

**Borough of Ben Avon Heights**

**Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, Hebert, Mihalko, Smith, Stiller

Solicitor: Vogel, Tucker Arensberg

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Avalon Volunteer Fire: Chief Berie

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Mara Cregan, Marty Knuth, Lester, Olson, Alexis Secosky, Susann

Schneider **Mr. Cuteri began the meeting at 7:00 PM.**

1. **August 2019 Minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the August 2019 Minutes previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Hebert seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
2. **August 2019 Treasurer's Report:** *Mr. Hebert made a motion to approve the August 2019 Treasurer's Report previously distributed to Council by email. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed with 4 yes, one member abstained.*
3. **Police Report:** For the month of August, Chief Hanny reported that there was a total of 100 calls, 93 of those were routine.
4. **Fire Report:** Chief Berie reported for the month of August, it was very quiet with no calls. He also reported for the month of July, as he was unable to attend, and there was one call.
5. **Engineer's Report:** Mr. Heyl reported to council that he had reached out to Columbia Gas on our behalf, informing them that we were not happy with the fact that their project was still not complete as promised. He also informed them of the complaint of the dumped materials off of Briar Cliff, they informed him the illegal dumping was from west view water. Mr. Heyl was unable to reach out to West View water before the council meeting, but will reach out this week. Columbia did inform Mr. Heyl that they will pave the section of Banbury where the curb will be put in separately, so we can begin the paving project. Mr. Heyl also noted that he is working on meeting with Shields on a paving schedule; once he has the schedule, he will give it to Ms. DiNuzzo so she can inform the community. Ms. Smith noted that when the West View road work happened, she was disappointed in the lack of communication and signage. She would like in the future if there could be some sort of notification to the community. Mr. Cuteri and Mr. Heyl both mentioned West View is not the best at relaying this information to us, but if we have the information in the future, we will get it to the community. Mr. Mihalko questioned what the material of Cambridge is made of as of now, because in the past the road was just chipped. Mr. Heyl informed Mr. Mihalko that there is asphalt. Mr. Cuteri mentioned he had been in communication with Tri-State over Cambridge Roads catch basins. Tri-State informed Mr. Cuteri that there are three outfalls on Cambridge that will need to be extended. Tri-State will have the work excavated and then they would extend the piping as they were buried and clogged. Mr. Heyl brought the map of the Borough catch basins, it was reviewed to see if the catch basin in Ms. Cregan's driveway on Borough storm system or not; from the map, the catch basin in question is not on the boroughs system.
6. **Public Comment:**

Ms. Secosky at 14 Oxford Road ran into Mr. Radcliffe one evening in the park and he approached Ms. Secosky and they began discussing the knot weed and obnoxious weeds in the right of ways that are problematic. She suggested the Borough use goat scaping to get rid of these obnoxious weeds that are problematic to the Borough as it's chemical free, the goats love these types of weeds and they fertilize the ground as well. She looked into some pricing and it looks as if for a week, it could be between \$700-1000.00, which would be significantly cheaper than herbicides. She also mentioned that there are neighboring Boroughs that did crowd funding to fund such a project.

Ms. Cregan from 19 Cambridge Road thanked council for having Tri-State come clean the catch basins out on Cambridge, but also wanted to let council know that the front of the catch basins is completely clogged. Mr. Cuteri said that council is aware of this, and Tri-state plans to return to excavate the clogged pipes. Ms. Cregan asked how they would do this as she

is concerned for the state the retaining wall is in. Mr. Cuteri informed Ms. Cregan that this would not affect the wall. She also requested a time frame and as of the meeting, council did not have one from Tri-State.

Mr. Olson from 17 Cambridge wanted to know if Cambridge would be repaved as he had read in previous minutes and communication from the Borough. Mr. Cuteri explained that Cambridge will be repaved, but further reconstruction of the road will happen in the future once the Borough pays off some loans. Mr. Olson is slightly concerned with the situation with Ms. Cregans property and the drainage. He was happy to see that Tri-State had come to assess the situation, and have a plan of action to fix the catch basins, but he was perplexed to hear that the inlet at the end of Ms. Cregans driveway is not public, but private. Mr. Cuteri explained that many homes in the Borough have these, and according to the sewage drain map of the Borough that Mr. Heyl provided council, the drain at the end of Ms. Cregans driveway would be private. Ms. Cregan will send surveys to Mr. Cuteri that show that this drain is the Boroughs, and she also stated that up until 5 years ago, the drain was always cleaned by the Borough. She also stated the past two secretaries told her they would get her a new cover. Ms. Cregan also had some concern as she was speaking with Columbia Gas workers and they told her they may need to do some work on her property and she wanted to know a good contact for Columbia Gas. Mr. Hebert gave her Philip Spencer. It was also suggested that Ms. Cregan should do a dye test to see where the drain connects to see if it is separate from the sewer system.

Mr. Knuth of 26 Banbry Lane wanted to know when the road project would begin. Mr. Cuteri explained we had discussed this earlier in the meeting, Mr. Heyl our engineer is meeting with Shields paving to work on a paving project for hopefully at the end of September. He questioned why Columbia Gas is not overseeing this. Mr. Cuteri explained they are just paying for the paving. He also asked what was the outcome of the curb on Banbury. Mr. Cuteri explained that this was supposed to be completed in a previous work job years ago.

Ms. Shneider of 7 Biddeford Road was wondering if council could let the community know when roads would be closed for construction purposes as she had a difficult time getting to her home the other day. Mr. Cuteri did inform Ms. Shneider that the Borough is supposed to be informed, but this past week it seems as if the companies forgot to inform us. She was thankful to hear that the first responders are notified of the roads that would be closed.

7. **Contract Renewal Valley Waste:** Ms. DiNuzzo informed council that Valley Waste recently contacted her to remind her the contract will be up at the end of the year and wanted to know if council would be putting out bids or resigning. Mr. Cuteri informed Ms. DiNuzzo the Borough typical puts bids out for this, council would like to see what else is out there as all are curious what the rules for glass collection will be.
8. **Contract renewal Avalon snow removal and road work:** Mr. Vogel looked over the current contract and suggest Ms. DiNuzzo to reach out to Avalon to see if the rate is the same. Mr. Hebert also requested that Ms. DiNuzzo ask them if they had fixed the snow truck that was out of commission last winter.
9. **Zoning Application Report:** Ms. DiNuzzo reported for the month of August, there were no zoning applications submitted to the Borough.
10. **Parks and Landscape:** Mr. Radcliffe was unable to attend this meeting but he did discuss some items with Mr. Cuteri, and will review his proposed landscape budget for 2020.
11. **Budget meeting:** The Borough budget meeting is scheduled for September 26th 2019 at 7pm at Shannopin Country Club.
12. **Street signs:** Mr. Hebert and Mr. Radcliffe walked around the community reviewing signs such as stop signs, no parking signs, etc. He felt that there are some that need to be replaced and wanted to address this issue to council.
13. **Executive Session:** Council entered into executive session at 7:55 P.M

The meeting resumed at 8:10 P.M.

This meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next monthly meeting is Tuesday October 8, 2019 at 7pm at Shannopin Country Club.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary