



Borough of Ben Avon Heights
Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 - Council Meeting Minutes

A quorum is in attendance

Present:

Council Members: Hebert, Hudson, Lope, Morris, Neunder, Stiller

Fire: Meyer

Police: Hanny

Mayor: Dismukes

Solicitor: Puchalski

Secretary: DiNuzzo

Residents: Jacquelyn Neunder, Lee Hebert

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stiller. *Mayor Scott Dismukes swore Council member Lester (Lee) Hebert in as Council member.*

2. **Approval of the March 2026 Meeting Minutes:** *A motion was made by Mr. Lope to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Morris seconds the motion. Motion passed.*

3. **Approval of the March 2026 Financials:** *A motion was made by Mr. Hudson to approve the March 2026 financials. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Mr. Stiller made a key point to Council; the Borough does not begin to receive income from real estate taxes for a few more months. With the up-and-coming projects in the Borough, some transfers may need to be made to cover costs. Mr. Hudson requested access to the 2025 financial reports to better understand the Borough's spending and income schedule. The Borough will also begin to gather the required documents to start submitting for reimbursement payment from the LSA and small waters grant for \$257,053.00 which has an expiration date of September 2026. Mr. Stiller added the Borough is officially debt free; the Borough made their final loan payment this past week. Motion passed.*

4. **Emergency Management:**
 - a. **Fire Report:** Chief Meyer reported the company was extremely busy for the month of March due to the extreme weather during the second week of March; of that activity, there were 4 calls in Ben Avon Heights. He added the company is looking to add a mini pumper by summer 2026. This will help them navigate small and narrow streets, especially in Ben Avon Heights.
 - b. **Police Report:** *Report below.* Newly sworn in Council member Lee Hebert questioned Chief Hanny if Ohio Township Police had any vendors they used while servicing their speed signs, and if they also use solar speed signs. Chief noted they do not use solar unfortunately; instead, they cycle out their batteries, perhaps the Borough could look into this option. Mr. Hebert will continue to look at vendors and work with Avalon DPW on this issue. Chief Hanny added they will begin the additional traffic patrols requested by the Borough this week.
 - c. **EMS:** tabled.
 - d. **Emergency Response Process:** Mr. Stiller would like to brainstorm a plan of action for communication to our residents when the office is closed. The storm the Borough experienced in March made him more aware of the issue. Other Boroughs rely heavily on their social media pages where Ben Avon Heights does not, as we are small and unique which allows the Borough to communicate to our residents through email.

5. **Public Comment:** Jacquelyn Neunder at 5 Biddeford Road wanted to thank all those who volunteered their time for the Easter Egg Hunt in the park. It was a successful community event pulled off from community help and support. Mr. Lope

also thanked Mrs. Neunder for taking on the event, so the tradition could continue this year. Lee Hebert at 9 Briar Cliff Road wanted to state that restoring power to the Borough residents of Ben Avon Heights is a Duquesne Light responsibility, not a Borough and Council responsibility. He also asked if anyone had volunteered to plan the Community picnic and Sleepover in the park; at this time, no one has volunteered. Mrs. Neunder believes there is some interest and is hopeful the event will still occur. Mr. Hebert would hate to see this annual tradition disappear.

6. Infrastructure and Operations:

- a. **Engineers Report:** *Report below.*
- b. **Canterbury Sidewalk project update:** Mr. Stiller noticed as the contractor was pouring concrete on Canterbury and noticed it was the incorrect curb. LSSE reached out to the contractor who realized it was the wrong curb and will fix this as it was their mistake.
- c. **Sewer Project:** Mr. Heyl provided Council with documentation of the Borough's progress through the phases of the sewer projects.
 - i. **Phase I&II:** LSSE noted that these phases are almost complete and are shown on the document provided.
 - ii. **Phase III:** Sewer easements will need to occur on 6 properties; LSSE will confirm if previous easements exist for these properties before moving forward.
- d. **Electronic Speed Signs:** Mr. Stiller just added from the discussion earlier in the meeting, the Borough could budget additional batteries. Mr. Hebert will work on the speed signs.
- e. **Street Sweeping:** Mr. Stiller noted Avalon DPW was able to sweep the streets earlier than expected. Several residents responded positively to the cleaned streets.

7. Service and Contracts:

- a. **Fire:** Mr. Stiller and Mayor Dismukes will begin to work on the Fire services contract.

8. Green Spaces:

- a. **Park Maintenance update:** Mr. Lope has some updates to share with Council; he noted some trees were removed along Cambridge for \$3,500, which was in line with the approved amount. He continued, TruGreen began their services in the park; Mrs. Neunder added their signage was placed very well this year. Mr. Lope also removed the salt and shovels from the bus stops and raised the question to Council whether anyone knew of someone who could fix the stone wall by the bus stop. Mrs. Neunder noted she knew someone who could quote the project. Mrs. Neunder would like to send an email out to the community asking for volunteers to water flowers in the park this year. She would also like to plant some items that are deer resistant as the deer have been problematic this past year destroying vegetation in the Borough.
- b. **Beautification Plan update:**
 - i. **DCNR grant:** Mr. Heyl informed Council there was an additional grant the Borough could apply for, ACT 13, Greenway and Trails which specifically works with the DCRN grant. Mr. Heyl will have the resolution for the ACT 13 grant ready for the May 2026 meeting.
 1. **Resolution 2026-02: Mr. Neunder made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-02. Mr. Hudson seconds the motion.** Mr. Dismukes thanked the Greenspace committee and Council for taking the route they did with the beautification plan. *Motion passed.*

9. Building, Zoning and Code Enforcement:

- a. **Zoning Ordinance update:** Mr. Stiller had some updates for Council regarding the current drafted zoning ordinance; the County returned their review with similar comments to what was previously noted. Mr. Stiller continued, following required protocol, the public zoning hearing would fall on May 27th. Tucker Arensberg will lead the advertising and posting requirements in advance of the hearing. Mr. Lope stated he would help with the handful of properties that require posting.
- b. **April Working Session Agenda:** There is no working session for the month of April.
- c. **Code Enforcement Issues:**
 - i. **6 Stratford:** Harshman continues to monitor this for the Borough.
 - ii. **Banbury DLC issue:** Discussion took place over Duquesne Light's right of way. Mr. Stiller will reach out to Duquesne Light as Council still feels there is some grey area as to who is responsible in cutting back the vegetation.
- d. **Zoning Applications, Building Permits:** None for the month of March.
- e. **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update:** Mr. Morris noted the committee is moving along with the project. He added that the invoices will begin to be sent to all the municipalities involved.

- i. Initial contribution of \$5,000.00 (of the total \$15,000.00) to the account managed by Avalon: A motion was made by Mr. Morris to contribute \$5,000.00 to the account managed by Avalon. Mrs. Neunder seconds the motion. Motion passed.

10. Administration:

- a. Parking permit requests: There were no permits for the month of March.
- b. QVCOG updates: Mr. Stiller reached out to the new president to confirm the representatives for Ben Avon Heights were still on the email distribution list.
- c. CDBG and HOME program opt out/in: A motion was made to opt out of the CDBG and HOME program by Mr. Lope. Mr. Hudson seconds the motion. The question was raised as to why the Borough never opted into these programs in the past. The Borough previously believed they did not fit the requirements to receive funds from these programs. Motion passed.
- d. District 1 Allegheny County Council updates: The District 1 Allegheny County Council member Kathleen was unable to attend the Boroughs meeting this evening due to her own meeting. She provided updates to Council members in their packet.

11. Meeting ended: 8:41pm

**CALL SERVICE REPORT GROUPED BY DESCRIPTION
INCIDENTS REPORTED BETWEEN 03/01/2026 AND 03/31/2026
BEN AVON HEIGHTS**

DESCRIPTION	MAR CALLS	YTD CALLS
Animal Complaint - Injured/Deceased Deer	1	1
Burglar Alarm-Residence	0	1
DPW Request	2	12
EMS Call	2	5
Parking Complaint	1	1
Police Detail - Directed Patrol	66	175
Police Info	0	1
Tree Down	2	2
Welfare Check	0	1
Wires Down	3	3
	77	202



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MEMO

TO: Ben Avon Heights Borough DATE: April 8, 2026

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

SUBJECT: **April 2026 Meeting** cc:

Engineering Report

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 II-V O&M Repairs – Contract No. 25-S1

