



**Borough of Ben Avon Heights**  
**Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - Council Meeting Minutes**  
**A quorum is in attendance**

**Present:**

Council Members: Berardi, Brown, Dawley (arrived at 7:03pm), Lope, Morris, Neunder, Stiller

Fire: Chief Mayer

Police: Chief Hanny

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Hosa, Vogel

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

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

- 1. Approval of April 2025 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the April 2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
- 2. Approval of April 2025 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the April 2025 financials. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown noted that in the all accounts there was an error, it states there was a transfer to the reserve fund when it should be a transfer into the liquid fuels account. He continued, this should automatically be deposited into the liquid fuels account, the Borough will look into how to rectify this error moving forward. He also added that the transfer from the general fund account to the sewer account was actually the other way around; this covers the invoices from Jordan tax for sewer collection services. He continued, the Borough was down \$11,000 as real estate taxes have not started to come in. Mr. Brown added that the Borough will send out a reminder to residents after the 1<sup>st</sup> of June about real estate taxes. He added that the Borough is still waiting on reimbursement from the LSA grant. On the expense side, account 401.10, the Borough is above dues as the Borough did not plan to join the Quaker Valley Cog this year. He also added that 401.11 has recently increased and the Borough will contact Xfinity about this. Mr. Stiller added that he did look into EIT and the Borough is lower than previous years. He also added that the signs were budgeted for \$30,000 and they came in around \$15,000. *Motion passed.*
  - a. Approval of payment of bills ending in April:** *A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the checks ending in the month of April. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
- 3. Emergency Management:**
  - a. Fire: Chief Mayer reported that for the month of April there were only 2 calls in Ben Avon Heights for down trees.
  - b. Police: *Report below.* Chief Hanny wanted to remind all that this is the time of year more people start to solicit in the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to ask for the solicitor's permit, if they do not have one, residents can call 911 so police can come up and talk to the person quickly. He noted, the only groups exempt are religious and political. Ohio Township Police will always inform Ben Avon Heights when someone will be in the area soliciting. Mrs. Neunder questioned if someone was offering a free estimate, would that still fall under the umbrella of solicitation. Chef Hanny added, most of the time these people will offer for example a free estimate of your roof, but soon after the inspection they then try to sell you something which would then be solicitation. Mr. Brown noted that he did run reports from the electric speed signs and shared the information with Chief Hanny. He added what is concerning is there are one-off vehicles speeding significantly coming up from Avalon and the other from Ben Avon Heights Road. He added they can capture images to see if it's the same offender.
- 4. Public Comment:** *No public present.*

## **5. Infrastructure and Operations:**

- a. Engineers report: (Memo below):
- b. Phase I sewer project:
  - i. Approval change order No 2 for DLC sewer puncture change order: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the change order No 2. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Mr. Morris questioned if Duquesne Light would reimburse the Borough for this issue. Mr. Heyl explained that there is currently a case with the PUC (PA Utility Commission), which involves Ben Avon Heights, Duquesne Light and Avalon as they mark our PA 1 calls. He continued that Avalon did mark this area and Duquesne Light decided to place the pole just behind the old pole which drilled right into the newly lined sewer line. The Borough is currently waiting to hear the ruling of this case and whether Duquesne Light will be held at fault. Motion passed.
  - ii. Approval of partial payment: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the final and partial payment of \$37,795. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- c. Phase II sewer project: Mr. Heyl noted that the grant should cover this phase of the project. The bid for this project was included in the packet for review. A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the advertisement to bid for phase II. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Mr. Stiller added that after this phase of the project our entire sewer system that showed as needing to be lined as of last camera inspections will be lined and up to the standard. Mr. Dismukes noted that he was not happy this project was delayed for 3 years and the Borough was lucky to receive such grants. Stiller responded that he feels the grants the Borough received were more of a product of the hard work that went into scoping, writing, and securing the grants. Motion passed.
- d. Canterbury Road sidewalk grant award update:
  - i. Approve LSSE SOA: A motion was made by Mr. Lope to accept the LSSE SOA. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. Motion passed.
  - ii. Approve MTF grant acceptance: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- e. Electric Speed Sign update: Mr. Stiller added that these signs according to the data from the reports are slowing down 80%-85% of drivers as they pass the signs.

