



Borough of Ben Avon Heights

Tuesday, October 11th, 2022 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Brown, Lope, Neunder, Stiller

Police: Chief Hanny

Fire:

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: David Mongillo

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Brown began the meeting at 7 PM.
- 2. Roll Call:** There was a roll call of Council Members. A quorum is present.
- 3. Approval of September 2022 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes by Mr. Stiller. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- 4. Approval of September 2022 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown noted that overall, the financial reports look good, with over a million in our accounts. Mr. Stiller had a few questions for the accountant, there was a line-item GL 307 which is for traffic fines for \$22,431 which he feels was really high. We realized this was misapplied. He also noted that there are not entries for building permits, which at the very least zoning applications should be entered here. Mr. Stiller also had a few questions with line item 401. *Motion passed unanimously.*
- 5. Public Comment:** There was no public present to make a comment.
- 6. Fire Report:** Mr. Brown noted that Chief Berie recently stepped down from Fire Chief of Avalon. He moved to a different county and the Borough wishes him all the best. Rob Ensminger, will be interim Fire Chief until the end of 2022.
- 7. Police Report:** *Police report provided below for the month of September.* Mr. Stiller asked the chief about a post that was recently on social media, that claimed to have taken place in Ben Avon Heights. Chief Hanny stated that the post was inaccurate, and did not take place in Ben Avon Heights. He did want to note that if something to that nature would happen in the Borough, he notifies the Mayor, Borough secretary and Council president as soon as possible.
 - a. **Halloween, Trick or Treating:** Council and Chief Hanny confirmed trick or treating will take place on Halloween, October 31st 2022 between 6-8pm.
- 8. Engineers report:** *See below for LSSE report.*
 - a. Storm System Cleaning: Mr. Heyl informed Council that Tri-State should be wrapping up the storm cleaning project, they had a few issues getting some of the storm drains up.
- 9. Road/Curb Improvement Plan 2023 Discussion:** Mr. Brown noted that there are some sidewalks on Canterbury that are in dangerous conditions. Typically, homeowners are responsible for the upkeep of sidewalks. The Borough asked LSSE to evaluate these sidewalks for repair, so then the Borough could decide on how much or what the Borough should do about these sidewalks. LSSE quoted the project at \$72,000 for just the sidewalks and \$49,00 for driveway adjustments. When added all together the total project would cost

around \$309,000-330,000. Mr. Heyl noted there are a number of grants the Borough could look into. Mr. Brown also noted that this is just the beginning of the discussion, they just want to make the Borough safe.

- 10. Budget 2023 Planning:** Mr. Brown noted that the 5-year budget planning has been updated and that the 2023 budget meeting Tuesday October 18th, 2022 at 7pm
- 11. Green Spaces:** Mrs. Neunder updated Council that Davey's tree service is scheduled to cut down the tree of haven between October 12-19th depending on weather. Strunk tree service completed their work on the park trees this past week. Mr. Brown noted that the Borough sent out the leaf collection notice, that begins on October 24th. Mrs. Neunder will follow up with the playground mulch project. Mr. Brown suggested that this project be tabled to next year with the cold weather. Mrs. Neunder stated she would check to see if weather would affect the project at all. Mr. Stiller questioned if we budgeted money for this year, but did not use it, is it allowed to go into escrow for the following year. Mr. Mongillo does not think that are any rules that prohibits that. Mr. Brown noted that we made significant changes to the park rules ordinance: the park hours are now from 6:30 a.m. until dark, and removed quite a few sections. *A motion was made to advertise the green space rules ordinance by Mr. Stiller. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*
- 12. DCRN grant applications:** Ms. DiNuzzo found a record of past grants that the Borough had accepted in the past. Although the record only showed up to 2009, on that record, the Borough did accept a DCED grant in 2001 for \$20,000 and used it for new playground equipment, park planning, mulch, etc. Mr. Stiller wanted to clarify that according to this find, the grant money was not used for the tennis courts, therefore that section of the park can still remain for residents only. Mr. Mongillo agreed, but stated the rest of the park is a different story. Mr. Brown questioned if there was a difference between a DCED grant vs a DCRN grant. Mr. Mongillo asked if we had the grant document available to review. Ms. DiNuzzo stated she will most likely have to go down to storage and review the archives for this, if it exists.
- 13. Avalon Snow/Salt & DPW agreements for 2023:** Mr. Stiller noted that the typical base rate increase is around \$150, this year it went up to \$170 dollars an hour, which is about a 9% increase. Typically, we see between a 3-6% increase. The Department of Public Works labor increase is about 21%. Ms. DiNuzzo added the justification she was given by Avalon for the larger increases this year were from healthcare, fuel, wages and salt increase. Mr. Brown suggested looking at other Boroughs for 2024, as he is okay with approving this for 2023. Mr. Stiller added that there is no binding agreement for the DPW agreement, so we could potentially use other services. Mrs. Neunder suggested we ask for a 3-year contract.
- 14. Updating Ordinance 300/Hedges at intersections discussions:** Mr. Brown noted we are not updating this today, but he did want to bring to attention that there are many ordinances related to hedges, streets and safety. He suggests that residents get familiar with our ordinances. For example, ordinance 125 is related to hedges and trees; it tells you how high the trees can be, how close they can be to the intersections. Ordinance 300 is about obnoxious vegetation and limitation that is interfering with a public right of way. Ordinance 24 specifically talks about tree branches and how low they can be and the trunk sizes of trees and where they can be located to curbs. Mrs. Neunder mentioned that residents are frustrated with people parking in intersections. Mr. Brown noted there are 3-5 ordinances dealing with parking within the Borough, some specifically say which street sides you can park on. Mr. Brown noted he can draft an email up for the residents.
- 15. Waste Management and Recycling Contract/Bid:** Mr. Stiller noted that our contract is up at the end of 2022. *A motion was made to advertise was made by Mr. Stiller. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
- 16. Document Retention Policy Update:** Mr. Brown noted that he attended a webinar as well as Ms. DiNuzzo and Mr. Stiller on document retention with the national archives. They provided lots of resources that Mr. Brown and Mr. Stiller will review; there are county regulations, municipal regulations, and state regulations. Mr. Brown added our first step is to know what we have, then categorize the document and then there are some steps we can take in the document retention which is to digitalize it and then you can get rid of the original hard copy. Mr. Stiller suggested in January and February going down to the storage facility to begin organizing and archiving. Ms. DiNuzzo added there is a YouTube channel.
- 17. Zoning applications:** There was no applications submitted for the month of September.
- 18. Meeting adjourned at: 7:55pm**

