

**Borough of Ben Avon**  
**7101 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, Pennsylvania 15202**  
**Regular Meeting of Council – April 17, 2018**  
**Minutes**

**Call to Order**

President, Jennifer Bett, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Council Members Present**

Jennifer Bett, Michele Boyd, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan, and David Stoeckle

**Council Members Absent**

Ken Opiery  
Earl Bohn

**Others Present**

Melanie Holcomb, Mayor  
Anne Sweeney, Esq., Solicitor  
Dale Regrut, Public Works Foreman  
James Rupert, Chief, Ben Avon Volunteer Fire Department  
Norbert Micklos, Chief, Ohio Township Police Department

**Public Participation**

Doug Silk, a resident of 7224 Church Avenue, told council of his concern with the trash accumulating in a couple of areas on the borough streets. In particular, a house on Breading Avenue has been using the driveway and back porch to store trash and now has a dumpster that partly blocks the sidewalk. Mr. Silk said he is concerned about the safety of people walking or jogging along the sidewalk.

Hannelore Steranko-Van Roo, a resident at 7315 Brighton Road has been in communication with Mayor Holcomb and came to the council meeting to express several concerns about the gas line replacement being done by Columbia Gas and the time it is taking to repair. She also expressed concerns of vehicles speeding on Breading Avenue and the lack of residents picking up their leaves in the fall.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018.

**Financial Report - Report given by Henry Casale**

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mrs. Boyd; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the accounts receivables for March 2018.

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mrs. Boyd; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve the accounts payables for \$52,258.68 for March 2018.

**Administration Report – Report given by Megan Dolan**

**Public Affairs / Communications Report** – *Report given by President Jennifer Bett*

Mrs. Bett asked that the staff and council provide a photo and a bio if not already done so. Public Works Foreman was asked for an update on the Perrysville Road project and the water pipe work being done in Avon Park this summer. Mr. Regrut said he was informed that the Perrysville Road project will take about three weeks and would involve PennDot using a temporary traffic light systems using alternate lanes. Avon Park entrance will be closed during this construction.

**Public Safety/Code Enforcement Report**–*Report given by David Stoeckle*

Mr. Stoeckle reported that he received complaints about property on Monitor and Breeding Avenue where there was an accumulation of trash for some time now. He planned on contacting the borough zoning officer to see what could be done. He also asked council what actions can the borough take after the property owner has been notified and the issue(s) are not resolved. Solicitor Anne Sweeney said the borough can issue a complaint and take it up with the Magistrate or the borough could contract a company to clean up or have the borough clean up the property and put a lien on the property for that expense.

**Public Works Report** – *Report given by David Stoeckle*

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mrs. Dolan; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve Independent Enterprises with the lowest base bid of \$387,038.75 for the 2018 Road Paving Project Program, and the additional three alternate streets, as recommended by Gateway Engineers.

**Quaker Valley COG Report** – *Report Given by Megan Dolan*

Mrs. Dolan informed council that in August of 2017, the QVCOG started the process of doing a Shared Resource Study of all the townships and boroughs that belong to the QVCOG for an Emergency Management Study recommendation. She said our borough has been asked to review and adopt a resolution at May's 2018 meeting to proceed with the study and recommendation. She asked that this be put on May 14, 2018 Agenda under New Business.

**Mayor's Report** – *Report given by Melanie Holcomb*

Please see Attachment A.

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mrs. Boyd; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve a resolution honoring Chief Micklos for being a dedicated public servant who has provided outstanding service. Mayor Holcomb told Chief Micklos that she, and the members of Ben Avon council, were thankful for his services since 2008, and offered congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

**Police Chief's Report** – *Report Given by Detective Joe Hanny*

Detective Hanny said that a tentative date for the demolition of the Shenango Plant on Neville Island is to take place on April 24, 2018. He told council that the Ohio Township Police Department have systems in place and they will be monitoring the potential for blowing dust from the implosion and is prepared to shut down Route 65 if there is any chance of blowing dust causing unsafe traffic conditions.

**Fire Chief's Report** - *No Report Given*

**Solicitor's Report – No Report Given**

**New Business**

Motion: Mr. Stoeckle; Second: Mr. Casale; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to approve changing the May 15, 2018 Regular Council meeting to Monday, May 14, 2018, due to a scheduling conflict with the Avonworth School District band concert.

