



Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, September 10th, - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Brown, Lope, Morris, Neunder, Stiller

Police: Chief Hanny

Fire:

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Mongilio

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Damian Liska 19 Banbury Lane, Connor Hassan 18 Oxford Road, Chad Slencak 30 Wilson Drive

Call to Order: Mr. Brown started the meeting at 7pm

- 1. Approval of August 2024 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Ms. Berardi seconds the motion.* Mr. Dismukes caught a typo, in the greenspace section item 6, it should be Ms. Berardi, not Mr. Berardi. Mr. Lope added one more item for section 6, the last sentence to put a period after resources and end the sentence there. *Motion passed.*

- 2. Approval of August 2024 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the August 2024 financials. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown informed Council and the public that as of this month we are roughly balanced with debits and credits. We did open the roads fund with \$1,000 but did not transfer funds in for the month of August; In 2023 the Borough had a \$33,000-budget allocated for our roads fund, in 2024 we have a \$50,000 budget which leaves us a balance of \$87,000. We have almost half a million in our General Fund, so we'll transfer the \$87,000 into the roads fund as planned. He added that we have \$295,000 collected in taxes and about \$37,000 more to collect, as the end of August was the deadline. Finally, he added, we will not transfer funds into or out of the reserve account in 2024 as we did not experience a shortfall this year. Mr. Brown noted that on the revenue side the Borough is doing well, on the expense side we are over on the solicitor and Borough engineer a bit due to the ongoing projects the Borough is completing. Mr. Brown would like Mr. Stiller to look over line 408.01 Road Improvements to see where those items should be allocated because he does not believe they belong there. *Motion passed.*

- 3. Emergency Management:**
 - a. Fire: *No fire present.*
 - b. Police: *Report below.*

- 4. Public Comment:** Damian Liska at 19 Banbury Lane updated Council on the Avonworth park as he is the Ben Avon Heights representative. He noted they have an operating budget of \$381,241.53 and \$195,000 of that is deposits for future events; the pool budget is \$42,000. He added the pool continues to have some plumbing issues that pop up as it is a very antiquated system. In addition, some of the improvements throughout the park were: an updated security system, a new pavilion roof, updated basketball courts and they continue to update and maintain the park trails. They are working to connect the Avonworth park with other green spaces, including an easement in the works with Animal Friends; their 5-year goal is to connect these trails together and lead up to the Avonworth High School. He added a highlight for the park, they will be featured in WQED's best park series. Mr. Liska continued that the challenges Avonworth Park is experiencing with more interest from the public and events is that their parking is limited. They are very grateful for the assistance Ohio Township Police has provided this past year with their large events. The aging pool continues to be a challenge. Mr.

Disumkes questioned if there have been any discussions about a capital campaign to replace the pool. Mr. Liska noted it was discussed in the past. He added that there are two members on the Avonworth committee from the community who specialize in grant writing. They're excited to explore these opportunities with the help of these knowledgeable community members. Mr. Liska added they still have some events lined up, they just had their end of summer dog swim, the trail cleanup is September 14th, Oktoberfest is October 12th and breakfast with Santa is in December. Mrs. Neunder raised the question of if Avonworth Park had a long-term park maintenance plan in place. Mr. Liska believes that they do have an older plan that still is referred to but certainly could use some updating. Ms. Berardi asked if there were additional ways the public could volunteer for clean-up projects within the park. Mr. Liska stated they do lots of additional smaller events with the boy scouts and girl scouts and will always welcome additional help. Please reach out to Mr. Liska if that's of interest. Mr. Stiller thanked Mr. Liska for volunteering his time with Avonworth park.

Connor Hassan at 18 Oxford Road came to Council to present a proposal for reimbursement. Both he and his neighbors at 20 Oxford recently purchased and replaced the limestone in their shared driveway. This is actually a cartway as he has learned, therefore it is technically owned by the Borough and residents use this to cut through. The cost came to about \$500, \$250 for each property; he added that this project does not happen annually, therefore this would not be a recurring cost or request from them. Council thanked Mr. Hassan for attending and requested Mr. Hassan share the invoice with Ms. DiNuzzo for Council's review. This will be discussed further at October's meeting.

