

10 August 2015 Council

**Joint BPA Council Meeting  
10 August 2015**

Mayor Fischbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Roll Call:** Linda Swaney – No, Craig Ronyak – No, Tom Blair – Yes, Roberta Dobay – No, Jennell Dahlhausen – Yes, Charles Boehnlein- Yes, James Koster – Yes, Jeremy Neil – Yes, Curt Johnson – No.

Council does not have a quorum for this meeting. BPA will proceed with the BPA meeting.

**Visitors:** Jack Garner, Joe Kozial, Debbie Palmisano, Rick Gruber, Rick Smigelski, Marcianne Kimpton, Lisa Hernandez, Paul Eaton, Dianne Lillibridge, Lee Koroshes, Ann Wishart, Holly Lynn, Said Abou Abdallah, Jared Flynn, Todd Hicks, Chip Hess, Mary E. Turner, Judy Beaumier, Lenore Pikus.

Mr. Boehnlein stated to Council that Ms. Swaney was on a planned vacation however she wanted to listen in on the BPA presentation and is currently on speaker phone. She is not allowed to participate or vote on any of the proceedings.

Mr. Neill proceeded with the BPA meeting.

**Cashiers Report:**

Mrs. Pikus reported that the all the ordered meters have been installed with the exception of 38. A test run of the remote read proved very accurate and helpful.

**Fiscal Officer Report:**

Mr. Paquette asked BPA for a motion to pay approved bills. Mr. Koster moved to pay approved bills and Mr. Neill seconded the motion. By voice vote, motion approved.

Mr. Paquette asked for comments or approval of the minutes of 14 July 2015. Mr. Koster moved to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Neill seconded the motion. By voice vote, motion approved.

Mr. Paquette asked for comments or approval of the minutes of 21 July 2015. Mr. Neill stated the wanted to hold these minutes until the next meeting.

**Operators Report:**

Mr. Eaton reported that he was working on a water leak in the Berkshire Hills apartments near Ford Lane. The water will be shut off tomorrow. The property owner had been notified of the shut off.

Mr. Neill asked about progress concerning the lagoons. Mr. Eaton stated that he was waiting to hear back from the contractor.

**Engineers Report:**

Mr. Hess reported that the cherry tree damaged during construction of the Pump Tank and Memorial Drive Waterline projects at the Burton wastewater treatment plant was slight problem in finishing up the projects. Mr. Hess stated that there was some concern by the contractor as to whether the contractor should be responsible for the tree removal when compared to the specifications for the job.

## 10 August 2015 Council

Mr. Hess was reviewing erosion and plot plans for new construction on Colony Lane.

Mayor Fischbach introduced Mr. Abou Abdallah as the engineer for the wastewater treatment plant project along with Mr. Hess. Mayor Fischbach directed the meeting agenda toward a discussion of the wastewater treatment plant and again turned the meeting over to Mr. Neill.

Mr. Neill, as background, explained his reasons for getting active in the water and sewer board. The water and sewer rates in the Village had not been raised since the late 1980's, the Village water and sewer infrastructure is aging and in decline and little or no money had been set aside to replace and repair lines and the water treatment plant or the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Koster noted that he had come to the Board of Public Affairs more recently. He was also concerned that the sewer plant, although still operating, was wearing out and needed to be replaced. The plan to obtain a 30 year zero interest loan was not available because of legislature choices.

The Mayor, the members of BPA and Mr. Abou Abdallah discussed facts, timelines, history and options.

In 2007 BPA looked at getting a wastewater treatment plant expansion designed. The cost, approximately 6 million dollars, was not considered affordable at the time due to rates being too low. Now the cost has risen to around 10 million dollars.

Mayor: Met with BPA on 21 July and has since heard that the cost could be over 12 million dollars. There are no EPA mandates to improve the plant at this time. The annual cost of a 10 million dollar bond is approximately \$346,000. The Mayor felt that this is too expensive. He stated that the High School could move out of the Village and reduce income tax collections. Kent State Geauga has plans to expand and there maybe a new high school outside of the Village.

The Mayor asked if the project could be mothballed or done in phases or just repaired.

Mr. Neill noted that the current plant is over its stated hydraulic capacity. If the project is phased or mothballed future equipment changes by manufacturers could bring higher costs.

