



Borough of Ben Avon Heights
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

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

Police: Chief Hanny

Fire:

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Mongilio

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

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

- 1. Approval of January 2025 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
- 2. Approval of January 2025 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Dawley to approve the January 2025 financials. Ms. Berardi seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown made a quick note that January is typically quiet and hard to gauge if the Borough is on track or not with the budget. He also added that he had a discussion with the accountant on some GL codes, a new process is in the works for the future. Mr. Lope added that GL 410.06 should be 410.05, the \$1500.00 is a one-time charge by A & N. Ms. Berardi questioned if the Borough could look into the North Hills Journal for a publication option. *Motion passed.*
- 3. Emergency Management:**
 - a. Fire: *No fire present.* Mr. Brown would like Mr. Dismukes to work on obtaining a fire report if no one is going to attend the meeting.
 - b. Police: *Report below.*
 - i. Ohio Township Police Contract Extension through 2026: *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the Ohio Township Police Contract extension for 1 year extension according to the contract terms. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown informed Council that our current contract ends at the end of this year; The Borough has the option to extend two years. The Borough would need to inform them 6 months prior to the contract ending. He added that it's an extremely small increase, and it would be very favorable if Council opted for the extension. *Motion passed.*
- 4. Public Comment:** *No public present to comment*
- 5. Infrastructure and Operations:**
 - a. Engineers report: (Memo below): Mr. Heyl updated Council on a memo sent out today. LSSE reviewed an area the Borough requested to be reviewed on Wilson; they have determined it's caused by a frost heave. They suggested a few options to help save the road: at a minimum to seal the road in that area so water can no longer get under the asphalt. LSSE does not feel it's necessary but a patch can also be done in that section of road. Mr. Brown would like LSSE to bid this out to see what they can get. Lastly, LSSE provided the Borough with a list of grants coming up on the last page of their memo; if the Borough sees any that they are interested in, LSSE will assist in grant applications.

- b. LSA grant sewer project update: LSSE noted that Jet Jack will complete the project come spring, which is just restoration.
 - i. Jet Jack Contract pay application: *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to pay Jet Jack. Mr. Dawley seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
 - ii. Approve sewer easements required for sanitary sewer project: *Mr. Morris approves the sewer easements. Mr. Dawley seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
- c. Canterbury Road sidewalk grant award update: Mr. Brown noted that there are some concerns over the sidewalk width required in this project and if there is ample room to use the driveways for handicap passing areas. He would like LSSE to be able to provide some documentation and a plan for using the driveways as passing areas.
- d. Signs update: Mr. Brown updated Council that the signs were installed at the entry of Cambridge. These signs should help with any delivery issues the residents of Cambridge have experienced. Mr. Heyl noted that the speed signs have been delivered and he will be meeting with Avalon on where these need to be installed. He will update the Borough after their meeting. Mr. Brown added that he, Mr. Stiller and Ms. DiNuzzo have training on the speed signs on March 7th.
 - i. Installation of speed signs: *Mr. Lope made a motion to approve the installation of speed signs. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.*

6. Green Spaces:

- a. Park Maintenance update: Mr. Lope updated Council on the maintenance performed recently. The damaged platform on the main play structure was replaced as well as the installation of a tic-tac-toe panel, and they also replaced all the rusted bolts. They replaced the broken buckle on the ADA swing; moved this to where one of the rusted baby swings were and installed a new belt swing where the ADA swing was located; they also removed the park sign Council previously voted to remove. The greenspace committee looked into previous invoices to see when the tennis court was last resurfaced, which was in 2023. Mr. Brown asked that the tennis courts be power-washed in the Spring. Mr. Lope continued, that it was pointed out that there is already a sign on the tennis court stating it's for Ben Avon Heights Residents Only, no need to invest in a new sign. Lastly, the greenspace committee signed their 2025 agreement with TruGreen.
- b. Beautification Plan update: Ms. Berardi noted that they provided LSSE with some changes to the survey. They hope to get the survey out to the residents by next week. Tentatively, they believe they will use the March working session meeting. they will have a better understanding by the Council's March meeting. Mrs. Neunder reminded the Council that the DCRN grant deadline is in April. Some Council members have voiced concerns with the amount of grants available in the near future or lack of grants. Mr. Dawley is concerned with strings attached with certain grants.