- *PA Small Water and Sewer Grant awarded in the amount of \$257,053.00; and*
- *On May 15, 2025, the Commonwealth Financing Authority approved utilization of the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant funds for an expanded scope of work including repairs in the Year 4 (2023) and Year 5 (2024) O&M areas. The bid was awarded to Jet Jack, Inc. in the amount of \$218,390.00. Fully-executed Contract Documents were sent to Contractor on August 14, 2025. This work includes O&M repairs for Phases 3 through 5. The additional funding from the grant is in reserve for a couple dig repairs that may be required to complete the O&M repairs. Jet Jack, Inc. has completed a portion of the proposed lining repairs. LSSE transmitted Partial Pay Request No. 1 to the Borough on January 5, 2026 in the amount of \$69,707.88. Change Order No. 1 (+\$52,458.20) will be issued to the Borough for consideration at a later date. The purpose of Change Order No. 1 is to adjust the contract amount and scope of work based on pre-construction CCTV inspection findings and utilization of the entire PASWS Grant award. LSSE to send letter to Contractor requesting a schedule with proposed completion date.*

3. **Phase III Sanitary Sewer Operation and Maintenance Repairs- Part 2**

LSSE to develop scope to line sewers identified with Class 3 defects based on the budget available with the 2024 CFA-LSA grant award. The next Phase of O&M repairs will also include in-trench repair of the sewers going down the hillside east of Clovelly Road. LSSE to provide a list of temporary construction easements required to perform the proposed work.

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 sent award letter to Borough on October 15, 2025. LSSE sent Borough preconstruction meeting minutes on December 2, 2025. Borough obtained additional MTF grant in the amount of \$250,000. LSSE sent the Borough Change Order No. 1 on December 24, 2025. LSSE issued Notice to Proceed and Periodical Estimate on January 23, 2026, to the Borough. LSSE sent Borough Change Order on February 10, 2026. Letter was sent to Contractor requesting a schedule with a completion date of May.

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 is to issue preliminary opinion of probable cost and grant funding recommendations. Borough to review at March meeting. Application for DCNR grant for Phase 1 of Park is being completed for end of April deadline. Resolution was sent to Borough on March 30, 2026. LSSE to discuss possible grant application for an ACT13 Recreation and Trail grant.**

6. Miscellaneous

- *LSSE submitted the 2025 Chapter 94 Annual Report and Municipal Information Request data to ALCOSAN on February 25, 2026.*
- **Shannopin Country Club Lateral Inspection: LSSE issued letter recommending issuance of a certificate of compliance for this property on March 9, 2026.**
- **15 New Brighton Road Lateral Inspection: LSSE issued letter recommending issuance of a certificate of compliance for this property on March 12, 2026.**

Grants Due Next Quarter:

Program	Requests	Due Date	Comments
2026 DCNR	\$200k-\$250k	April 30, 2025	Parks 50% Match
2026 CFA – ACT 13 Greenways Trails and Rec	\$250k Max	May 31, 2026	15 % Match
2026 CFA – ACT 13 Watershed Restoration	\$300k Max	May 31, 2026	15 % Match
2026 CFA – ACT 13 Sewage Facility	\$100k Max	May 31, 2026	50 % Match
2026 CFA – ACT 13 Flood Mitigation	\$500k Max	May 31, 2026	15 % Match
2026 People Parks & Community	\$30k Max	May 29, 2026	Opens April 16, 2026
2026 ACED-CD Yr 53	\$50k Min.	Not Announced	
2026 ACED GEDTF	\$150k - \$500k	Not Announced	
2026 CFA-LSA	\$25k - \$1Million	Not Announced	
2026 DEP-Growing Greener		Not Announced	
2026 CFA - PASWS		Not Announced	

Grant Award Summary:

Project	Grant Source	Grant Award	Match	Status
Canterbury Road Pedestrian Improvements	2023 – CFA LSA	\$181,100.00	\$0.00	Under Construction
Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project	2023 – CFA Small Water and Sewer	\$257,053.00	15%	Under Construction
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	\$0.00	Awarded December 2025
Canterbury Road Pedestrian Improvements	2024 MTF	\$250,000.00	\$0.00	Under Construction

Billing Summary for the Month of March:

Project	Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Project Total (Since January 2026)	Invoice Amount
Meetings as Requested	202602980	3/16/2026	\$1,326.99	\$255.00
2026 Miscellaneous Services	202602981	3/16/2026	\$1,750.78	\$394.50
Phase 2 COA			\$0.00	\$0.00
2024 Sanitary Sewer O&M Repairs Project	202602983	3/16/2026	\$3,104.01	\$1,822.35
COA Services			\$0.00	\$0.00
Park Maintenance and Beautification Plan			\$0.00	\$0.00
Canterbury Road Sidewalk Improvements	202602984	3/16/2026	\$769.25	\$159.00
2026 Roadway Improvement Program			\$0.00	\$0.00
2025 Chapter 94 Report	202602982	3/16/2026	\$1,947.50	\$1,441.75
			Billing Total	\$4,072.60