## **6. Green Spaces:**

- a. Park Maintenance update: Mr. Lope updated Council that they have been working on the weeds in the park. He added that they turned the water on at the park, and the court was also power washed. He continued that at this time, they feel they will table the tennis courts being repainted. They are also tabling the replacement of park benches at this time as well. Mr. Stiller added that he went to assess Cambridge Road where the fire department cut down trees making the road accessible to the residents again. He continued that the tree debris do seem to be hazardous and feels the Borough should reach out to a tree company as Avalon cannot handle that type of work as they are not a tree removal operation. Mrs. Neunder agreed to approach a local tree removal service about this issue. She also added there are two trees that should be looked at the top of Cambridge where it meets Briar Cliff. She also added that she believes there is an obnoxious vegetation complaint in that area as well. Mr. Brown noted that the resident can fill out a form on the Borough website for obnoxious vegetation.
  - i. Tennis court damage:
    1. Tennis court fence replacement: Mrs. Berardi reminded Council that the tennis court fence was damaged in an early April storm, when a resident's tree fell. They obtained three quotes to repair the fence. They are recommending Erie fence although the quote they chose was not the lowest, they still suggest going with Erie Fence as they can begin as early as this Friday where the other two companies could not start until late July. Erie Fence also supplied 3 quotes and they feel quote A was best. Mrs. Neunder added that the repair of the fence will most likely be covered by insurance, they are waiting to hear back from the insurance adjuster. A motion was made by Mrs. Berardi to vote to choose vendor Erie Fence proposal A for \$7250 subject to discussion with Ben Avon Heights insurance adjuster. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. Motion passed.
    2. Line painting tennis court: Tabled, TBD.
    3. Replace Park benches: Tabled, TBD.
- b. Beautification Plan update: Mr. Lope added that in the meeting packet they included the first takeaways from the first meeting with the public by LSSE on the beautification plan. Mrs. Berardi added that LSSE presented the survey results at this meeting and ended with an exercise where residents can choose concepts they like and didn't like by placing green and red dots next to photos. The next steps will be LSSE will provide a plan with the information obtained from this exercise. Mr. Stiller asked about sharing the results from this meeting. The greenspace committee stated that the packet reviewed at Council tonight can be published on the Borough website. Mr. Stiller added that LSSE and the Greenspace committee come together to write a preamble to accompany the results so that the public can understand clearly where the preliminary concept results stand this early in the process.

**7. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:**

- a. Zoning Ordinance update: Mr. Stiller noted they will begin on section 701 signs. He has been working with the solicitor on this section to rework it as it had been edited many times by the planning commission and felt pieced together. Mr. Stiller will get the draft of section 701 out to Council after this meeting.
- b. May Working Session agenda: The next working session is May 27<sup>th</sup> and will begin on signs section 701.
- c. Zoning applications, Building permits, Code enforcement:
  - i. 17 Oxford Road: Harshman visited the property and assessed the complaint. They decided the property was in violation of ordinance 293 section 9.1. Harshman will follow up with the resident as the resident never reached out to the Borough.
  - ii. Zoning Applications: For the month of April, there were a total of 1 applications: 25 Clovelly Road for a new construction of wood/vinyl deck on rear of house. Questions were raised on if you need a permit for grading landscaping. Mr. Brown questioned if the work at 3 Penhurst needed a zoning permit for landscaping. Mr. Stiller added there is no grading in our current zoning ordinance. He continued that there will be a separate grading ordinance in the future as suggested by Allegheny County.
- d. Joint Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Morris does not have any updates for this meeting.

