



# Borough of Ben Avon

Council Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2023

The Ben Avon Borough Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, virtually and at 7101 Church Avenue for the purpose of transacting General Business. President Richard Wagner presided and opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: President Richard Wagner, Vice President Jennifer Bett, Russell Kuehner, Ken Opiery, Kara Roggenkamp, Jim Thornton, Tavia Washington

Others Present: Solicitor Weston Pesillo, Ohio Township Police Chief Hanny, Emsworth Fire Chief Jim Kohl, JPC (Joint Planning Commission) Representative Mary Smith, Public Works Foreman Dale Regrut, Borough Secretary Terrie Patsch

## **PRESENTATION**

Mr. Sean Brady, Executive Director, Hollow Oak Land Trust

Mr. Brady addressed the council and shared information on the recent acquisition of Vinegar Hollow and the Land Trust's plans to develop a land management plan for that property. Mr. Wagner presented a proclamation naming January 21, 2023, as Hollow Oak Land Trust Day in Ben Avon.

Mr. Dylan Laplante, District Chief, Northwest EMS

Mr. Wagner introduced two members of Northwest EMS who were present to answer any questions the Council may have prior to entering negotiations for a lease to expand their presence in the warehouse at 7219 Church Avenue.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – *there was no public participation.*

## **BOROUGH REPORTS**

Mayor's Report – *no report given.*

Ohio Township Police – see attachment A

Chief Hanny stated there were 59 calls in the Borough this month. Several service calls were weather related. There was an accident call today on Dickson which was a suspected DUI. He also noted the details of the upcoming work on 79 Southbound.

Emsworth VFC – see attachment B.

Chief Kohl reported 50 calls total this month, with 5 for Ben Avon. He stated there were 55 calls in Ben Avon last year, mostly accidents.

#### Solicitor's Report

Attorney Pesillo reported he is working on the lease for the EMS rental and has provided council with a red-lined copy of the current lease for their review and input. He also stated that the Ben Avon Fire Company has been provided for the Council's review and final approval.

#### Joint Planning Commission (JPC)

Ms. Smith reported that at this time, Avalon has a vacancy on the Commission. In the upcoming meeting, the representatives will vote for new officers. Ms. Bett asked if the fence ordinance was ready for public comment. Mr. Pesillo replied that after the next meeting, the ordinance will go back to Allegheny County.

### **MINUTES**

#### Council Meeting December 13, 2022

**MOTION:** Mr. Thornton; **SECOND:** Mr. Kuehner; **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote to approve the minutes as presented of December 13, 2022.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

#### Income & Expenditure Reports

Mr. Opipery stated that there is no income & expenditure report to vote on as the December report is currently in draft form until the closing of the 2022 books and the final accruals of the previous year's expenses that were booked in 2023.

#### Accounts Payable

**MOTION:** Mr. Opipery; **SECOND:** Mr. Kuehner; **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote to approve the accounts payable report for Ben Avon Borough authorizing payments for December 2022.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Administration Committee

Ms. Bett reported an Administration Committee meeting is scheduled for next week. She also noted that the new laptops for Mr. Regrut and Mrs. Patsch should be delivered soon, and the request for expanded email storage for council members has been upgraded and completed.

#### Public Affairs/Communications

Ms. Bett noted that the work on the new edition of the Borough newsletter will begin soon. Ms. Roggenkamp will be working with the Communications Committee on content.

#### Public Safety – see attachment D.

Mr. Wagner stated that he authorized Harshman to move forward with citations for those properties that have not cooperated with past-due rental inspections. He noted that the fence issue previously reported involving the Flaccus and Woodland properties continues to be monitored and he asked Harshman to clarify the definition of “temporary” as it pertains to the fence installed on Church Avenue.

#### Public Works

Mr. Opiery reported that the new retaining wall and guardrail on Brighton Avenue is now complete. The concern now is for the safety of pedestrians walking near that location. It was recommended that a cyclone fence be installed at the top of the wall. Mr. Opiery also stated that the estimate for the chain link fence came in around \$10,000.

The seepage problem on Western Avenue continues, and Mr. Opiery stated that there is no obvious cause for the problem. The Borough has taken many measures and much expense to get to the root of the problem, involving both Allegheny County Health Department and the Borough Engineer. Following a camera inspection, one possible suggested solution would be to change the pipe diameter, however that could prove to be costly. Mr. Opiery intends to discuss other options with the engineer.

