

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 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: Cuteri, Mihalko, Smith, Stiller, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Rob and Lori Neubieser, Clayton Morris, Paul Blake

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

1. **September 2019 Minutes:** Mr. Dismukes asked that the minutes be amended, as he was not at our September 2019 meeting. **A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the September meeting minutes. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**
2. **September 2019 Treasurer's Report:** This item will be tabled until next meeting as the financials were not ready by our meeting.
3. **Police Report:** For the month of September, Chief Hanny reported a quiet month with 93 calls, 90 of those calls' routine.
4. **Engineers report:** Mr. Heyl was unable to attend our meeting; the following information was provided via memo:
 - a. *Contract was awarded to Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$171,582.10. Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. provided a schedule with a tentative start date of August 5, 2019. LSSE holding a Pre-Construction Meeting and will request a revised schedule from Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. based on excluding pavement of Banbury from Perrysville to Briarcliff. LSSE held Pre-Construction Meeting September 27, 2019. Shields Asphalt Paving, Inc. to begin work October 9, 2019.*
5. Road repaving update: Shields Paving provided the Borough a schedule, pending weather as follows:
 - a. October 9th & 10th milling
 - b. October 11th, 14th & 15th adjust and parge inlets
 - c. October 16th & 17th paving
6. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Rob and Lori Neubieser from 25 Briar Cliff are a little concerned that there is a communication gap between shields and the Borough on whether or not the road is properly marked for paving. Mr. Dismukes stated Mr. Heyl has reviewed the contract and all will be covered. Ms. DiNuzzo also confirmed that she spoke with Shields that the dead-end portion will be paved.
 - b. Paul Blake from 17 Stratford Road applied for and was approved a zoning application for some work to be done on his property. He questioned who is responsible for the abandoned sewer line that runs under the end of his driveway. His current contractor does not feel comfortable proceeding with the job as he feels they will hit this abandoned line. Mr. Cuteri reminded Mr. Blake that they discussed he should have his property surveyed to make sure the wall is going on his property and not the right away as Mr. Cuteri indicated the abandoned sewer was in the right of way, and he should not hit it. Mr. Blake would like the Borough to provide a letter stating who is responsible for this. Mr. Cuteri requested Ms. DiNuzzo to provide the zoning application to both he and Mr. Heyl for review.
7. **Zoning Application Report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of September, there were no zoning applications submitted.
8. **Update on Budget established at budget meeting, finalize and authorize advertising of budget:** There were some questions on what was being allocated on the green spaces, but Mr. Radcliffe had not returned from his vacation. Mr. Cuteri clarified what was included in the green space budget for Mr. Radcliffe. This included lawn maintenance, equipment, park clean up, and knot weed cleanup. The proposed 2020 budget for green space is 29,000., After some

discussion council realized the green space total would be 35,400. Mr. Dismukes mentioned he has not seen a complete 5 year budget and Mr. Cuteri confirmed, that we still need to create a 5 year budget. This will require a separate meeting so we can anticipate the loan payoffs with budget and projected road work. Council were still unaware what the community affairs budget line item is. **A motion was made to advertise the preliminary budget as amended by discussion, by Mr. Stiller. Mr. Radcliffe seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

9. Bidding for trash collection: Mr. Dismukes mentioned that there will most likely be some big changes to those who bid when it comes to recycling. Mr. Radcliffe also mentioned that he thinks Valley Waste has done a great job so far. Mr. Stiller questioned if we should have restrictions like must have Monday morning pick-ups. Council questioned if we had the right to put in what we want to be recycled or if it is up to the bidder. It was suggested that we reach out to one of the bidders on what they are willing to recycle, as it's very confusing to know currently what is and is not allowed to be recycled. Ms. DiNuzzo did note that Valley Waste did contact her, they are anxious for the bid to open. Members also questioned what the senior citizen discount entails there seems to be no indication of a monetary benefit in previous contracts so it will be eliminated from the bidding.

10. Contract renewal Avalon snow renewal and road work: Ms. DiNuzzo stated they had not sent her the new contract as of this meeting. She will follow up with them.

11. Update on parks and Landscape: Council has decided to call this greenspace in the future. Mr. Radcliffe informed members that Davey tree has just completed step one on the tree of Heaven, a Davey representative stopped by to check on the process and they already look as if they are dying. A second application will be completed to confirm the process is complete. They will then return to cut the trees down in January. The site will then be cleaned up in the beginning of Spring, where low mow grass will be planted. Mr. Cuteri questioned if a soil analysis was completed to confirm if grass like this will grow. Mr. Radcliffe did confirm that topsoil will be added, as well as the type of grass seed is designed for hillside. Leaf pick-up begins the week of October 21, 2019.

12. Ordinance enforcement in the Borough: Ms. Smith had some concerns on properties in the Borough not keeping up on their properties, such as very over grown weeds. Mr. Stiller questioned the exact definition of what a noxious weed is. Mr. Vogel suggested council review the ordinance that pertains to this topic before moving forward. Mr. Vogel also suggests that the Borough makes a list of properties and move forward with the letters. Council members should send the properties to Ms. DiNuzzo and will present the list at the November meeting.

13. Executive Session: Council entered into executive session at 8:37 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:48 pm

Mr. Stiller makes a motion to approve the consent order of court concerning the zoning appeals to the Boroughs curative amendment decision and the appeals to the zoning hearing and board decision. Mr. Mihalko seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Vogel also added that for the up and coming election, council has 5 open seats, 4 are at large. For 2020, the following seats are up: Mr. Berardi, Mr. Radcliffe, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Hebert as well as Mr. Stiller who is a 2-year term.

This meeting adjourned at 8:56pm

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday November 12, 2019 at Avalon Volunteer Fire Department

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary