



Borough of Ben Avon Heights
Tuesday, January 13th, 2026 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Hudson, Lope, Neunder, Stiller

Fire: Chief Meyer

Police: Sgt. Beck

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Puchalski

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Scott Dismukes 22 Clovelly

Honorable Judge Tara. L. Smith swore in Mayor Scott Dismukes, Council members Jill Berardi and Evan Hudson before the meeting began.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Mr. Dismukes. There was a roll call of Council Members. A quorum is present.
- 2. Reorganization:** *A motion was made by Mrs. Neunder to appoint Steve Stiller as Council president. Mrs. Berardi seconds the motion. Motion passed. A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to appoint Pat Lope as Council vice president. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
- 3. Open Council seat, 2 year-term:** Mr. Stiller noted there is currently an empty 2-year seat as Mrs. Berardi opted to accept the 4-year term. Subcommittees do not need to be completely filled this evening as there is one open seat and Mr. Morris is not here tonight. The Borough will send out an email to the community for those who may have interest in the open 2-year seat, as well as the vacant seat on the planning commission.

4. Council committee assignments:

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|---|--|
| a. Finance / Administration | Evan Hudson, Patrick Lope, Steven Stiller |
| b. Emergency Management | Scott Dismukes, Jaquelyn Neunder |
| c. Streets and Utilities | Steven Stiller |
| d. Health and Sanitation | Scott Dismukes, Steven Stiller |
| e. Green Spaces & Recreation | Jill Berardi, Patrick Lope, Jaquelyn Neunder |
| f. Digital Communications | Jill Berardi, Steven Stiller |
| g. Insurance | Evan Hudson, Jacquelyn Neunder |
| h. Planning Commission (only one Council) | Justin Griffith, Clayton Morris, (open seat) |
| i. QVCOG: Primary and backup delegates: | Steven Stiller/ Jill Berardi (Primary), Evan Hudson (Backup) |

Discuss Appointed Positions for the Borough

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| j. Borough Secretary | Jessica DiNuzzo |
| k. Tax Collector | TBD |
| l. Judge of Elections | TBD |
| m. Solicitor | Tucker Arensberg |
| n. Borough Engineers | Lennon Smith Souleret |

o. ACORD Executive Committee Chair	Damian Liska
p. ACORD Board	Terrie Brightman & MaryBeth Bolam
q. Auditors	Hosack, Specht, Metzel and Wood
r. Emergency Management Coordinator	Sgt. Adam Beck, OTPD
s. Zoning Officer	Thomas Price
t. Zoning Hearing Board	David Raves (chair), Michael Rovitto,
u. Deputized Real Estate	Jordan Tax Service
v. Sewage fee collection	Jordan Tax Service
w. Planning Commission Members	Justin Griffith, Clayton Morris, (open seat)
x. Building Inspectors	Harshman LLC
y. Fire Chief	Meyer, Avalon
z. Police Chief	Joe Hanny, Ohio Township
aa. Emergency EMS Service	Northwest Emergency Medical Services
bb. Wage Tax Collection	Keystone Collections Group
cc. Webmaster	imhosted.com/Jason Brown

1. Approval of December 2025 meeting minutes: *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.*

2. Approval of December 2025 financials: *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the December 2025 financials. Mr. Hudson seconds the motion.* Mr. Stiller made a quick note that the Borough had a really good year in 2025. The Borough looks in good shape for the beginning of the year when revenue is low. The Greenspace account will be opened this month with a starting amount of \$75,000. Mr. Lope questioned the A&N charges being up to date as there was a recent invoice that came in showing it was past due. The Borough will check with the accountant on the invoices and checks, and confirm checks were printed and cleared. *Motion passed.*

3. Emergency Management:

- a. EMS:
- b. Fire: *No fire present.*
- c. Police: *Report below.* Sergeant Beck questioned if the issues recently were resolved with PennDOT salting and treating the section of Perrysville, which recently was not being cleared. Mr. Stiller shared that Arvid Venkat's office is now involved as well. Mr. Dismukes asked if the Borough could contract out the small section of Perrysville. Mr. Stiller noted that he did approach Avalon, but they declined to add the route. He will reach out to Killbuck to see if they would have interest.

4. Public Comment: Scott Dismukes 22 Clovelly Road would like to put on the Boroughs radar that Ben Avon Heights Road appears to be in the beginning stages of deterioration again. Mr. Stiller stated that PennDot's force slide team fixed the road during the pandemic, but will reach out to them to evaluate the road this spring.

5. Infrastructure and Operations:

- a. Engineers report: (Memo below):
- b. Canterbury Road Sidewalk update: LSSE noted that the first change order was sent to the Borough for review. Council will review and vote on this in February. The preconstruction meeting is set in March. Discussion took place. Mrs. Berardi requested the Borough send out notification when the project begins to the residents. Mr. Dismukes added to also keep Shannopin Country Club updated.
- c. Phase III Sewer project: Grant update: Mr. Stiller noted that the Borough received a LSA grant for \$346,671.00 to fund the final phases of the O&M plan. LSSE will proceed to scope out this phase as the next steps.
- d. Speed Signs: Mr. Stiller noted the speed signs came with an included year subscription for their cloud base portal. Council did not budget to continue this subscription and the Borough does not need to continue as the fee is \$1,500.00 a sign. Council can revisit this topic over the next few months before it expires. He added that he is working on getting one of the signs moved further down the road to try and get more sunlight.

6. Resolution 2026-01: Alcosan rate increase: *A motion was made by Mr. Hudson to adopt Resolution 2026-01. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion.* Mr. Stiller noted this is the last year Alcosan plans to increase their rate at 7%. Ben Avon Heights continues to keep their rate the same for their residents. *Motion passed.*

7. Service/Contracts:

- a. Insurance: Mr. Lope informed Council that both the general policy as well as the workers comp policy expire this month. Both Assured Partners and The McGowan Companies provided quotes, as well as Simpson & McGrady for a third option. Mr. Lope added that McGowan was unable to provide a quote for the general policy as the Borough was denied. They were, however, still able to provide a quote for the workers comp policy which decreased from \$717 paid in 2025 to \$678. He continued, Simpson and McGrady quoted the Borough on the higher end, \$1,500 more than the Selective policy provided by Assured Partners; the Selective general policy was quoted at \$6,361.00. He also added that Selective was easy to work with when the Borough filed their claim for the damaged tennis fence at the park.
 - i. General Policy: A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve Assured Partners/Selective for the Borough General Policy \$6,361.00 for 2026. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.
 - ii. Workers Comp: A motion was made to approve McGowan Companies/Encova for the Borough Workers Comp \$678.00 by Mr. Hudson. Mrs. Berardi seconds the motion. Motion passed.

8. Green Spaces:

- a. Park Maintenance Update: Mrs. Neunder noted that A&N was able to pick up the leaves left at the park as well as the streets missed at the beginning of December when the final pick up was delayed by the large snow storm.
- b. Beautification Plan Update: Mrs. Berardi noted the next public meeting with LSSE is January 21st, 2026 at 7pm. They are looking forward to the presentation for the public. Mr. Stiller asked if the presentation will be available online for those who may not be able to attend. Mrs. Neunder raised a question as to whether or not LSSE will create a 3D rendering of the park. LSSE noted that 3D rendering is not in the scope for this project at this time.

9. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:

- a. Zoning Ordinance update: Mr. Stiller noted the drafted version is on the website for the public to review. The next working session meeting is scheduled for February 24th and the public are encouraged to attend. The next step after the February meeting, would be a public hearing. Tucker Arensberg noted that if any feedback is received and accepted, if legally they feel the changes were substantial enough to send back to the county for review, the review time is 45 days. There would also need to be enough lead time to allow for the two consecutive advertisement publishings that are required.
 - i. January 2026 working session agenda: No meeting for the month of January. The next working session meeting is February 24th, 2026.
- b. Zoning applications, Building permits, Code enforcement:
 - i. Code enforcement:
 - 1. 6 Stratford Road: Harshman was sent the code enforcement violation.
 - 2. DLC Banbury Home Follow-up: Tabled. Mayor Dismukes will meet with one of the homeowners later this month.
 - ii. Building permits: For the month of December, none.
 - iii. Zoning Applications: For the month of December there were two applications submitted. 3 Cambridge Road to replace a retaining wall behind house 46" above grade, with new retaining wall – same size. Must demolish current deck to access retaining wall, will then replace deck with current foot print; 1 Penhurst Road will install 1 sump pump, 14' basement gutter, 1 freeze guard and waterproofing. All were approved.
- c. Joint Comprehensive Plan Update: No updates available, tabled.

10. Administration:

- a. Parking permit requests: None for the month of December.
- b. 2025 Annual Report: Mr. Lope and Mr. Stiller have made some updates so far. They will reach out to the subcommittees for updates from 2025.
- c. QVCOG updates: Patrick Conner stepped down from the QVCOG as Executive Director at the end of December, the position will most likely be filled by their January meeting. Mrs. Berardi noted that the QVCOG is working on connecting local trails together. They are looking to gather a trails committee for this project. Mr. Stiller suggested the idea that some members of the community may have interest in joining.
- d. Pittsburgh Post Gazette, final publish May 2026: Pittsburgh Post Gazette recently announced they will stop publishing in May 2026. Council will need to plan on a new publishing platform for items that are required to be printed by the state of Pennsylvania. Tucker Arensberg is currently working on a plan of action as many of their communities are going to also be affected.

11. Executive Session: Safety: 8:53 pm

12. Regular meeting session: 8:58 pm

13. Meeting ended at: 9:04 pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 12/01/2025 AND 12/31/2025
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

DESCRIPTION	DEC CALLS	YTD CALLS
911 Hang-up	0	2
Accident/Reportable	0	1
Animal Complaint	0	2
Burglar Alarm-Residence	0	3
Disabled Vehicle	0	2
DPW Request	8	29
EMS Call	0	10
Fire Alarm-Business	0	2
Fire Alarm-Natural Gas	0	2
Fire Alarm-Residence	0	1
Found Property	1	1
Harassment by Communication	1	1
Juvenile Disturbance	0	2
Loitering/Prowling (At Night)	0	1
Lost/Found	1	1
Mental Health	2	2
Parking Complaint	0	2
Parking Ticket	0	2
Police Detail - Crossing Guard	0	7
Police Detail - Directed Patrol	53	608
Police Info	0	1
Road Closed/Open	0	2
Road Hazard	0	4
Service of Official Documents	0	1
Solicitor Complaint	0	2
Suspicious Incident	0	2
Suspicious Persons	0	1
Suspicious Vehicle	0	3
Theft	0	1
Traffic Citations	0	24
Traffic Complaint	1	2
Traffic Post	0	1
Tree Down	0	2
Trespassing of Real Property	1	2
Utility Complaint	0	1
Vehicle Lockout	0	2
Warnings - Traffic	0	57
Welfare Check	0	2
Wires Down	0	1
	<hr/> 68	<hr/> 792

5. Park Maintenance and Beautification Plan

- *Community Engagement meeting held on April 22, 2025.*
- *Functional Diagrams and presentation/discussion with Greens Committee finalized 7/23/2025.*
- *Community Engagement Meeting No. 2 with the Greens Committee held September 11, 2025.*
- *LSSE met with the Greens Committee on October 6, 2025, to review the results of Community Engagement Meeting No. 2 and created an outline of the next steps. The Conceptual Plan has been provided to the Borough for review. LSSE is working on rendering a preliminary opinion of probable cost. The last community engagement is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2026.*

6. Miscellaneous

- **None.**

Grants Due Next Quarter:

None.

Grant Award Summary:

Project	Grant Source	Grant Award	Match	Status
Canterbury Road Pedestrian Improvements	2023 – CFA LSA	\$181,100.00	\$0.00	Design ongoing
Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project	2023 – CFA Small Water and Sewer	\$257,053.00	15%	Bid awarded
2022 Sanitary Sewer Lining Repairs	2022 – CFA LSA	\$149,905.00	\$0.00	All work is complete
Phase III Sanitary Sewer Operation and Maintenance Repairs	2024 – CFA LSA	\$346,671.00	N/A	Awarded December 2025

Billing Summary:

Billing summary for the month of December:

Project	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Project Total (Since July)	Invoice Amount
Meetings as Requested	202514611	12/16/2025	\$3,032.59	\$574.50
Miscellaneous Services-2025 Miscellaneous Services	202514612	12/16/2025	\$6,368.51	\$1,916.45
Engineering Services -5 Devon Lane Dye Test/ CCTV Review			\$680.50	\$0.00
10 Oxford Sewer Lateral Review			\$192.00	\$0.00
Phase 2 COA			\$208.00	\$0.00
2023 Sanitary Sewer O &M Projects			\$39.50	\$0.00
2024 Sanitary Sewer O&M Repairs Project	202514613	12/16/2025	\$9,649.46	\$2,726.00
COA Services			\$286.53	\$0.00
Park Maintenance and Beautification Plan			\$4,765.19	\$0.00
Canterbury Road Sidewalk Improvements	202514614	12/16/2025	\$15,917.09	\$829.30
23 Banbury Lane CCTV / Dye Test			\$163.75	\$0.00
2025 Roadway Improvement Program			\$26.66	\$0.00
2024 GEDTF Grant			\$130.00	\$0.00
Billing Total				Billing Total \$6,046.25