Mr. Regrut will meet with Columbia Gas representatives tomorrow with their plans to begin inspecting for cross bore problems.

#### QV Council of Governments - see attachment E.

Ms. Washington noted the upcoming adopt a tree event in May at the May Mart event that is outlined in the QV COG report this month. She also stated that the cost for the glass recycling locations may be increasing. Mr. Wagner noted that Mr. Connors provided the annual report, which is in the Council members' packets for their review.

Ms. Bett asked if the Council would like to pursue the opportunity to apply for a summer intern with the upcoming deadline being February 15. She will add the subject to the agenda for the upcoming Administration Committee meeting.

Sustainability – *no report this given.*

### Special Projects

#### Centennial Building Project

Mr. Wagner reported that a kickoff meeting was recently held, and the contractor, Ms. Cieslak, Mr. Bower, Mr. Regrut, and Ms. Patsch were in attendance. The proposed schedule would have Phase I of the project beginning sometime mid-May to mid-June based on when the windows are available.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Sale of Fire Rescue Truck

Mr. Regrut reported that he signed with Municibid at no cost to the Borough to advertise and sell the remaining fire rescue vehicle belonging to the Borough. He asked the Council for permission to sell the truck to the highest bidder over the set reserve price. The truck will be listed this week.

**MOTION:** Mr. Opipery; **SECOND:** Ms. Bett; **MOTION CARRIED** by all those present to approve the sale of the fire rescue truck for a minimum of \$10,000.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Ben Avon Fire Company Capital Funds

**MOTION:** Mr. Opipery; **SECOND:** Mr. Thornton; **MOTION CARRIED** by voice vote, 6 in favor and Mr. Kuehner against, to approve the agreement with the former fire company for the distribution of remaining capital project funds. The balance of 70% will be returned to the Borough, and 30% signed to the merged fire companies.

#### Northwest EMS Lease Expansion

Mr. Wagner referred to the draft lease agreement provided to the Council in the packets this month for the lease expansion at 7219 Church Avenue. Mr. Pesillo stated that if the Council is satisfied with the document with the minor adjustments they discussed this evening, it can be forwarded to Northwest for their review.

**MOTION:** Mr. Thornton; **SECOND:** Ms. Washington; **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote to approve the lease with changes and send to Northwest EMS for their approval.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *there was no executive session.*

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Upcoming Newsletter

Ms. Roggenkamp asked Council Committee's to provide a summary of their 2022 year in review, and forward those to her for the upcoming edition of the Ben Avon Bulletin.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION;** Mr. Pipery; **SECOND:** Mr. Thornton; **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrie Patsch  
Borough Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

1/09/2023

**Call Service Report Grouped by Urcodes**  
**OHIO TOWNSHIP POLICE**  
**12/01/2022 THROUGH 12/31/2022**  
**For Municipality: 05**