**8. Administration:**

- a. Ben Avon Heights 2024 Financial Audit: Mr. Brown noted the only suggestion from the auditor was that the Borough should look into credit risk insurance as the FDIC only covers \$250,000 per account. The solicitor will look into this to see what other municipalities do.
- b. Parking permit requests: For the month of April, there were no parking permit requests.
- c. QVCOG updates: Mr. Stiller noted that they just had their first meeting and already sees the value in being a member. It was interesting to hear what the other Boroughs are doing for projects and learning the issues they are facing and how they solve them will help us down the road .
  - i. Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) funding crisis: He continued the main topic discussed is the current PRT crisis, which would be major cuts to routes through Ben Avon, Bellevue and Avalon as well as three Bus Only bridge closures in Emsworth, Ben Avon and Avalon. There are up and coming hearings and if residents would like to get involved go to rideprt.org.
- d. Services/contracts (waste recycling contract update): It was noted that two companies have reached out to the Borough and the Borough also invited Valley Waste to bid. No physical bids have come in and one more ad will run before the deadline of June 6<sup>th</sup> 2025. Any and all bids will be opened at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- e. Donations:
  - i. Memorial Day parade donation: *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to donate \$100 to the Memorial Day Parade. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.*

**9. Meeting adjourned at: 8:16pm**

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION  
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 04/01/2025 AND 04/30/2025  
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

| DESCRIPTION                     | APRIL<br>CALLS | YTD<br>CALLS |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Accident/Reportable             | 0              | 1            |
| Burglar Alarm-Residence         | 0              | 1            |
| Disabled Vehicle                | 0              | 1            |
| DPW Request                     | 0              | 20           |
| EMS Call                        | 0              | 3            |
| Fire Alarm-Natural Gas          | 0              | 1            |
| Fire Alarm-Residence            | 0              | 1            |
| Juvenile Disturbance            | 0              | 1            |
| Parking Ticket                  | 1              | 1            |
| Police Detail - Crossing Guard  | 0              | 7            |
| Police Detail - Directed Patrol | 58             | 212          |
| Road Hazard                     | 1              | 3            |
| Solicitor Complaint             | 2              | 2            |
| Suspicious Vehicle              | 1              | 1            |
| Traffic Citations               | 5              | 19           |
| Tree Down                       | 1              | 2            |
| Utility Complaint               | 0              | 1            |
| Vehicle Lockout                 | 0              | 2            |
| Warnings - Traffic              | 8              | 19           |
| Wires Down                      | 1              | 1            |
|                                 | 78             | 299          |



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## ***MEMO***

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough      DATE: May 8, 2025

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

SUBJECT: May 13, 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 includes 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 was completed at the Cambridge Road and Banbury Lane manhole installation sites.**
- *On March 27, 2025, a Borough owned sanitary sewer line on Banbury Lane was damaged during the installation of a new electric pole by Duquesne Light Company. The damaged pipe segment was lined in December 2024 as a part of Contract No. 23-S1 project. Jet Jack, Inc. performed an emergency spot repair of the damaged section of the sanitary sewer on March 28, 2025. Jet Jack, Inc. submitted the Emergency Repair Invoice in the amount of \$15,432.00 on April 8, 2025. Change Order No. 2 (+\$15,432.00) and Partial Payment No. 2 Revised (\$37,795.70) have been provided to the Borough for consideration on May 8, 2025.*

**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.*
- **LSSE is providing the Borough with the Advertisement for placement in the newspaper of record to bid the Phase II Sanitary Sewer O&M Repairs project, with bid opening tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2025.**

3. **MS4 Permit**

*MS4 Waiver was approved through 2028. LSSE issued a summary memo on the Draft 2026 General Permit Updates on March 12, 2025.*

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. LSSE to provide a service order for engineering services. LSSE provided the Service Order Authorization to the Borough on April 7, 2025. LSSE to start surveys once authorized by the Borough.*

5. **Electronic Speed Sign Permitting**

*All HOP permits in place. LSSE staked out sign locations with Avalon Public Works.*

6. **Park Maintenance and Beautification Plan**

*Community input meeting held on April 22, 2025. LSSE compiling the results from the meeting.*

7. **Miscellaneous**

- *None.*

**Grants Due Next Quarter:**

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

**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.*