**Old Business**

**Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Casale; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Megan Dolan,*

*Council Member*

*Co-Chair, Administration*

## Ben Avon Mayor's Report

April 2018

- Completed Local Government Academy courses for newly elected officials.
- Met with Council of Governments Director to discuss best ways to get caught up on COG business and opportunities for Ben Avon.
- Communicated with residents on Brighton Rd about their concerns with Columbia Gas work on Brighton. Resident has received communication from the gas company and assurance that all property damage will be restored.
- Communicated with residents on Monitor Ave about their concerns with drivers speeding down Monitor to catch the light at 65. Requested that OT Police place traffic counter on Monitor to gather data on the problem. See Report attached.
- Replied to resident asking about a having a Handicapped space put in front of a residence on Monitor Ave. Researching parameters & possibilities.
- Posted Borough Secretary job opening. Applications are being accepted and reviewed by the Search Committee. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. 17 applicants so far.
- Communicated with resident on Perrysville Ave about road construction there. Resident would like to file a complaint about the conduct of a road crew worker when she approached him about safety concerns.
- Communicated with OT Police Department about the upcoming Bill Allowing Municipal Radar. Information on the bill is below. OT Police are in favor of this.
- Resolution honoring Chief Miklos on his retirement. See attached.
- Collecting names of Ben Avon residents who died in service to be honored in the Memorial Day Parade.

On Wed., April 4, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) and its members provided testimony before the House Transportation Committee urging passage of SB 251 which would allow the use of radar by municipal police. PSAB has actively lobbied for passage of this bill for more than two decades. SB 251 passed the Senate in June.

Pennsylvania remains the only state in the country that prohibits municipal police from using this important tool as a safety device. Like other police departments around the country, our local police can put themselves in the line of duty, they carry guns and tasers, and they make arrests. Yet, unlike other police officers, they are not permitted to use this simple, life-saving device. State police, on the other hand, have been using radar since 1961.

SB 251 sets the following conditions:

- Municipalities must pass an ordinance allowing the use of RADAR/LIDAR.
- Municipalities with RADAR/LIDAR must post signs indicating their use.
- Citations will be limited to speeds in excess of 10 miles per hour over the speed limit
- Municipalities must test RADAR and LIDAR devices at least annually and they must be approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Holcomb  
Mayor

Ohio Twp Traffic Data  
Monitor Ave  
Ben Avon Borough  
Vehicles traveling North and South  
04/08/2018 to 04/15/2018

Data Summary:

- 2,119 Vehicles were clocked over an 8 day time period. 263 of those vehicles exceeded the speed limit. 260 vehicles exceeded the speed limit by 1 to 10 miles an hour. 3 vehicles exceeded the speed limit by 11 to 20 miles an hour.
- Average speed traveled on Monitor Ave is 21 Miles per hour.
- In accordance with State Title 75 Section 3368 (C)(3), 3 vehicles or .14% of traffic on Monitor Ave could have been cited for Section 3362 (Relating to Maximum Speed Limits)
- More detailed information is included in the attached table and/or graphs. Traffic Data recorded by Officer Panormios using a TraxPro Radar Recorder.

RESOLUTION HONORING POLICE CHIEF  
NORBERT “BEAVER” MIKLOS  
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

*WHEREAS, Chief Miklos began serving as Police Chief for the Borough of Ben Avon in 2008, Chief Miklos has been a dedicated public servant having conducted himself in a professional manner, earning the respect of those with whom he has served, and those he has been entrusted to serve, contributing to the betterment of his Department and the community as a whole.*

*WHEREAS Chief Miklos’ dedication to his duties as Police Chief and his positive leadership have led to outstanding service to all citizens under his watch these many years and have left a legacy of quality, kindness and honor in all communities where he has served.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Mayor and Members of the Borough Council of Ben Avon, PA, do hereby commend and thank Chief Miklos for many years of dedicated law enforcement service and especially for his positive contributions to the Borough of Ben Avon. We take this opportunity to express our sincere and grateful appreciation and extend to Chief Norbert “Beaver” Miklos our congratulations on his well-earned retirement and our best wishes to him for happiness and health in the years to come.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread in full upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Council, and a suitable copy be presented to Chief Miklos as a token of our respect with the heartfelt thanks of the Borough of Ben Avon.*

*ADOPTED by the Mayor and Members of Council of the Borough of Ben Avon, Pennsylvania this 17th day of April, 2018.*