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<u>CODE</u>	<u>DEC COUNT</u>	<u>YTD COUNT</u>
0501 - ALARM - RESIDENCE	1	14
0503 - ALARM - BUSINESS	0	8
0614 - THEFT-\$200 & OVER-FROM AUTO (EXCPT 0615)	1	3
0617 - THEFT-\$200 & OVER-FROM BUILDINGS	0	2
0624 - THEFT-\$50 TO \$200-FROM AUTO (EXCPT 0625)	0	2
0644 - THEFT-ATTEMPTED-FROM AUTO (EXCEPT 0645)	0	4
1100 - FRAUD	1	10
1150 - FRAUD - CREDIT CARDS, ATM	0	2
1190 - FRAUD-ALL OTHER (FLIM FLAM, CONFIDENCE	0	1
1410 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF TO AUTOMOBILES	0	1
1430 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - PUBLIC BUILDINGS	0	1
1440 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - ALL OTHER	0	1
1490 - CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - REPORTS	0	1
1531 - WEAPONS - POSSESSION - FIREARMS	0	1
1810 - DRUG VIOLATIONS	0	2
1841 NARCOTICS-USE-MORPHINE, HEROIN, CODIENEC	0	1
2020 - OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY-CHILD ABUSE	0	2
2112 - DRIVE UNDER INFLUENCE-ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED	0	4
2122 - DRIVE UNDER INFLUENCE - DRUGS-IMPAIRED	0	1
2300 - PUBLIC DRUNKENESS	2	4
2400 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT	0	3
2410 - HARASSMENT BY COMMUNICATION	0	2
2440 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT-DISTURBING THE PEACE	1	6
2450 - HARASSMENT	0	3
2626 - FALSE FIRE ALARM	0	9
2633 - DUMPING	0	1
2634 - FIRE CODE (ORDINANCE VIO.)	0	1
2640 - ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS	2	10
2647 - PFA-PROTECTIVE ORDERS	2	4
2656 - THREATS	0	1
2720 - DOG LAW (1ST OFF. & STATE CIT)	0	2
2810 - TWP ORD-ABANDONED VEH (INCLUDING STATE)	0	1
2811 - CURFEW LAW (JUVENILE) - MALE	0	2
2812 - CURFEW LAW (JUVENILE) - FEMALE	0	1
2910 - LOST/MISSING PROPERTY	0	1
3000 - FOUND/RECOVERED PROPERTY	0	2
3100 - MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	0	1
3400 - MENTAL HEALTH	0	6
3502 - SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES	0	7
3600 - DISTURBANCES-DOMESTIC	2	14
3620 - DISTURBANCES-OTHER (FIGHT, DISPUTES, ETC)	1	2
3800 - SERVICE CALL-MISCELLANEOUS	0	1
3820 - DISABLED VEHICLE	1	16
3840 - FIRES (INCLUDING ALARMS-FOUNDED/UNFOUNDED)	0	7
3850 - HAZARDOUS CONDITION/NOT SNOW RELATED	0	5
3855 - ROAD DEPARTMENT CALL OUT	4	21
3860 - LOCKOUTS (VEHICLE/BLDG)	1	12
3870 - MEDICAL EMERGENCY/ ASSIST AMBULANCE	13	84
3880 - OPEN DOORS/WINDOWS - DISCOVERED	2	26

1/09/2023

**Call Service Report Grouped by Urcodes**  
**OHIO TOWNSHIP POLICE**  
**12/01/2022 THROUGH 12/31/2022**  
**For Municipality: 05**

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<u>CODE</u>	<u>DEC COUNT</u>	<u>YTD COUNT</u>
3885 - POST NO PARKING SIGNS	0	4
3900 - TRAFFIC & PARKING PROBLEMS	2	35
4010 - TRAFFIC OFFENSES	0	1
4012 - GAS LEAKS & EXPLOSIONS	1	7
4016 - PEDESTRIAN CONTACTS	0	1
4020 - SUSPICIOUS AUTO	0	15
4022 - SUSPICIOUS PERSON	0	10
4024 - WATER LEAKS, MAINS, ETC.	0	10
4026 - WIRES AND POLES DOWN	4	14
4027 - TREES DOWN	1	14
4090 - OTHER REPORTS	0	1
4091 - CIVIL DISPUTES	0	5
5002 - LOST & FOUND - FOUND ANIMAL	2	4
5004 - LOST & FOUND - FOUND ARTICLES	0	2
5006 - LOST & FOUND - LOST ANIMAL	1	5
5008 - LOST & FOUND - LOST ARTICLES	0	1
5014 - LOST & FOUND - MISSING ADULT FEMALES	0	2
5504 - ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - DOG BITES	0	1
5506 - ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - STRAY ANIMALS	0	4
5510 - ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - INJURED/SICK	1	9
5590 - ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - REPORTS	1	14
6004 - TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVOLVING PROPERTY DAMA	1	4
6006 - TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVOLVING INJURY	0	4
6008 - TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVOLVING NONINJURY	2	19
6310 - TRAFFIC POST	0	2
6312 - TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT - WARNINGS	0	2
6390 - TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT-REPORTS	0	2
6602 - TRAFFIC RELATED-IMPOUNDED VEHICLE	0	2
6603 - TRAFFIC RELATED -ABANDONED VEHICLE	0	6
6610 - TRAFFIC RELATED - MOTORIST AID	0	4
6612 - TRAFFIC RELATED-SIGNALS-SIGNS OUT	0	4
6614 - TRAFFIC RELATED - CARELESS DRIVER	2	21
7010 - POLICE NOTIFICATIONS/INFO	3	29
7016 - FOLLOW UP INFORMATION	1	5
7090 - PUBLIC SERVICES-REPORTS	0	4
7094 - FOOT PATROL	0	7
7504 - ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES - OTHER POLICE	2	10
9002 - ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES	0	1
9008 - ADMINISTRATIVE - CLERICAL	0	3
911 - 911-HANG UP	0	2
CITT - TRAFFIC CITATION	0	56
CITW - WARNING	0	32
CKWE - WELFARE CHECK	1	14
WARR - WARRANT	0	1
	<u>59</u>	<u>709</u>

