

BEN AVON BOROUGH
Council Work Session
December 1, 2020

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a regular voting session on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue for the purpose of transacting General Business. President Jennifer Bett presided and opened the meeting at 7:03 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members Present: Jennifer Bett, Henry Casale, Megan Dolan (7:54 p.m.), Ken Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, David Stoeckle, Rick Wagner

Others Present:

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb, Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - *there was no public participation*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration Committee

Mrs. Bett reported that Mr. Wagner and Mrs. Patsch continue to work on the updated fee schedule to be presented to council early in 2021 for their review and adoption.

In addition, Mrs. Bett reported that the Borough Secretary was working to find options to replace the telephone sets and several pieces of furniture in the Borough office.

Public Affairs/Communication

Mrs. Bett reported notification to the community notifying them of the end of the annual leaf collection.

She also shared that according to the most recent data, Ben Avon has reported 370 COVID tests performed with 38 confirmed cases.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement - *no report given*

Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that with both the new equipment purchase and the experienced crew on board, the 2020 leaf collection was right on schedule this year. Currently Public Works staff are preparing the trucks to convert over for the pending snow.

Mr. Wagner asked that in the coming years perhaps setting a defined last day of pick-up as the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving that may help with resident's understanding of the final round of the season. In addition, Mr. Opiery pointed out residents need to be reminded that only leaves should be raked to the curb to avoid damage to the leaf vac.

Mr. Opipery stated that he and Mr. Regrut reviewed the recent request for a new crosswalk at the corner of Ridge and Church in order to slow oncoming traffic. Both felt that the tree limbs blocking the stop sign should be addressed as a first course of action.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Fire Department Request

Following a recent request from the Ben Avon Fire Department for the Borough to enter into an agreement for purchasing a new fire truck, council members presented questions to the FD for their response.

Mr. Wagner stated that in reviewing the answers to the questions from council, there were no other options put forth by the fire department. Following a lengthy discussion, other options were explored for sustaining the needs of the borough for fire service. Requests will be made for further information, including the financial statements for the current year and most recent activity reports. Mrs. Bett also stated a priority for finalizing a lease for the use of the space currently occupied by the fire company.

Mrs. Bett asked council members to review the draft lease and respond with any suggestions for revisions by next Tuesday. She will then forward that information to Solicitor Sweeney for incorporation and presentation to council at the December 15 meeting.

Mrs. Dolan asked that the current contract with Kilbuck Township be distributed to council members for their review.

Mr. Stoeckle and Mr. Casale will hold another discussion with Fire Department representatives concerning any other options or concerns they have in addressing the need for a replacement truck.

Borough Building 100 Year Celebration

Mrs. Bett reminded council of the request by Mr. Herchenroether last month that council consider celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the borough building even though it would be delayed by COVID right now. Mr. Wagner stated that he would like to begin with an initial meeting of interested community members and any council members. The initial meeting would be held virtually in December with members from the Avon Club, and the Avonworth Historical Society as well as any others that express interest.

EMS Lease Renewal

Mrs. Bett stated she would reach out to Solicitor Sweeney to begin the notification process for the renewal of Northwest EMS lease, expiring June 30, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Opipery; Second: Mr. Stoeckle; Motion Carried by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary