

Borough of Ben Avon
7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202
Regular Meeting of Council – January 21, 2014
Minutes

Call to Order

Council President Earl Bohn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Members Present

Julian Wynnyckyj, Michael Wrbas, Richard White, Earl Bohn, Philip Brind'Amour, Sue Weiss

Council Members Absent

Michael Bett

Others Present

Anne Sweeney, Solicitor

Ed McGee, Engineer

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

None

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013 council meeting.

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2014 council reorganization meeting.

Engineer's Report – Report given by Ed McGee

Financial Report - Report given by Richard White, Chair

Mr. White stated that the December 2013 and the January 2014 financial reports would be presented at the February council meeting.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wynnyckyj; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2013 add-on accounts payable report and the December 2013 accrued accounts payable reports as presented, authorizing payments of \$24,187.83 from the general account.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the January 2014 accounts payable report as presented, authorizing payments of \$94,916.89 from the general account.

Mr. White stated that the borough received the certified assessed value of all taxable properties in Ben Avon. He stated that the total assessed value of taxable property in the borough is \$127,336,256.00. Mr. White stated that this is a decrease of about 2.1 million dollars from last year; as a result, since the millage rate is set by formula, the millage rate will go up from 4.28 mills in 2013 to 4.39 mills in 2014. He stated that Ordinance 765 empowers the Chair of the Borough Finance Committee to perform the mathematical calculations to determine the exact millage rate set by the ordinance without further action of council. See Exhibit A.

Mr. White stated that the 2014 budget adopted by council contains a serious deficiency. He stated that liquid fuels revenue was included twice, producing a deficit of \$36,757.00 in the 2014 operating budget. Mr. White stated that the borough is required by State law to maintain a balanced budget each year; leaving two options, raise taxes or lower expenses. Mr. White presented and reviewed his recommendations to correct the revenue error and to reduce expenses by \$36,757.00.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by voice vote to reopen the 2014 budget, submit the amended budget for public inspection for a period of ten days and hold a special meeting of council on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 8 a.m. at the Ben Avon Municipal Building. Mrs. Weiss opposed the motion.

Administration Report – No Report

Public Works Report – Report given by Julian Wynnycykj, Chair

Public Safety / Code Enforcement Report – Report given by Michael Wrbas, Chair and Earl Bohn, Council President

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to re-title the 1992 Quint fire truck in the name of the Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company instead of the Borough of Ben Avon and require council approval if the Volunteer Fire Company wants to sell the Quint fire truck before the PEMA loan is satisfied.

Public Affairs Report – Report given by Philip Brind'Amour, Chair

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 – No Report

New Business

YMCA Addendum to Lease Agreement

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve an addendum to the Commercial Lease Agreement by and between the Borough of Ben

Avon and the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh (North Borough Branch) for a period of one year commencing January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014 pending approval of the solicitor.

Jordan Tax Service Proposal

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the proposal from Jordan Tax Service to prepare and print the 2014 borough real estate tax bills.

Quaker Valley Council of Governments Representative

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to appoint Richard White as Ben Avon's Quaker Valley Council of Governments representative and appoint Julian Wynnykyj as the alternate representative.

Old Business

Committee Assignments

Mr. Bohn stated that he had not addressed Building and Property in the committee assignments. He stated that Mr. Wynnykyj would chair the Building and Property Committee along with the Public Works Committee. Mr. Bohn stated that Mr. Brind'Amour would serve as a member on the Public Works / Building and Property Committee with primary responsibilities for buildings and properties.

NorthWest EMS Lease Agreement

Mr. Bohn stated that NorthWest EMS is a tenant in the fire station building. He stated that their existing lease had expired and that they are prepared to sign a new lease agreement.

Motion: Mr. Brind'Amour; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to direct the solicitor to review the existing lease, update it as necessary and prepare a new lease agreement for a term of five years with a two year option.

