

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – June 18, 2013
Minutes

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Rob Galbraith, Earl Bohn, Lloyd Corder, Richard White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

Michael Bett

Others Present

Bob Jones, Mayor

Chuck Means, Solicitor

Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman

Carmella Hallstein, Secretary

Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department

Norbert Micklos, Chief; Ohio Township Police Department

Public Participation

George Trent of 7190 Brighton Road addressed council about the borough's financial reports. He stated that the auditor's report that was published in the newspaper on May 5 showed the borough had an excess of revenue over expenditures of about \$106,000.00. Mr. Trent stated that this amount represents about twenty percent of the borough's real estate tax revenue or ten percent of all revenue and wanted to know what happened to it. Mr. Tokar stated that the excess revenue resulted from a shortfall in spending for roads and infrastructure. He stated that the borough did not spend its entire allotment for some budgeted items and that some planned expenditures did not occur because the borough missed the opportunity to get the projects started. Mr. Tokar stated that any excess revenue that resulted from under spending would be used for streets and infrastructure projects this year and in future years, adding that in the long term the borough would fall woefully short of what it needs to fix all of the roads properly. Mr. Trent stated that he did not care about what was going to happen five to ten years from now because he would not be here. He stated that he did not want to spend his money today for something that would not affect him. Mr. Trent stated that the excess of revenue over expenditures should go back to the taxpayers. Mr. Tokar stated that excess revenues are transferred to the capital improvement account for capital improvement expenditures, adding that many of the residents feel this is an appropriate way to handle the borough's finances. He stated that council needs to make sure the roads and infrastructure support our needs not only today but also into the future. Mr. Tokar stated that he felt the borough was underfunded as it relates to borough needs into the future as well as today. He stated that council runs a very tight financial ship. Mr. Tokar stated that taxes had not been raised since before 2000 and that the borough had eliminated all of its debt. He stated that the transfer of funds from the general account into the capital improvement account usually does not occur until May or June to ensure the borough's

finances are secure because expenses are greater than revenues in the months prior to receiving real estate tax revenues. Mr. Trent stated that the borough has a position with any bank because it is a municipality and would have no problem borrowing money at any time for any project. He stated that the borough would never be denied a loan. Mr. Tokar stated that the intent is to not take on debit and to be able to fund and pay for capital improvements as much as possible. Mr. Tokar stated that borrowing money would incur unnecessary expenses.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 council meeting.

Engineer's Report – *Report given by Rob Galbraith*

Financial Report - *Report given by Brian Tokar, Chair*

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mrs. Weiss; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the May 2013 financial reports as presented.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the June 2013 accounts payable reports as presented and approve reimbursement of \$83.31 to the Mayor for candy for the Memorial Day parade, authorizing payments of \$103,591.64 from the general account.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Report – *Report given by Lloyd Corder, Chair*

Administration Report – *Report given by Richard White, Chair*

Public Works / Building and Property Report – *No Report*

Public Safety / Strategic Projects Report – *No Report*

Fire / Public Affairs Report – *Report given by Earl Bohn, Chair*

Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement Report – *No Report*

Mayor's Report – *No Report*

Emergency Management Report – *No Report*

Police Chief's Report – *No Report*

Fire Chief's Report – *Report given by Jim Rupert, Chief; Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department*

Tri-Borough Joint Planning Commission Report – *No Report*

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

New Business

Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Mr. Bohn stated that the reading would be held in front of the Borough Hall on Thursday July 4 at 8 a.m. He stated that Church Avenue, between Forest and Breeding Avenues, would be closed

to motor vehicles from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. In the event of bad weather, the reading will be held on the second floor of the Borough Hall.

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary