

Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Brown, Cuteri, Dawley, Neunder, Radcliffe

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: John Vogel

OTPD: Chief Hanny

Fire:

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

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

1. Approval of August meeting minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Radcliffe to approve the August meeting minutes. Mr. Dawley seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Approval of June & July's financials: A motion was made by Mr. Brown to adopt the June & July's financial reports. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Mr. Brown did note that even after the financial meeting in August, he still feels all the issues are not resolved and he's not too sure how we can resolve this. He did suggest that moving forward for 2022, each council member take a major line item from the budget and oversee this to confirm the line item is being entered correct. He presented a few examples to council; green spaces, Mr. Radcliffe not only is very diligent with his numbers, but he also provided a detailed breakdown for the accountant and his section in the budget still is not correct. Mr. Dawley questioned how many invoices actually come into the Borough, Mr. Cuteri responded that he signs about 20-30 checks each month. Mrs. Neunder questioned if the issue could be the company that we selected. Mr. Cuteri responded he doesn't think this is the issue, some invoices the Borough receives doesn't break down to match the budget line items, which makes it challenging for the accountant to know where to enter the invoice, and also difficult for the Borough to decide how to enter the invoice. Mr. Cuteri also pointed out there were no longer supposed to put in "other item" type entries and there was still one. Ms. DiNuzzo noted that she and Mr. Brown investigated that and they accountant had two deposits and didn't know where to place them, so she put them there as a place holder while Ms. DiNuzzo tries to track these down.
3. Police Report: Chief Hanny reported for the month of August there were a total of 92 calls, consisting of routine patrol calls, 1 fraud consisting of the unemployment scam that we've been seeing an increase of. Mr. Cuteri asked Mr. Heyl if he knew when they would start the Oxford Road project, as Chief Hanny should know that information. Mr. Heyl stated late next week as they want to complete the paving portion the week of October 4th. Mrs. Neunder asked if we could contact the bus company to change the location of the bus stop while this road project is being completed as she feels being on the other side of the road is safer. Mr. Dismukes strongly disagreed. Mr. Cuteri added that this is the type of discussion we should have while Chief Hanny is present. Ms. DiNuzzo will send the contact information of the two crossing guards who are at Oxford so he can discuss the best plan of action for this project.
4. Fire Report: Chief Berie was not present for the meeting
5. Engineers Report: LSSE reported to council that the consent orders from the health department went out to all the municipalities, it seems as if the Borough has not at this point, LSSE will look into having it resent and confirm they sent it to the correct address. The CCTV 2021 work cannot be complete before the lamp poles are raised to grade the access. Mr. Cuteri asked if that meant this would be held off until next year. Mr. Heyl responded that this would be complete during the repair project. LSSE also informed the Borough that they are still waiting to hear on what Ben Avon plans to do, they have not heard anything and Ms. DiNuzzo confirmed the Borough has also not received anything. Libberoni plans to complete the 2021 road project on October 4th. For the next two weeks they will finish the backfill of all the curbs, and remove the island at the entrance of Oxford so they can then pave all at once. Mr. Brown questioned how they have been billing the Borough as he noticed in the financial report that we have \$200,000 allocated and we have had zero enters against this. Mr. Heyl noted that they just submitted an invoice which LSSE forwarded to the Borough. Its only for what has been complete in the project. Mrs. Neunder doesn't believe all the concrete work is complete as none of the downspouts from the houses are connected to the road. Mr. Heyl noted that that was a separate line item and will be complete. Mrs. Neunder claims

residents are alarmed as there is no longer spray paint on the grass indicating where these are located. Mr. Heyl will double check with the address Mrs. Neunder provided.

