

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania, 15202
Regular Meeting of Council
October 19, 2010
Minutes

Council Members Present

Rob Galbraith, Dan Herchenroether, Lloyd Corder, Rich White, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

Judy Konitsney

Brian Tokar

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary

Gary Buckman, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

Call to Order

Council President Lloyd Corder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Rob Galbraith entered council chambers at 7:25 p.m.

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2010 council meeting.

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

Financial Report – *report given by Rich White*

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

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

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – *report given by Lloyd Corder*

Administration Report

No Report

Public Works / Building and Property Report

No Report

Public Safety Report - *report given by Mr. Herchenroether, Chair*

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*

Mayor Jones reviewed a report from Mike Dufresne, Emergency Management Coordinator, see attached report.

Police Chief's Report

No Report

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

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to direct the solicitor to offer an Interested Purchaser Agreement to John and Megan Ott for the property at the corner of Dickson and Terrace Avenues that abuts their land.

Fire Chief's Report

No Report

Doug Silk, president of the Ben Avon VFD, addressed council about the proposed merger of the Ben Avon and Emsworth Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Silk stated that the VFD thought a vote to decide whether to continue the special committee meetings was to have taken place in September by the committee that has been evaluating the pros and cons of a merger. Mr. Silk stated that he, the Fire Chief, and the Assistant Chief were against the merger and that Mrs. Konitsney had questions concerning the finances. He stated that he thought it was a waste of time to continue to have meetings because both councils have had everything presented to them, the studies, the financial reports and the firefighters' opinions. Mr. Silk stated that the proposed merger would not save any money. Chief Buckman stated that there was a lot of misinformation about the proposed merger and the firefighters wanted some clarification. Mike Wodzinski stated that he is a seven-year member of the VFD, a lieutenant and a thirty-four year resident of the borough. He asked how much longer the VFD would have to sit on the fence, adding that a decision needs to be made. Mr. Wodzinski stated that the volunteers have put many things on hold to donate to the borough and that they would like to know the direction council is going to take. Mr. Silk stated that the VFD wanted things to stay as they are now and that they wanted to keep their own identity. Sam Diana, a life member of the Ben Avon VFD, stated that he was part of the initial committee when the new VFD facility was purchased and the capital improvements were made. Mr. Diana stated that the expenditures for these capital improvements are ending very soon. He stated that expenses for the Ben Avon VFD would be significantly reduced next year, but he did not think Emsworth would fit into this same model. Mr. Diana stated that nobody doubted the intentions of council. He stated that it seems like council is trying to look ahead, which is great because poor planning really kills you in public government, however he did not think anyone could say what is coming down the road. Mr. Diana stated that the VFD could not guarantee that it would be here in thirty years even with a merger or an acquisition because fire department members volunteer their service. He stated that the VFD was founded

by Ben Avon residents who wanted to provide a service to the borough, save money and save property and lives. Mr. Diana stated that the Ben Avon VFD has provided this service for over one hundred years, adding that no one can know how long this volunteer service can continue. He stated that you can conduct studies with the right interest and the right foresight but it does not mean it will work because no one can predict the future. Mr. Diana stated that when the day comes that the VFD cannot provide quality service council would be the first to know.

New Business

Bookmobile Service for 2011

Action deferred until the November 16 council meeting.

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Herchenroether; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary

Memorandum

From: M. P. Dufresne, Jr.

October 18, 2010

To: Mayor Jones

I will not be able to attend tomorrow's Council meeting. An updated status on the progress of the Emergency Operations Plan is as follows:

- **Communications:** Our communications infrastructure is adequate from an emergency management perspective. The transition from VHF to UHF has not been fully implemented by the county but our police, EMS, and fire organizations have sufficient equipment to communicate effectively on the VHF band.
- **Public Works vehicles** should be updated with equipment allowing communication with fire, police, and EMS units. I understand that partial funding has been accomplished and should be pursued.
- **Warning System:** The ONECALL system you proposed is a winner in every respect. You couldn't find a more effective way of getting critical info to the residents. I recommend adoption of the system.
- The EOP will be completed soon. There is one more step (Hazard Vulnerability Assessment) to accomplish before the detailed plan is written. My goal is to have the EOP written by November 10th. This should give council members sufficient time for a thorough review prior to presentation of the EOP at the November council meeting.
- I will be meeting with the EMCs for Sewickley, Mt. Lebanon, and Neville Island in the next few days. Subjects for discussion will be SOP writing for perceived hazards peculiar to our communities.
- I have obtained a copy of a mutual aid agreement which could serve as the basis for integration of the Ben Avon and Ben Avon Heights emergency management program and provides for adoption of one plan being applicable to both communities.

M. P. Dufresne, Jr.