Mr. Abou Abdallah stated that BPA and Council were probably most concerned with total project cost. If rates had been raised in 2008 or earlier, the plant could have been constructed for 6.8 million dollars with a 20 year loan. Today the cost may add up to more than 10 million. Mr. Abou Abdallah explained that phasing a project added costs as engineering and design elements will have to be repeated. The EPA meeting with BPA in 2014 was originally called to see if we could reduce the scope of the project. A 30 year zero percent loan was offered. This has become a 30 year bond with a .25% interest charge.

Mr. Neill recognized the audience for questions and comments.

## 10 August 2015 Council

Mary Turner, a 27 year resident of Berkshire Hills apartment complained that she recently received notice that her utility bill will go from \$28 per quarter to \$112 per quarter. She wanted it reversed. She felt she was being penalized for conserving water. Ms. Turner asked for a senior citizens discount or a discount for disability. Mr. Neill told her that BPA would be considering those options if they were available. Ms. Dahlhausen remarked that Burton Village water rates were comparable or lower than many surrounding communities. Ms. Dahlhausen noted that the Village has studied these rate changes for many years.

Mrs. Beaumier asked when the new plant expansion would be decided.

Mr. Hicks offered a statement that asked the question, is the expansion needed if the Village is mostly built out and there are no plans for annexation or increased need. Could the Village get by with just maintaining what it had.

Mr. Garner wanted to know what the BPA was shooting for.

Mr. Koroshes asked about plant capacity at the proposed increase. Mr. Abou Abdallah stated that it would grow from 270,000 gallons per day to 400,000 gallons per day. The new plant will likely last 30 years or more as will much of the equipment. Some of the pumps (etc) may only last 10 years.

Mr. Flynn added that he agreed with BPA having to establish whether the wastewater treatment plant is a need or a want.

Mr. Abou Abdallah added that EPA is reviewing the plan and once ARCADIS has completed the design and EPA has approved it the Village would have 18 to 30 months to start construction. EPA is aware of the situation with the plant and will be looking for some kind of progress.

Mayor Fischbach thanked Mr. Abou Abdallah and Arcadis for their work keeping the Village informed.

Mrs. Lillibridge asked which plan was referred to. Mr. Neill assured her that it is the same plan originally proposed, however the design has had to evolve with changing conditions. Mrs. Lillibridge was looking for a decision.

### **Old Business:**

Mrs. Beaumier asked BPA to pass a motion saying that water and sewer services will not be extended outside of the Village without annexation.

Ms. Dahlhausen asked what charges would be raised to offset a senior rate.

### **New Business:**

Safety Town is next week and Chief Smigelski is looking for volunteer help.

Mr. Koster moved to close the BPA meeting and Mr. Neil seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM

## 10 August 2015 Council

Mayor Fischbach noted again that there was not a quorum present however reports from those attending would be taken.

### **Zoning:**

Mr. Gruber reported on the following:

The two houses on Colony lane are proceeding. A letter for tall grass was sent to the owner of the Neill residence on Carlton. That property is being repossessed by the bank. The Finnerty property on East Park has received a second letter asking them to correct problems with the house. Mr. Finnerty was supposed to provide plans for repairing the house by early July however nothing has been received.

### **Arborist Report:**

Ms. Palmisano, Village Arborist, reported 26 Sep is Arbor Day. Because of concerns from business owners on East Park, the Tree Commission decided not to plan trees along the east side of East Park at this time. Mrs. Beaumier commented that it was nice to have two Council representatives and the public input at a tree commission meeting. Ms. Palmisano is working on a standardized violation form along the lines of a zoning permit. Mayor Fischbach responded to Ms. Palmisano's request of imposing a fine by saying that due to a lack of a quorum council would not be able to act. Council will address at the next Council committee meeting in September.

### **Police Report:**

Chief Smigelski reported that he will mail July statistics as soon as he has them available.

### **Fire Department Report:**

No one was present to report.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions:**

No quorum available.

### **Mayors Report:**

Mayor Fischbach will not be holding Committee reports tonight

Mr. Boehnlein moved to adjourn and Ms. Dahlhausen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

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Mayor/President Pro Tempore

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Fiscal Officer