7. Service/Contracts:

- a. 2026 Waste/Recycling Contract: Mr. Brown started the conversation on the topic of our current contract with Valley Waste, with it expiring at the end of this year. He continued, that the last time the Borough bid for this contract, only one bid was submitted, Valley Waste.
- b. Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG) and Waste Management 2026: Mr. Brown mentioned that he, Mr. Stiller and Ms. DiNuzzo met with the Quaker Valley COG a few weeks ago to learn more about the COG and their waste management contract and what it entails. He added that they have a wide variety of services available for COG members, from code enforcement to grant writing to committees for Council members and Borough employees. He continued that their waste management contract ends at the end of 2026, one year after our current contract ends. The COG reached out to waste management to see if there was the option for Ben Avon Heights to be added on for 1 year of their contract and waste management agreed to this. Because our streets are so narrow, trash collection would continue as is, it would not be a streamline service, waste collection would remain unlimited and they too also offer the "backyard" pick up service; recycling would continue as every other week service and glass is collected. He added to join the COG; it would cost the Borough \$2,666 annually. Mr. Brown would like Council to be prepared to vote on these two items at the next meeting in March.

8. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:

- a. Zoning Ordinance update: Mr. Brown noted that Council made good progress at the last working meeting session.
- b. February Working Session agenda: Mr. Brown added that at the February working session meeting, Council will begin to work on section 4 of the drafted zoning ordinance. This meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 25th, 2025 at 7pm, at the Avalon Fire Hall.
- c. Code enforcement issues: None submitted for the month of January.
- d. Zoning Applications, Building Permits: There were none for the month of January.

- e. Joint Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Morris noted that the comprehensive planning committee will receive RFPs next week, and he will update Council on those at next month's meeting. They are also hoping Council will approve and sign the provided resolution which would contribute 25% towards this project; he added that there is also a grant involved for this to help cover the cost. Mr. Brown felt that 25% was high for how small of a population Ben Avon Heights Borough is compared to the others in this joint plan. He would like Mr. Morris to go back to the committee and discuss a different percentage amount that would be fairer. Mrs. Neunder agreed, she added that she felt it should be based on the number of residents. Mr. Brown suggested approving the resolution on the table this evening, and if the committee finds this one unacceptable, Council can then work on a revised resolution.

- i. Resolution: A motion was made by Mr. Morris to adopt Resolution 2025-01 required for the Joint Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Dawley seconds the motion. Motion passed.

9. Administration:

- a. Appointments for Zoning Hearing Board: Mr. Brown updated Council that Dave Raves and Mike Rovitto agreed to continue on the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term. A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve a 3-year term for both Dave Daves and Mike Rivitto. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- b. Planning Commission Opening: Mr. Brown noted that so far there has been no interest in the Planning Commission. Please continue to ask around in the community.
- c. Parking Permit Requests:
 - i. 12 Oxford Road, Annual Pass: tabled.
- d. 2024 Annual Report: A motion was made by Ms. Berardi to approve the 2024 Annual Report. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Ms. Berardi had a few edits that were not brought to the attention while edits were being conducted: She noted that Susan Dismukes "retired" from decorating the poles and that Alexis McCune Secosky and Lindsay Pry took over this task in 2024. Mr. Lope added that one page 1, to make it streamlined throughout the document, to continue using "Greenspace" as one word; he continued that on page 2 the tabbing was off, under the special thanks he questioned why Andy was left off of the Community Picnic; He continued on page 4 there was an additional space. Motion passed with the additional edits provided by Ms. Berardi and Mr. Lope.
- e. Avonworth Park Budget Allocations 2025: Mr. Brown noted this was just an FYI. He added that the amount they calculated for Ben Avon Heights is less than what Council had budgeted for 2025.

10. Meeting adjourned at: 8:36pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 01/01/2025 AND 01/31/2025
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

DESCRIPTION	JANUARY CALLS	YTD CALLS
DPW Request	14	14
Juvenile Disturbance	1	1
Police Detail - Crossing Guard	7	7
Police Detail - Directed Patrol	61	61
Road Hazard	1	1
Traffic Citations	6	6
Vehicle Lockout	2	2
Warnings - Traffic	1	1
	93	93

MEMO

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough DATE: February 6, 2025

FROM: Kevin A. Brett, P.E. S. O. No.: 452-001
John R. Heyl, P.E., CPESC

SUBJECT: **February 11, 2025 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)**

Phase I 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.*
- *A Pre-Construction field meeting was held on September 16, 2024.*
- *The Notice to Proceed was transmitted to the Borough on September 24, 2024.*
- *PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit has been renewed on November 4, 2024.*
- *Change Order No. 1 (increase of \$46,010.00) was issued to the Borough on December 6, 2024 for additional work regarding partial sewer collapse requiring in-trench repair.*
- **Partial Payment No. 1 submitted by Jet Jack, Inc. on January 10, 2025. LSSE issued letter dated January 13, 2025 recommending payment in the amount of \$162,383.50 (Attachment A).**
- **Sanitary sewer repair work is complete. Final roadway restoration items remain.**

Phase II-V O&M Repairs:

- *PA Small Water and Sewer Grant awarded in the amount of \$257,053.00.*
- *Design completed and to include Add Alternates 2, 3 and 4 from Contract No. 23-S1.*

- *A letter and exhibit summarizing the Construction Phases I, II, and III for Year 1-5 of O&M CCTV inspection footage was transmitted to the Borough on December 4, 2024.*
- **Bidding tentatively scheduled for Spring 2025.**

3. **MS4 Permit**

MS4 Waiver was approved through 2028.

