

BEN AVON BOROUGH

Council Work Session

March 2, 2021

Minutes

The Borough of Ben Avon Council met in a work session on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 virtually via Zoom 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

Those Present:

Jennifer Bett, President

Henry Casale

Megan Dolan, Vice President

Ken Opiery

Kara Roggenkamp

David Stoeckle (7:30 p.m.)

Rick Wagner

Also in Attendance:

Mayor Melanie Hughes-Holcomb (7:08 p.m.)

Terrie Patsch, Borough Secretary

Kimberly Slater Woods, ALCOSAN Manager of Municipal Relations & Outreach

Stephanie Conley, ALCOSAN Administrative Assistant, Municipal Relations

Joe Day, ALCOSAN

Jacqueline Graham, ALCOSAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – *there was no public participation*

PRESENTATION – *Kimberly Slater Wood, ALCOSAN*

Ms. Slater Wood shared a powerpoint presentation outlining the efforts by ALCOSAN to collaborate with local municipalities that it serves. Ms. Slater Wood presented several initiatives and introduced her co-workers who discussed items such as the quarterly newsletter, the cleanwater plan and regionalization, the secure data site and GROW funding.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Administration Committee – *there was no report*

Public Affairs/Communication

Mrs. Bett reported that the Communication Committee was planning development of a newsletter to update residents on the status of several ongoing and new initiatives in the borough. The first newsletter would be mailed to residents, with plans of implementing an email list further down the road.

On Thursday, Mrs. Bett will attend a presentation by Alert Media on a notification system much like SWIFT911 previously used by Ohio Township Police. SWIFT911 service was recently terminated due to the expense, and other options for emergency communication are being considered.

Public Safety/Code Enforcement – *there was no report*

Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that Mr. Regrut received the new backhoe today, and the company removed the old equipment.

Mr. Opiery presented updates on the following:

- The gas company is continuing work on Dalzell Avenue and McCurdy. This work is confined to the street only and will not involve disruption of any sidewalks.
- Breading Avenue is on tap for main line by West View Water this year.
- The advertisement is being prepared for bids for the upcoming pavement project, and Mr. Opiery is hopeful that the bids will be received and information will be available for councils review and approval by the April or May council meeting.
- State Pipe will be working on inspecting the sewers in the borough.

Quaker Valley COG

Mr. Wagner elaborated on the recent announcement that the Director, Susan Hockenberry, and her Administrative Assistant, Janet Wenger will be resigning in April and March, respectively. Job descriptions were prepared, however consideration is being given to combine the QV COG with another COG in the area.

Mr. Wagner and the borough secretary attended a COG update meeting this past Saturday on the solid waste and recycling contract negotiations which included the next steps for the municipalities.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Fee Schedule

Mrs. Bett and Mr. Wagner discussed an ongoing revision of the current fee schedule which has not been updated in many years. In addition, Mr. Wagner shared that he and the Borough Secretary are exploring options of software that could potentially bring many of the office operations under one umbrella and streamline tasks. This software would potentially simplify permit applications and their process for residents as well.

Park Shelter Reservations

Ms. Bett reported the Administration Committee has considering accepting reservations from borough residents for the picnic shelter at Avon Park. Plans are to tentatively accept the most recent request, and work through the procedure for future inquiries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Mr. Wagner; **Second:** Mr. Opiery; **Motion carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss contract matters.

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Mr. Wagner; **Motion carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. and return the Work Session meeting.

There was no further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Opiery; **Second:** Mr. Wagner; **Motion carried** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch
Borough Secretary