

**Borough of Ben Avon**  
**7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania, 15202**  
**Regular Meeting of Council**  
**September 21, 2010**  
**Minutes**

**Council Members Present**

Judy Konitsney, Rich White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

**Council Members Absent**

Rob Galbraith  
Dan Herchenroether  
Lloyd Corder

**Others Present**

Bob Jones, Mayor  
Chuck Means, Solicitor  
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman  
Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary  
Michael Dufresne, Emergency Management Coordinator  
Gary Buckman, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department  
Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

**Call to Order**

Council Vice-President Sue Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Participation**

Frank Williams of 6824 Ricker Court, Deirdra Czapko of 6828 Ricker Court and Kristin Kurz of 6818 Ricker Court addressed council about parking problems on Ricker. Mr. Williams stated that there are five parking spaces on Ricker, which are reduced to three between October 1 and March 31 because of leaf and snow removal. Mr. Williams stated that each house has a driveway but noted that some residents never park in their driveway, which eliminates parking space for visitors. Mr. Williams, Ms. Czapko and Ms. Kurtz asked if the borough could issue parking permits for Ricker Court that would allow one parking space for each home. Ms. Kurz stated that everyone has a garage and driveway that can fit two cars; however, there are people who never use their driveway and park all of their cars on the street. Ms. Kurtz stated that some people abuse the available parking and then call the police regularly to report a resident or a visitor who does not park properly.

Ed Schwilm of 339 Forest Avenue addressed council about the roadwork on Perrysville Avenue. He stated that the borough would be wrong to pave Perrysville Avenue this fall. Mr. Schwilm stated that because of the damage done, the street would sink if it were paved. He stated that the borough should bring in an expert to evaluate the situation.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2010 council meeting.

**Engineer's Report** - report given by Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept the low bid submitted to the Quaker Valley Council of Governments from Tri State Contracting for \$32,300.00 for a handicap accessible restroom at the VFD building, contingent on Mr. McGee checking Tri State's references.

**Financial Report** – report given by Judy Konitsney, Chair

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the August 2010 financial reports as presented.

Mrs. Konitsney stated that there was a bill for \$1,330.07 on the August accounts payable report and a bill for \$1,576.18 on the September accounts payable report for bunker gear. She asked Chief Buckman to watch the budget for this line item. Mrs. Weiss stated that Chief Buckman should review the bills and report to council next month. Mrs. Konitsney stated that she was not questioning the bill and it would be paid, however, she wanted Chief Buckman to know that the fire department is over budget for this line item.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the September 2010 accounts payable reports as presented.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept a three year proposal to audit the borough's financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2011 and 2012 from Cottrill, Arbutina & Associates for \$5,670.00, \$5,950.00 and \$6,245.00 respectively.

The Allegheny North Tax Collection District voted to appoint Keystone Collections Group as the new earned income tax collector effective January 1, 2012.

As of August 31, 2010, the Parks and Recreation Grant Fund account for Avon Park owes the borough's General Fund account \$10,161.19.

**Intergovernmental Cooperation Report**

No Report

**Administration Report**

No Report

**Public Works / Building and Property Report**

No Report

**Public Safety Report**

No Report

**Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Report** - report given by Sue Weiss, Chair

**Public Affairs Report** - report given by Rich White, Chair

**Mayor's Report** – *report given by Bob Jones, Mayor, see attached report*

Mike Dufresne, Emergency Management Coordinator, briefed council on the status of the Emergency Operations Plan.

**Police Chief's Report**

No Report

**Solicitor's Report** – *report given by Chuck Means, Solicitor*

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to direct the solicitor to research the borough's options regarding the vacant lot at the corner of Dickson and Terrace Avenues that has been proposed to be purchased by John Ott and is currently in tax arrears.

**Fire Chief's Report**

No Report

**New Business**

None

**Old Business**

**Addendum to Hadley Enterprises, LLC Lease Agreement (Fire Escape)**

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. Tokar; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve an Addendum to the Lease Agreement by and between the Borough of Ben Avon and Hadley Enterprises, LLC, which extends the terms of the lease for a period of one year commencing September 1, 2010 and ending on August 31, 2011 and revises Sections I, IV and VII. Mr. White abstained from the vote.

Mr. White stated for the record that he does not think it is proper for the Chair to make motions.

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carmella Hallstein*

Borough Secretary

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*Robert B. Jones*

*Mayor*

*Borough of Ben Avon*

## **Mayoral Report**

**Ben Avon Council Meeting**

**09-21-2010**

- A.) On September 1<sup>st</sup> I attended a tour of the LST-325 as it came through the Emsworth Lock and Dam. I represented the Borough of Ben Avon and made contacts with several Army Corps of Engineers officers who I believe will be vital contacts to us later on in various projects I am working on. I'm passing around some pictures with notations from the day.
- B.) On September 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Corder and I attended a seminar on Marcellus Shale. I will differ to Lloyd on this as there are several points of interest to the council that we may need to discuss before taking any action affecting our borough and the adjacent municipalities.
- C.) I have written and delivered a check for \$100.00 to Carmella; and designated that the money be spent on artist materials or a frame for a painting Mrs. Galbraith had volunteered to paint for the Borough Hall. I did not see this fund designated on the Boroughs financial reports? How much is currently in the fund? Can we get an estimate from Rob as to how much money needs to be seeded in this fund to complete the project?
- D.) On the night of the Quaker Valley COG meeting I had a funeral I needed to attend. It was hosted by Ben Avon; and RJ graciously accepted to take my place for the meeting; I will differ to RJ for that report.
- E.) Mike Dufresne and I have had several meetings trying to bring our emergency management guidelines up to required standards. We have not completely finished writing the plan but we have made vast progress. Since the plan is still a working document, I recommend that we have the Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) brief Council in executive session before officially presenting the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for formal approval and its subsequent promulgation as a public document. You all have been issued a copy of the draft EOP and I recommend you to read closely pages 1 -7 and 11-14. After reading these few pages you will be better prepared to ask pertinent questions and make the informed comments I know you will have. At this time I will close my report as Mayor unless anyone has any questions for me, and ask the EMC to add any comments he may have.

Respectively submitted,

Robert B. Jones

Mayor

Borough of Ben Avon