A motion was made by Mr. Dawley to amend the agenda. Mr. Brown seconds the motion. Mr. Brown just wants to confirm that the payment is on budget. Mr. Cuteri responded that yes, the current payment would be on budget. There could be some change orders between now and the final payment. **Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to pay the current outstanding invoice to the contractor in the amount of \$148,399.28. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Vogel noted that this agenda was changed because the council was only made aware of this payment at the meeting. Mr. Heyl ended his report with the note that LSSE had provided the Borough and SOA which will provide assistance with the consent order. Mr. Dismukes questioned the stormwater work that needs to be done in 2022, he was unaware of this. Mr. Cuteri noted that it was a large amount of work and we could not just add it to this year's project. Mr. Heyl explained that the contractor found a rogue pipe that didn't show up on any of the maps; what it actually does is goes across the street, a 90 degree turn through a resident's property, under the resident's driveway and ends there. The contractor plans to fully pick up the line and connect it to the inlet. Mr. Dismukes and other council members raised their concerns on paving that road twice. Mr. Cuteri asked if there was an issue if we didn't fix this. Mr. Heyl stated that the water will continue to back up and eventually the system will break down. It could perhaps wait until the next paving cycle.

6. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this meeting.

7. Insurance Presentation – Jamie Northey: Ms. Northey explained that the McGowan company works with a lot of small municipalities, like Ben Avon Heights. She presented council with handouts of the breakdown of the insurance policies she'd be discussing. The policy was created using Trident which is part of the argo group which ranks second in the nation. Ms. Northey noted that the carrier builds in a ton of enhancements, they cannot but removed but they can be modified. Council members began to suggest items to remove. Mr. Cuteri reminded council that our current policy has these items in place and it's standard. We're seeing the minimums, but we can't change them. Mr. Dismukes raised a question, he stated that the Borough owns a foot around the perimeter of the Borough. Mr. Cuteri responded, that that's just land. Ms. Northey added that the liability insurance will cover any property that the Borough does own. A question was raised about sewage, Ms. Northey asked how many miles of sewage we had, Ms. DiNuzzo will request this information from the engineer. Ms. Northey noted the current policy did not have this coverage, but once she has the miles she can get back to the Borough. She also noted that it would be a good idea that the Borough should put in place some policies and procedures, and her office has templates the Borough can work from. Ms. Northey did note that the current policy did not have auto, but it would be a good idea to have it for when Jessica is running errands for the Borough. Council members were a little hesitant on the cyber protection. Ms. Northey did note that the current policy did have this.

At the end of the presentation Ms. Northey noted the total premium with the policy would be \$8,971.00. In 2020 the Borough spent \$9,930.00. Mr. Brown suggested that we assign a council member to review this before council votes on if they would like to go with The McGowan company. Mrs. Neunder spoke up reminding Mr. Brown that she is the council person who reviews the insurance policies and this was her first time also reviewing. Mr. Brown was against voting on the insurance policy as Mrs. Neunder has not reviewed this policy yet, Mrs. Neunder agreed. Ms. DiNuzzo confirmed our October meeting is October 12th and the policy ends the 17th. This will be put on the agenda to vote on in October, allowing Mrs. Neunder to review this.

8. Greenspaces: Mr. Radcliffe informed council that fall leaf pick up will begin on the 28th of October and run until the 6th of December. Mrs. Neunder asked if that included the spring leaf pick up still. Mr. Radcliffe stated he believes we have to vote on that, for the 2022 budget. The new fencing should be in the next 3-4 weeks. The only other topic Mr. Radcliffe wanted to discuss was some neighbors have been complaining that residents are putting out their garbage early, like Friday morning. Mr. Radcliffe's understanding is garbage should not be put out until 5pm Sunday evening. He's seen Saturday stuff being put out and now Friday. Mr. Brown asked if we had an ordinance that stated this and what if you pick up leaves and put them on the curb on a Thursday, when I clean them up. Mr. Vogel will look into some ordinances to present to council. Ms. DiNuzzo will look to see what the Borough has on file.

9. Junk Car Ordinance: Mr. Cuteri noticed item 15 and 16 were incorrectly listed. **A motion to adopt Ordinance 347 with the deletion of item number 15 and 16 in section one was made by Mr. Radcliffe. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Mr. Brown abstains. The motion passes.**

10. Planning Commission Hearing: Mr. Cuteri informed council that we're going to schedule another meeting soon, he needs to reach out to HRG and discuss the next steps.

11. Executive session: started at 8:50 pm

Meeting resumed at 8:56 pm

Meeting ended at 8:57 pm

The next scheduled meeting is October 12th, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Shannopin Country Club

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary