submit a letter of interest.

- 8. Zoning Hearing Board Application submissions:** Mrs. Raves reported that there was one submission for a rear yard addition to 14 Devon Lane that has received approval from the Zoning officer.

Mrs. Raves noted that the Zoning Hearing Board's approval of Shannopin Country Clubs new fitness facility has been appealed to the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Vogel stated that normally the judge will call them in and have briefs submitted.

Mrs. Raves reported that the retaining wall at Banbury Lane was scheduled to go back to the Magistrate on February 28th if not resolved.

- 9. Digital Communications Committee Presentation:** Mr. Brown and Mr. Stiller presented their idea for getting information to the residents in various manners such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Their goal is to improve communications and engagement between the Borough and its residents through the use of its website and social media platforms.

Mr. Brown has updated the Borough's website, removed unused portions and added the links for other media.

President Cuteri and Mayor Dismukes expressed concern over how the content to these sites would be safeguarded. Mr. Brown stated that only he and Mr. Stiller will be able to place information on those platforms.

Mr. Brown stated that these platforms will shadow the email blasts already put out by the Borough. The idea is to get the residents interested and have them go to the Borough's website.

10. Park Fountain Restoration Review: Mr. Radcliffe reported that the existing fountain was removed in December by Donatelli Monument for refurbishment. The basin was sent to Vermont for use as a template for a new one. Donatelli will clean the stone sides. New water lines will be installed and a new stone base will be completed.

Mr. Radcliffe brought with him the bronze plaque that was refinished by Matthew's International. (It looks like new.)

Discussion took place regarding adding a new plaque thanking the Centennial Committee for their generous donation toward the new fountain.

11. Sunshine Act Discussion: Mr. Vogel discussed the need for Council to be careful, especially in such a small community, when and where discussions take place. If a quorum is in attendance at a function then Borough matters cannot be discussed. He will forward a publication with general rules for Council's review.

12. Executive Session: At 8:17 Council went into Executive Session.

13. Meeting Resumed at 8:40

This meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday March 13th at Avalon Volunteer Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Raves, Secretary/ Treasurer