4. **Canterbury Road Sidewalk and Curb Improvements**

LSA Grant awarded in the amount of \$181,100.00, effective from October 22, 2024 to June 30, 2027.

5. **Electronic Speed Sign Permitting**

All HOP permits in place. LSSE to assist Avalon Borough Public Works with placement of the signs.

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

6. **Park Maintenance and Beautification Plan**

LSSE has met with the Greenspace Committee twice and has meeting scheduled every Friday. A draft of Phase 1 (public input) including schedule, on-line survey and funding timeline have been provided to the Greenspace Committee for final review. Greenspace Committee to provide final feedback during the Teams call on Friday, January 10. Greenspace Committee provided final draft of questionnaire on February 3, 2025 for review with Council.

7. **Miscellaneous**

- **10 Oxford Sanitary Lateral:** *LSSE issued a memorandum of findings to the Borough on January 13, 2025.*
- **Wilson Drive Pavement:** *LSSE reviewing cracking along Wilson Drive and will provide a memo to council.*

Grants which are due next quarter:

DCNR: Open January 21, 2025 / Due April 2, 2025

- Park Rehabilitation and Development
 - Typical Grant Award range – \$100,000 to \$250,000
 - 50% Match Requirement (Cash/In-Kind Services)
 - Development / rehabilitation of new and existing parks/recreational facilities

- Small Community Program
 - Municipality with population of 5,000 or less
 - Grant award range - \$50,000 to \$70,000
 - First \$30,000 in grant funds doesn't require match
 - Grant funds awards over \$30,000 require 50% match (Cash/In-Kind Services)
 - Rehabilitation and/or new development of basic outdoor recreation and park facilities that provide a high level of recreational value, such as playgrounds and pavilions with ADA accessibility
- Land Acquisition and Conservation
 - 50% Match Requirement (Cash/Donated)
 - Draft sales agreement required
 - Full Appraisal report required
 - These projects involve the purchase and/or donation of land for park and recreation areas, greenways, critical habitat areas and/or open space.
- Non-Motorized Trails
 - Trail projects include the acquisition, planning, development, rehabilitation, or maintenance of designated routes on land or water for non-motorized recreation activities.
 - 50% match
- All-Terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile
 - All-Terrain Vehicle and Snowmobile projects include the planning, acquisition of land, development, rehabilitation, maintenance, purchase of equipment for maintenance and construction, and development of educational programs related to ATV and/or snowmobile trails and facilities. ONLY ATV or snowmobile projects should be submitted in this category. Funding comes from the ATV Management Restricted Account and the Snowmobile Management Restricted Account as authorized by Act 97 of 2016. There is no match requirement for this funding; however, applications that provide match funding will be given additional consideration.

CFA – Act 13 Programs: Open February 1, 2025 / Due May 31, 2025

- Greenways, Trails and Recreation (GTRP)
 - Max Grant Award \$250,000
 - 15% Local Match
 - Development, Rehab and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, trails and river conservation
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP)
 - Max Grant Award \$300,000
 - 15% Local Match
 - Projects which involve the construction, improvement, expansion, repair, maintenance or rehabilitation of new or existing watershed protection Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- Sewage Facilities Program
 - Max Grant Award \$100,000
 - 50% Local Match
 - Costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537.

- Flood Mitigation Program
 - Max Grant Award \$500,000
 - 15% Local Match
 - Projects authorized by a flood protection authority, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or identified by a local government for flood mitigation are eligible for the program.

- Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement & Treatment Program (AMDATP)
 - Max Grant Award \$1 Million
 - 15% Local Match

- Baseline Water Quality Data Program
 - Max Grant Award \$250,000
 - 15% Local Match
 - Projects which involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies.

CFA – Multimodal: Open March 1, 2025 / Due July 31, 2025

- Projects with total cost over \$100,000
- Max Grant Award - \$3 Million
- 30% Match
- Development, rehabilitation and enhancement of transportation assets to existing communities, streetscape, lighting, sidewalk enhancement, pedestrian safety, connectivity of transportation assets and transit-oriented development.

DEP – Growing Greener: Open end of April / Due end of June

- Watershed restoration projects
- 15% minimum match