



Borough of Ben Avon Heights
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - Council Meeting Minutes
A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Berardi, Brown, Dawley, Lope, Morris, Neunder (arrived at 7:04pm), Stiller

Police: Chief Hanny

Fire: Chief Mayer

Mayor:

Solicitor: Vogel

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents:

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

1. **Approval of February 2025 meeting minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the February 2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Berardi seconds the motion. Motion passed.*
2. **Approval of February 2025 financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the February 2025 financials. Mr. Lope seconds the motion.* Mr. Brown mentioned there are a few items he would like Council to keep track of; he noted in the all accounts The Borough is only \$4,000 in the negative as this time of year the Borough has yet to receive revenue from taxes other than earned income. In the budget vs performance, he made note to a few items, real estate collections have not come in yet, it seems as if the Borough is a bit down in earned income for the year; Mr. Brown continued that he's not concerned about the next item, they are large and expected, the Borough will replenish most of these through the grant money the Borough was awarded for the sewer work; Line GL 313 is down \$64,000 in income. On the expense side he noted line 403.02 was incorrectly entered, this is the Jet Jack partial payment approved at the February's meeting, it should be line 404.021. Mr. Stiller added that the purchase of the speed signs was for \$15,793, this has already been paid for. He also noted that the Borough already spent over \$15,000 on salt this year; this is a hard area to project when budgeting each year because weather can be unpredictable. Mr. Lope wanted to add that he noticed GL 401.05, is \$1141, which is a bit over what was budgeted. Ms. DiNuzzo will have the accountant pull the invoices for this line for the greenspace committee to review and confirm why this is over. *Motion passed.*
 - a. **Approval of payment of bills ending in February:** Mr. Brown noted that the solicitor suggested moving forward, Council approves all checks that were printed after the last meeting. Referring to the reconciliation report, the uncleared transactions, total \$172,880.00; a large check which was approved at last meeting for Jet Jack, for \$162,383.50, the Borough will transfer funds from the sewage fund account until the reimbursement from the LSA grant money comes in. *A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the checks printed after the February 2025 meeting. Mr. Lope seconds the motion. motion passed.*
3. **Emergency Management:**
 - a. Fire: Chief Meyer reported a total of 4 calls in Ben Avon Heights: 3 were fire alarms and 1 was a CO detector; it was a busy month in surrounding Boroughs.
 - b. Police: *Report below.* Mrs. Neunder noted that a resident has a concern about the Oxford/Canterbury/New Brighton intersection during the bus stop times. The resident noted that cars are not stopping at the stop sign, and passing the bus while pick up. She asked if the Chief feels the electric speed signs will help reduce this issue, Chief Hanny strongly believes this will help.

- i. Ohio Township Police Contract Extension 2 years: Last month there was a misinterpretation of the Police Contract Extension, the only option is for a 2-year extension. A motion was made by Mr. Morris to extend the Ohio Township Police Contract by 2 years. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.

4. Public Comment: No public present to comment. Ms. DiNuzzo noted Wooden Ladder requested to put up some marketing by the park in the form of a small sign. Council noted as long as it was not on the fence, or in the park, Council is fine with the marketing. Please refer to the ordinance for the duration of how long the sign can be up for.

5. Infrastructure and Operations:

- a. Engineers report: (Memo below): Mr. Heyl updated Council that the Borough was awarded the MTF grant for \$250,000 which will go towards the Canterbury sidewalk project. He added the park beautification project had about 100 residents fill out the park questionnaire and LSSE will meet with the green space committee this week for the next steps.
- b. Canterbury Road sidewalk grant award update: Mr. Stiller confirmed the good news Mr. Heyl noted, Ben Avon Heights was awarded the MTF grant for \$250,000. This will go towards the Canterbury Road Project as well as the LSA grant the Borough received for \$181,000. He also added that since 2023, the current Council has worked to obtain \$837,000 in grant money.
 - i. MTF grant Resolution: *This item will be tabled until next month.*
- c. LSA grant update: Mr. Brown noted the Borough had difficulty receiving payment for some of the services that the engineers and solicitor performed on this project for reimbursement with the grant money. Moving forward, Mr. Brown would like all involved in future projects to really observe all the documentation required for reimbursements and be well versed in the grants fine print.
- d. Electric Speed Sign update: Mr. Stiller updated the Council that the Borough did not receive the ARLE grant for the speed signs. He added that he, Mr. Brown and Ms. DiNuzzo attended training last week for the Speed Signs to be installed. The Borough has a free trial for a year, and if the Borough decides not to continue with the cloud base service, the Borough will have to obtain the information from each sign individually. Ms. Berardi questioned what the Borough plans to do with the data collected. Mr. Stiller noted, the Council will now have data that can go towards a traffic study. When he discusses improvements that could be made with PennDot, they typically ask for traffic metrics from traffic studies. Mr. Brown added, he did not plan to add a monthly Council report but would report highlights when appropriate.