Mr. Brind'Amour will contact NorthWest EMS to advise them that the borough is preparing a new lease agreement for their consideration.

Resignation

Mrs. Weiss stated that effective immediately following the meeting she was resigning from council.

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Wrbas; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to accept Mrs. Weiss' resignation.

Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Wrbas; Second: Mr. Brind'Amour; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmella Hallstein

Borough Secretary



Borough of Ben Avon

7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, PA 15202

tel. . . 412-766-7704 fax. . . 412-766-7311

CONFIRMATION OF MILLAGE RATE FOR 2014

WHEREAS, the Council of Ben Avon Borough duly adopted Ordinance 765 setting the millage rate for 2014 as the product of mathematical formula, which product was to be determined upon receipt of the certification of assessed value of taxable real estate by Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has received the County assessment information for taxable real estate dated January 15, 2014 at \$127,336,256.00 and now desires to confirm the millage rate set by Ordinance 765, all to the fiscal health of the Borough;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Ordinance 765 empowers the Chair of the Borough Finance Committee to perform the mathematical calculations to determine the exact millage rate set by Ordinance 765 without further action by Council.

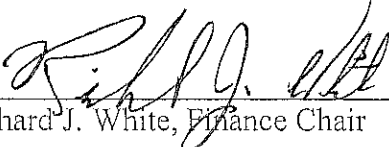
THEREFORE, I, Richard J. White, acting in my capacity as Chair of the Ben Avon Borough Finance Committee, pursuant to Section 3 of Ben Avon Ordinance No. 765, do confirm:

1. For calendar year 2014 the millage rate for ad valorem real estate taxes set by Ordinance 765 is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{107.5}{127,336,256.00} \times \$ 521,000 = .00439$$

The Borough tax millage rate 2014 for all purposes as set by Ordinance 765 is thus 4.39 mills.

2. Pursuant to Ordinance 765, I hereby certify that the within mathematical calculation of the tax millage rates set by Ordinance 765 is correct.


Richard J. White, Finance Chair

DATE:

BOROUGH OF BEN AVON
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 765

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BEN AVON, COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, LEVYING AN AD VALORUM REAL ESTATE TAX AND FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Ben Avon, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by authority of the same:

SECTION 1. That a tax be, and the same is hereby, levied on all property within said Borough subject to taxation for Borough purposes for the fiscal year 2014 at the total of the millage rates determined by the method set forth in sections 2 and 3 of this Ordinance.

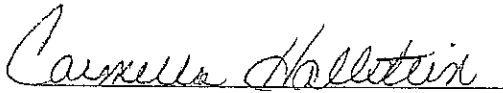
SECTION 2. That the rate of such tax for general borough purposes per dollar of assessed valuation be equal to 107.5% of the millage produced by dividing \$521,000.00 by the total assessed valuation of taxable real estate in the Borough as certified by Allegheny County for fiscal year 2014. This calculation shall be carried to five decimal places and expressed as dollars per thousand, or millage.


SECTION 3. That the Chair of the Borough Finance Committee is hereby empowered to perform the mathematical calculations to determine the exact millage rate set by this Ordinance without further action of Council.

SECTION 4. That any ordinance or part of an ordinance conflicting with the provisions of this Ordinance be, and the same is hereby, repealed so far as it conflicts with this Ordinance.


ORDAINED AND ENACTED into law this 10th day of December, 2013.

ATTEST:

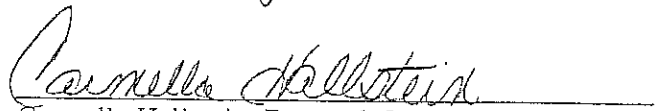

Carmella Hallstein, Secretary


Lloyd Corder, President of Council

EXAMINED AND APPROVED this 10th day of December, 2013.


Robert Jones, Mayor

This Ordinance recorded in the Borough Ordinance book on December 11, 2013,
by the undersigned.


Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary