

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

**Council Members Present**

Rob Galbraith, Dan Herchenroether, Judy Konitsney, Lloyd Corder, Rich White, Brian Tokar, Sue Weiss

**Council Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Bob Jones, Mayor  
Chuck Means, Solicitor  
Carmella Hallstein, Borough Secretary

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Participation**

George Dudash, co-owner of NorthWest EMS, 7221 Church Avenue, introduced himself to the new members of council. He provided a contact list for NorthWest and stated that council should feel free to contact him if they have any questions or concerns. Mr. Dudash stated that NorthWest wants to do some remodeling at the Church Avenue location and asked if there would be any problem with replacing some ceiling tiles and installing carpeting, adding that Northwest would cover the cost. Mr. Dudash will provide a written plan for the remodeling project. Mr. Galbraith will meet with Mr. Dudash at the EMS location to review the plan.

Jeff Bengel of 327 McKee Place, Pittsburgh, PA stated that he is doing a one-year term in service with North Hills Community Outreach in Bellevue through AmeriCorps VISTA. He stated that wanted to promote the program he is working on because it has a lot to offer the less fortunate people in the North Boroughs area. Mr. Bengel stated that he is running a volunteer program that is aimed towards helping people with job searches and financial literacy. He stated that he is recruiting volunteers who are willing to sit down one on one with somebody and help him or her balance a budget, work on a resume, compose a cover letter and get ready for a job interview. Mr. Bengel stated that while there is an ongoing need for financial literacy, unemployment is really the problem right now. He stated that there is a wealth of experience both educational and professional in the community and asked anyone who is willing to get involved to contact him.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mrs. Weiss; Second: Mrs. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2009 council meeting and the minutes of the January 4, 2010 council reorganization meeting.

**Engineer's Report**

No Report

**Financial Report** – report by *Judy Konitsney*

Mrs. Konitsney presented the December 2009 accrued accounts payable reports and the January 2010 accounts payable reports. She stated that the December 2009 and January 2010 financial reports would be presented at the February meeting.

Motion: Mrs. Konitsney; Second: Mr. White; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the December 2009 accrued accounts payable reports as presented.

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

**Intergovernmental Cooperation Report** – report by *Lloyd Corder*

Dr. Corder, Mrs. Weiss and Mayor Jones will attend the North Boroughs Joint Cooperation Planning Summit on February 6. Representatives from Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Avalon, Bellevue, Emsworth and Kilbuck will meet to look at the possibility of participating in joint projects over the coming years.

Kilbuck Township will apply for a DCNR grant to help improve Avon Park. If approved, the grant will be used to refurbish the tennis court.

**Administration Report** – report by *Brian Tokar*

The new computer for the borough office has been ordered and will be delivered within the next few weeks. Mr. Tokar is doing a needs assessment relating to telephone and internet services.

The DCNR grant for Avon Park requires the installation of new park signs. Precision Sign Company submitted designs and a price quote of \$3,220 to manufacture and install the signs. The public works department will install the signs, which will save the borough the installation cost of \$600. Payment of this expenditure will be made from the general fund account and set up as a receivable. The general fund will be reimbursed when the borough receives the final disbursement of grant funds from the DCNR.

Motion: Mr. Tokar; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the proposal from Precision Sign Company for \$2,620 for Avon Park signs.

**Public Works / Building and Property Report**

No Report

**Public Safety Report**

No Report

**Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement**

No Report

**Public Affairs** – report by *Rich White*

Mr. White will be looking into a free service called Nixle, which is a notification system that can be used for things such as emergencies or community events. The notifications can be in the form of emails or telephone calls. Mr. White will meet with Jeff Cieslak to discuss ways to make the borough website more interactive.

**Mayor's Report** – report by *Bob Jones*

Mayor Jones met with Police Chief Micklos on Friday, January 15. Chief Micklos gave Mayor Jones a tour of the Ohio Township police facility and introduced him to the township personnel. They drove the extent of the borough's borders and discussed the parameters of the police department's involvement in Ben Avon.

Mayor Jones received a letter from a concerned resident regarding Ordinance 742, which was recently adopted. He will review the ordinance before replying to the letter.

Mayor Jones received an invitation to the welcoming home party for Ben Avon residents Ali and Jamie McMutrie who ran the BRESMA Orphanage in Haiti. They were airlifted out with 53 orphans after the recent earthquake. The public is invited to the event, which will be held Wednesday, January 20 at the Mayernik Center on Camp Horne Road at 6 p.m. Dr. Corder stated that he sent a letter on behalf of Ben Avon Borough to the McMutrie family to offer any assistance or support that may be needed on a local level.

Mayor Jones will attend the Quaker Valley Council of Governments meeting on January 20 and the North Boroughs Joint Cooperation Planning Summit on February 6.

**Police Chief's Report** – report by *Norbert Micklos*

Chief Micklos welcomed the new council members and stated that his door is always open if anyone needs to meet with him to discuss any issues they may have.

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

Mr. Means advised council to request the grant money that is available under the Verizon Cable Franchise Agreement and the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement. The grant money is to be used towards local programming. Comcast offered to provide free internet service to one municipal building location in exchange for lengthening the term of the franchise agreement from 10 to 15 years, but is agreeable to extending the term to 12 years.

Mr. Means reviewed the revisions made to the fire company appropriations agreement.

Motion: Mr. Herchenroether; Second: Mrs. Konitsney; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adopt Ordinance 743, which authorizes an agreement with the Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company for multi year capital expenditure funding, contingent on approval of the agreement by the Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Company.

Under Pennsylvania law, Ben Avon is under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC), which is the building code. These codes are usually updated every three years. In 2009, the International Code Council (ICC) updated its national codes. In December 2009, the PA Department of Labor and Industry adopted the 2009 ICC Codes into the PA UCC. Ben Avon Ordinance 711, which adopted the UCC provides for any new codes to be automatically in effect, so the borough does not have to take any action on the new building codes. The Property Maintenance Code is not part of the PA UCC and is not part of the codes automatically adopted under Ordinance 711. Borough Ordinance 722 adopted the 2003 International Property Maintenance Code and did not provide that successor codes would automatically be adopted. Fred Sapp, the code enforcement officer has recommended adopting the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code. Adoption of the 2009 Property Maintenance Code would be done by ordinance, which is required to be advertised before council can take any action. Mrs. Weiss

will contact Fred Sapp to find out what his analysis is of the differences between the 2003 and 2009 codes.

**Fire Chief's Report** – *Report by Gary Buckman*

Chief Buckman presented the Fire Company's activity report for December 2009 and the run report for 2009.

**New Business**

**Bookmobile Location**

The bookmobile currently parks in front of the borough municipal building. In an effort to get more usage of the service, the bookmobile will move closer to the coffee shop so that it will be more of a destination. The manager of the bookmobile measured the parking space in front of the fire station and determined that there was enough space available and Chief Buckman stated that there would not be an issue getting the fire trucks in and out of the fire station when the bookmobile is parked there. Parking will be prohibited in this area between 9:30 and 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings. Chief Micklos will notify residents who normally park there about the new parking restriction and no parking signs will be posted. Mr. Means will check the borough traffic and parking ordinance to determine if it needs to be amended.

**2010 Strategic Plan Outline**

Mr. Tokar stated that the intent of the strategic plan is to bring thoughts and ideas about council's vision for the borough to the surface. He asked each council member to write down ideas for their specific committee. Mr. Tokar will sort through the ideas, rank them and prepare an Excel spreadsheet so that council can track them and identify any potential risks.

Mr. McGee presented and reviewed a report on engineering services and potential infrastructure projects for 2010 and the associated costs. The report addressed four areas, general engineering services, grant applications and implementation, wet weather sewer overflows (USEPA/PADEP Consent Order) and priority infrastructure projects.

**Old Business**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. White; Second: Mr. Galbraith; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carmella Hallstein*

Borough Secretary