6. Green Spaces:

- a. Park Maintenance update: Mr. Lope informed Council that maintenance in the park has been minimal over the past month, just removing some large branches and sticks. He added that they obtained two bids for power washing the tennis courts. He continued that the lowest bid was \$995. A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the quote by Shine. Mr. Stiller seconds the motion. The motion passed. Mr. Lope reminded Council that they typically sign a one-year contract with TruGreen for flea and tick treatment and fertilizer for both the park and along Briar Cliff. Mr. Brown questioned how much this contract has gone up over the past year. Mr. Lope believes about 10%. A motion was made by Ms. Berardi to approve the TruGreen one year contract. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- b. Beautification Plan update: Ms. Berardi informed the Council that they received 102 completed surveys. The greenspace team is now working with LSSE on a presentation and will most likely use April's working session for the public meeting.

7. Service/Contracts:

- a. Join Quaker Valley Council of Governments: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve Ben Avon Heights joining the Quaker Valley COG. Mr. Dawley seconds the motion. Motion passed.
- b. Waste & Recycling bid for 1-year (2026): Mr. Stiller updated the Council on a meeting he attended last week with the Borough solicitor, and the Quaker Valley COG solicitor. They felt that after discussing, it would be most conducive to bid for at least 1 year with the option to extend to 3. Mr. Brown questioned if the bids that come in are unfavorable, if we could then join the Quaker Valley COG waste management. Mr. Vogel noted that no, Council did not have to accept any bid that came in.

8. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:

- a. Zoning Ordinance update: Mr. Stiller noted that they will begin on page 67. This meeting will be strictly for zoning.
- b. March Working Session agenda: Mr. Brown noted that the March meeting will be the 25th at 7pm at the Avalon Fire Hall.
- c. Code enforcement issues: None submitted for the month of February.

- d. Zoning Applications, Building Permits: There was one building permit for the month of January: 22 Clovelly for solar panels. There were two zoning applications submitted for the month of March: 22 New Brighton installing 2-3' stone wall, extending the fence and adding a gate. 17 New Brighton installing fence along the rear of the property, between 5-6' in height and 65-75' feet long which was denied.
- e. Joint Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Morris updated Council that he is holding strong on keeping this project cost effective. The next steps are selecting the engineer and solicitor firms for the project. He added the revised resolution will state that we will equally provide 25% but no more than \$15,000.
 - i. Resolution: A motion was made by Mr. Stiller to approve the Joint Comprehensive Plan Resolution. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. Mrs. Neunder opposes; motion still passes.

9. Administration:

- a. Insurance claim for guardrail: Mrs. Neunder presented to Council the option to submit an insurance claim for the tree that fell late December 2024 and damaged the guard rail on Cambridge. The invoice from Avalon to remediate was only slightly above our deductible, and with the high probability of a rate increase occurring after this claim, Council chose not to pursue an insurance claim.
- b. Parking permit requests: For the month of February, there were no parking permit requests.

10. Meeting adjourned at: 8:19pm

Jessica DiNuzzo, Secretary

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 02/01/2025 AND 02/28/2025
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

DESCRIPTION	FEBRUARY CALLS	YTD CALLS
Accident/Reportable	1	1
Disabled Vehicle	1	1
DPW Request	6	20
EMS Call	2	2
Fire Alarm-Natural Gas	1	1
Fire Alarm-Residence	1	1
Juvenile Disturbance	0	1
Police Detail - Crossing Guard	0	7
Police Detail - Directed Patrol	41	102
Road Hazard	1	2
Traffic Citations	7	13
Vehicle Lockout	0	2
Warnings - Traffic	1	2
	62	155



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MEMO

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

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

SUBJECT: **March 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. LSSE to provide a service order for engineering services.

5. Electronic Speed Sign Permitting

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

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

Greenspace Committee questionnaire is active until March 5. LSSE processing data to provide outcomes to the Committee on March 13, 2025.

7. Miscellaneous

- **Wilson Drive Pavement:** *LSSE reviewing cracking along Wilson Drive and will provide a memo to council. LSSE issued memo on February 11, 2025 (Attachment A).*

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*

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.*
- *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.

CFA – PA Small Water and Sewer: Open February 3, 2025 / Due April 30, 2025)

- Max Grant Award \$500,000
- 15% Match
- Activities to assist with the construction, improvement, expansion, or rehabilitation or repair of a water supply system, sanitary sewer system, storm sewer system, or flood control projects

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

- Watershed restoration projects
- 15% minimum match