5. Infrastructure and Operations:

- a. Engineers report: (Memo below): Mr. Stiller added Avalon DPW filled the pothole at Briar Cliff and Clovelly as well as the other end of Clovelly, which they understand will probably be a temporary fix.
- b. LSA grant bid for sewer project update: LSSE had a preconstruction meeting on August 29th. Jetjack understands how communication is key with this project. They will have a field meeting next week to go over the more challenging properties on Banbury and Briar Cliff.
- c. Canterbury sidewalk project: LSSE stated the grant paperwork is all set, will just need the resolution which will be discussed and approved this evening.
- d. Tourism Fund (GEDTF) Resolution, vote: *A motion was made to approve the Canterbury Road Sidewalk and Curb Improvements Project concurring resolution by Mr. Stiller Ms. Berardi seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown noted this grant is for \$361,000. Mr. Stiller added this is the Canterbury Road and Sidewalks project and the grant is from the Gaming and Economic and Tourism Fund, also referred to as the GEDTF. *Motion passed.*
- e. Speed Signs: Mr. Heyl noted that PennDot came back with a few questions, LSSE revised the application and resubmitted on behalf of the Borough. This will most likely be approved and will be able to begin installation in a few weeks.

6. Green Spaces Update:

- a. Park Maintenance Update: Mrs. Neunder noted that A&N delivered 90 yards of playground mulch and the Borough had a two-day event helping distribute the mulch over the allotted areas in need of new mulch. This saved the Borough thousands of dollars in manual work. She added A&N trimmed the hedges back on Lynton Lane to improve the site lines. They are also going to follow up and confirm on the work that was supposed to have taken place on Briar Cliff and Banbury Lane.
- b. Beautification plan Update: Ms. Berardi noted that the greenspace committee had Ms. DiNuzzo send the list of questions out to 18 prospective vendors. One has already declined as another followed up with additional questions; they have a deadline of September 23rd. They aim to present it to Council at the October 8th meeting.

7. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:

- a. Zoning Ordinance update: Mr. Stiller noted they have finished the definitions section and will begin on page 35 at the September 2024 working meetings.
- b. Code enforcement issues:
 - i. Vegetation in roads and sidewalks: Mr. Brown noted that an email was sent out to the community about this issue. Some residents did update their property and there are still some areas on Wilson, particularly the curve of Wilson that are still in non-compliance. He does not want to send out emails like the borough did at the end of last year. Mrs. Neunder suggested, like the sewer easement project, that Council split up the list of properties in continuous violation and approach them in person. Mr. Brown agreed as there are only a handful of properties still in violation, any Council member who would like to volunteer they may do so. Mr. Dismukes questioned if the residents understand what can happen if they continue to ignore the Borough's communications on these violations. He added that the Borough has the right to hire their own service to take action on a property in violation. The Borough can then place a lien on the property for the cost of the service the Borough accrued from the service they hired. He feels this is an important point that the residents should be aware of. Mr. Lope openly asked Mr. Slencak his point of view as to the vegetation

hanging over Wilson Drive, and Mr. Slencak stated that the ordinances could be more clear. Mr. Stiller stated that the Borough refreshed the paint on Wilson Drive and feels it is obvious that a driver has to cross the center line to avoid hitting the vegetation that is hanging into the road. He contends that Council's next step is to send warning letters as he does not feel emails are a formal form of communication, nor do they satisfy the requirement of proper notification. Mr. Brown confirmed the process will be that a Council member will reach out to the resident, advise them of the violation, and inform them that a warning letter will be sent. Mr. Mongillo will draft up the letters. Mr. Morris will reach out to residents.

- c. Code Enforcement, Harshman Discussion: Mr. Brown noted that they did reach out to Harshman (who oversee building permits) as they also offer code enforcement services. Mr. Brown added that the fees are very reasonable. He would like Council to review these items and be prepared to vote on this topic at our October meeting. Discussion took place. Harshman would like Council to implement a process that works best for them. Mr. Stiller would like Council to project a cost number to put into the 2025 budget.
- d. Zoning applications: for the Month of August there were no applications.

8. Administration:

- a. 2025 Budget Season Kickoff: Mr. Stiller noted that the way they streamlined this process last year improved the process and would like each subcommittee to think about major costs for their areas prior to the next meeting. He'll check in with these subcommittees the week of October 16th and each team will begin to fill in the areas of the budget. Mr. Brown noted he would like to use one of the working meeting sessions for the 2025 budget. This should take place in October as November the working session is very close to the Thanksgiving holiday.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Mr. Dismukes noted that Council should appoint someone on Council to be the representative during the comprehensive planning. Mr. Morris will be the representative for Ben Avon Heights.

9. Executive session, legal: Began at 7:50pm.

10. Regular session began: 7:58pm

11. Meeting adjourned at: 8:02pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 08/01/2024 AND 08/31/2024
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

DESCRIPTION	AUGUST CALLS	YTD CALLS
Abandoned Vehicle	0	1
Accident/Hit-Run	1	1
Animal Complaint	0	1
Animal Complaint - Injured/Deceased Deer	0	1
Assist Other Agency	0	1
Burglary Alarm - Residence	0	1
Civil Dispute	0	1
County Ordinance Violation	1	1
Disorderly Conduct	0	1
Domestic Disturbance	0	2
DPW Request	0	7
EMS Call	0	13
Fire Alarm - Natural Gas	0	1
Fraud	0	1
Harassment	0	1
Juvenile Disturbance	0	1
Local Ordinance Violations- Fireworks Complaint	0	1
Local Parking Ticket	0	7
Mental Health	1	1
Parking Complaint	3	3
Parking Tickets	29	29
Police Detail - Crossing Guard	0	6
Police Detail - Directed Patrol	78	534
Property Damage	1	1
Road Hazard	0	3
Suspicious Persons	1	3
Traffic Citations	19	25
Traffic Complaint	0	2
Traffic Post	1	1
Traffic Stops	0	5
Trees on Wires	0	1
Utility Complaint	0	1
Warnings	0	7
Welfare Check	0	1
Wires Down	0	1
	135	667



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MEMO

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough DATE: September 4, 2024

FROM: Kevin A. Brett, P.E. S. O. No.: 0452-01
John R. Heyl, P.E., CPESC

SUBJECT: **September 10, 2024 Meeting
Engineering Report**

cc:

Following is a summary of the engineering services provided since the last Engineering Report:

1. **Phase II Consent Order and Agreement (COA)**

Task for the remainder of the Order include continued O&M and reporting of SSOs.

2. **Sanitary Sewer Operations and Maintenance (O&M)**

2023 O&M Repairs – Contract No. 23-S1 (Re-Bid):

- *Borough was awarded \$149,905.00 LSA Grant*
- *Base Bid and Add Alternate No. 1 were awarded via letter dated August 2, 2024 to Jet Jack, Inc.*
- *Contract Documents were issued to the Borough on August 13, 2024.*
- **The Pre-Construction Meeting was held on August 29, 2024.**
- **A Pre-Construction field meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2024.**

2024 O&M Repairs:

- *PA Small Water and Sewer Grant awarded in the amount of \$257,053.00.*
- *2023 O&M (Year 4) CCTV has been completed.*
- *2024 O&M Budget provided on December 12, 2023.*
- *2024 O&M (Year 5): CCTV and MHPS completed May 6, 2024 along Biddeford Road and Stratford Road. LSSE has developed a repair scope and project design has been initiated.*

3. **MS4 Permit**

MS4 Waiver was approved through 2028.

4. **Canterbury Sidewalk and Curb**

2023 LSA Grant has been submitted. 2024 MTF Grant has been submitted. 2024 GEDTF Grant has been submitted.

5. **Electronic Speed Sign Permitting**

Permit plans and comment responses for the Traffic Control Devices on New Brighton Road and Perrysville Road were issued to PennDOT on July 31, 2024. Revised permit plans and comment responses were issued in letters to PennDOT on August 20, 2024.

The final executed ARLE Grant application documents were submitted and a copy transmitted to the Borough on June 27, 2024.

7. **Briar Cliff/Clovelly Intersection**

LSSE reviewed the pothole that was reported to the Borough by residents. The asphalt overlay has released from the underlying concrete pavement. The depth of the asphalt pavement appears to be an overlay of approximately one inch in depth. It is recommended that the Borough consider having Clovelly Road saw cut at the Briar Cliff curb line and approximately 5 feet above the damaged area. This section of the road should be removed, base repair should be performed. Then a new asphalt road section should be installed in this area.