October 10, 2022

Calls for Service - by UCR Code
Incidents Reported Between 09/01/2022 and 09/30/2022
BEN AVON HTS



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
2626	FALSE FIRE ALARM	1			
4012	GAS LEAKS & EXPLOSIONS	1			
4020	SUSPICIOUS AUTO	1			
5510	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - INJURED/SICK	1			
6310	TRAFFIC POST	3			
7092	ROUTINE PATROL COMPLETED	78			
Total Calls		85			

MEMO



846 Fourth Avenue, Coraopolis, PA 15108
(412) 264-4400 • (412) 264-1200 Fax

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough

FROM: Kevin A. Brett, P.E.
John R. Heyl, P.E., CPESC

SUBJECT: **October 11, 2022 Meeting**
Engineering Report

DATE: October 4, 2022

S. O. No.: 0452-01

cc:

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

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

The Phase II COA was released by ACHD on September 1, 2021. The BDD report was submitted to ACHD on May 26, 2022 including initial Exhibit B review, population of the BDD template provided by 3RWW, O&M updates, Lateral Ordinance review, and flow regime translation of contemporary data. The Phase II COA Annual Progress Report was submitted to ACHD on June 27, 2022.

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

Borough Council approved the update to the Operations and Maintenance Plan at the May 2020 meeting. Work was awarded to Robinson Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$39,072.50 as noted in letter dated August 13, 2020. A repair scope for Years 1 and 2 of the O&M Program has been submitted to the Borough for review. LSSE transmitted an updated Sanitary Sewer O&M Budget on January 17, 2022.

2022 O&M CCTV and MHPS were completed July 25, 2022. LSSE has reviewed the CCTV videos and invoice in the amount of \$8,426.28 provided by Robinson Pipe Cleaning Co. LSSE submitted a letter recommending payment, and has initiated evaluation of the defects for a future repair scope.

3. Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Report:

LSSE submitted the Annual Report on February 25, 2022.

4. MS4 Permit:

*PaDEP issued MS4 Waiver Approval letter on April 24, 2018. Next permit cycle is September 2023. **LSSE submitted Waiver Renewal to PADEP (Attachment A).***

5. **2022 Road Program**

LSSE prepared a cost to replace the curb and sidewalk along Canterbury Road for review by Borough Council (Attachment B).

6. **LSA Grant**

LSSE submitted grant application.

7. **2018 Roadway Improvement Program**

LSSE transmitted Maintenance Bond items to Contractor to address on February 25, 2022.

8. **Storm Sewer Cleaning**

*LSSE provided a proposal from Tri-State for Borough signature; executed copy has been returned to contractor. **Work to begin week of October 3, 2022.***