2:31



FILE\_8550

Done

This report was generated on 12/2/2023 2:24:36 PM

**Basic Incident Info for Incident Type**

Incident Type(s): All Incident Types | Start Date: 12/01/2022 | End Date: 12/31/2022

Incident Date	Incident #	Dispatch Run Number	Address	Narrative	Station	Zone
12/02/2022	2022-314	220090563	Camp Horne RD	Tree down blocking the road. Cut the tree up and reopened the road. Kilbuck	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/02/2022	2022-315	220090676	Crawford RD	Gas line hit by workers. blocked the aera off and waiting for the gas company. Kilbuck	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/03/2022	2022-316	220091097	Toms Run	Rope rescue from a hunter that got hurt in the woods and couldn't walk. Kilbuck	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/03/2022	2022-317	220091121	Camp Horne RD	Accident. containment detail. Helped with traffic and clean up. Kilbuck	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/03/2022	2022-318	220091105	65	Kitchen fire inside eat in park. Dispatched and cancelled due to that we were on a nother fire call. Edgeworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/04/2022	2022-319	220091264	171 Center Ave	Stand by for 108 at our station Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/05/2022	2022-320	220091656	N.Harrison Ave	2 car accident. 108 on scene holding to 108. Dispatched and Cancelled Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/05/2022	2022-321	220091722	W. Riverview Ave	Accident Helped with clean up and traffic. Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/07/2022	2022-322	220092133	65 north	Truck went off the road and spill oil on 65. clean up and traffic control. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/07/2022	2022-323	220092401	8136 O.R.B.	truck was filling up and the pump did not turn off. helped with clean up. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/08/2022	2022-324	220092502	72 Union Ave	Dispatched & Cancelled 103 on scene holding to 103 and 108. Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/08/2022	2022-325	220092503	589 Union Ave	Accident Dispatched & Cancelled 108 on scene holding to 108. Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/09/2022	2022-326	220093000	717 Maple Ln	Chimney fire house fool of smoke. Help with venting the house. Sewickley	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/10/2022	2022-327	220093341	324 Lincoln Ave	Accident one car rollover. Helped with clean up and traffic Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/12/2022	2022-328	22093736	36 Lincoln Ave	Accident with injuries. Helped with traffic and clean up Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/13/2022	2022-329	220093905	512 Miller Way	House fire helped putting the fire out and searching for kids inside the house. Sewickley	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/14/2022	2022-330	220094261	522 Beaver St	Fire inside the building Sewickley	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/14/2022	2022-331	220094340	925 California Ave	fire alarm due to a bad cook Helped with venting Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/14/2022	2022-332	220094380	925 California Ave	Fire Alarm due to a bad smoke head. Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/14/2022	2022-333	220094462	323 S. Home Ave	Fire alarm helped with searching the building nothing found Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	

This report is limited to 500 pages. Incidents with more than one narrative will appear on multiple pages. Only REVIEWED incidents included.

Incident Date	Incident #	Dispatch Run Number	Address	Narrative	Station	Zone
12/15/2022	2022-334	220094496	24 Walnut St	Pole and wires down on the road helped closed the road until DQL got on scene Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/15/2022	2022-335	220094576	48 Center Ave	Accident car rollover Helped ems get the guy out of the car. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/15/2022	2022-336	220094688	341 Jefferson Ave	Car accident 108 on scene holding to 108 only. Dispatched and Cancelled Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/16/2022	2022-337	220094812	Lincoln Ave	Accident 108 on scene holding to 108. Dispatch and cancelled. Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/17/2022	2022-338	22000333	192 Locust Ave	C.O. Alarm search the house found a Bad Detector Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/18/2022	2022-339	220095323	Semple ave	Accident helped with traffic control Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/18/2022	2022-340	220095471	65	3 car accident. Helped with traffic and clean up Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/19/2022	2022-341	220095759	8235 O.R.B.	Fire alarm owner called back with proper code. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/19/2022	2022-342	220095761	Center Ave	Accident hepled with cleaning the road Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/19/2022	2022-343	220095803	6 Fremont Ave	Natural gas inside the building helped with venting Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/21/2022	2022-344	220096462	65 North	Poss. Accident with injuries. Accident was in swickley not Glenfield Dispatched and cancelled	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/22/2022	2022-345	220096595	315 Dawson ave	Accident 148 L1 on scene no need for fire only PD. Dispatched and cancelled Glenfield	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/23/2022	2022-346	220096926	6905 Merton RD	tree down across the road. cut the tree up to reopen the road Ben Avon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/23/2022	2022-347	220096934	7225 Perrysville ave	Tree and wires down across the road closed the road and called DQL Ben Avon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/23/2022	2022-348	220096963	557 Roosevelt RD	Tree and wires across the road closed the road and called for DQL Kilbuck	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/23/2022	2022-349	220097340	206 Ridge Ave	Called for wires down. Found cable line down that holds the pool together nothing that the fire company could besides called DQL to come out and look at the pool. Ben Avon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/24/2022	2022-350	220097817	215 Pennsylvania ave	Water line broke inside the house Home owner turned the main water line off nothing the fire company could do. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/25/2022	2022-351	220098467	423 Dickson Ave	Smell of natural gas inside the house. owner left the stove on Ben Avon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/26/2022	2022-352	220098915	147 Allegheny Ave	Fire Alarm due to the owner of the house turned off the heat in the house and water lines froze. Also the furnace was trying to run with no water to it casing the furnace to smoke and set the alarm off. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/27/2022	2022-353	220099288	180 Spring Ave	Poss. Fire search the building nothing found Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/28/2022	2022-354	220099708	533 Semple Ave	Smell of gas inside the building. Found that the stove was left on helped with ventilation. Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/28/2022	2022-355	220099759	65 North	2 car accident 108 on scene holding to 108 Dispatched & Cancelled. Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/28/2022	2022-356	220099823	8228 O.R.B.	Fire Alarm due to working changing a smoke head inside the building. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	

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Incident Date	Incident #	Dispatch Run Number	Address	Narrative	Station	Zone
12/29/2022	2022-357	220100201	Dickson ave	Two car accident helped with traffic and clean up. Ben Avon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/29/2022	2022-358	220100266	6 S. Fremont Ave	Natural gas smell inside the building helped with ventilation. Bellevue	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/29/2022	2022-359	220100282	727 Orchard ave	Car into a house helped with making sure the car was stable Avalon	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/30/2022	2022-360	220100642	2 Wilson Dr	one car rollover helped with cutting the windshield to get the guy out of the car. Helped with traffic control and cleaning the road up. Ben Avon Heights	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/30/2022	2022-361	220100534	8235 O.R.B.	Fire alarm due to worker working on the alarm and never turned the alarm on hold. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	
12/31/2022	2022-362	220100830	8325 O.R.B.	Dispatched & Cancelled PD on scene no need for Fire. Emsworth	148 - Emsworth VFC	





January 9, 2023

Ben Avon Council  
Ben Avon Borough  
7101 Church Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Subject: Monthly Report  
Code Enforcement, Zoning, and Building Code

Dear Council,

The following are updates on action items since the previous Council meeting.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**NEW INVESTIGATIONS:**

**7072 Woodland Ave - Fence**

Property was inspected on 12.04.23 for an improperly constructed fence. A notice of violation was sent on 01.05.23 allowing for 30 days to remediate the fence.

**ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS/CITATIONS:**

**7215 Brighton Rd – Satellite Dish**

Property was inspected on 11.22.22 for a satellite dish located in the front yard. A notice of violation was received on 11.30.22 allowing for 10 days remediation to apply for a zoning permit.

**01.09.23** A Citation was filed on 01.06.23.

**MAGISTERIAL HEARINGS**

No hearings this month.

**Engineering & Surveying**

100 Courson Hill Road  
Washington, PA 15301  
T: 724-503-4125

Office@HarshmanLLC.com

www.HarshmanLLC.com

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**Codes & Zoning**

2455 Park Ave  
Washington, PA 15301  
T: 724-993-4505

Permits@HarshmanLLC.com

## RENTAL INSPECTIONS

### PASS

1. 7010-7012 Perrysville Avenue (2 Units)
2. 421-423 Dickson Avenue (2 Units)
3. 6625 Ohio River Boulevard (2 Units)

### FAIL

1. None

## BUILDING & ZONING PERMITS

### BUILDING PERMITS

1. No new permits this month.

### ZONING PERMITS

1. Zoning review for Building Permits.
2. No new permits this month.

Please contact our office at any time with questions.



Jarrod D'Amico, BCO  
Director of Codes and Zoning



Randy McCray, CZO  
Lead Code Technician

cc: File 19.159



QUAKER VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
343 Eicher Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-766-7458 | [www.qvcog.org](http://www.qvcog.org)



### Executive Director's Report – January 2023

**GIS Workshop** – On Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. the QVCOG in partnership with Civic Mapper will be conducting a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshop open to all who are interested in learning more about the platform. Newly generated maps focusing on road ownership and legislative boundaries will be demonstrated. The workshop will take place at the Sewickley Public Library (500 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143).

**Tree Adoption Event** – The QVCOG is happy to announce that the greater Quaker Valley region has been selected by Tree Pittsburgh for an “Tree Adoption” event. Hundreds of young trees will be available for selection (free of charge) for residents to plant on private property in the region. The event will be in collaboration with the Sewickley Civic Garden Council’s annual May Mart event which is scheduled to take place on May 13, 2023. Additional details about the event will be announced in the coming weeks. For additional details about Tree Pittsburgh please visit [treepittsburgh.org](http://treepittsburgh.org).

**Mobile Fingerprint Scanner** - The QVCOG is proud to announce that it has been selected by the PA Chiefs of Police Association to receive a shared Mobile Fingerprint Scanner which would be made available to all QVCOG police departments. The device must be “hosted” by one of our member community police departments. The Police Chiefs Committee is set to meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss selection of a host site among other topics. The QVCOG was recognized by the PA Chief of Police Association as being the first organization in the state to utilize a shared equipment model (latent fingerprint grant & mobile fingerprint scanner). The mobile fingerprint scanner requires a cellular connection and software maintenance package totalling \$990 annually. The QVCOG has budgeted accordingly to pay for the required services in 2023.

**Glass Dumpster Update** - Since the program’s inception in March of 2022 the QVCOG’s glass recycling initiative has collected 68.67 tons of glass. However, as has been the case for many products and services over the last year costs have risen. In an email correspondence dated January 5, 2023 Michael Brothers Hauling informed the QVCOG that dumpster exchange rates will increase from \$270.00 to \$320.00 effective February 1, 2023. For the coming year the QVCOG is prepared to pay for the increase out of the joint-recycling fund (approximately \$1,300.00 based off of an estimation of 26 dumpster exchanges annually).

**LGA Municipal Intern Program Application Period** - Beginning January 9<sup>th</sup> applications will be accepted for the 2023 Local Government Academy Municipal Intern Program. Applications are due February 15, 2023. Interested parties may review past projects and program criteria by visiting [localgovernmentacademy.org](http://localgovernmentacademy.org). Executive Director Connors has experience as both an intern and supervisor within this Program and would be happy to assist any member community with their project proposal. The Academy anticipates awarding 10 host sites within Allegheny County for the 2023 cycle. Per the program’s guidelines, appropriate projects include, but are not limited to, financial management, human resources, asset mapping, development of geographic information systems, comprehensive planning, economic development, capital improvement planning, intergovernmental cooperation, code enforcement, community engagement, and social media campaigns.



## **Quaker Valley Council of Governments 2022 Annual Report**

### **What is a COG?**

Councils of Governments, enabled by the Pennsylvania Constitution and the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, are a vehicle for local communities to review, discuss and respond to regional needs. COGs promote the development and implementation of shared municipal services, as well as the overall concept of intergovernmental cooperation. Such a partnership of like-minded communities can leverage resources to help each other form and sustain the programming and services necessary to better serve their respective constituents.

### **About the Quaker Valley Council of Governments**

The Quaker Valley Council of Governments (QVCOG) is a network of communities along Route 65 & the Ohio River as it heads north from its confluence in downtown Pittsburgh. Starting at the Pittsburgh city line, the QVCOG municipalities form a string of municipalities until they reach Beaver County. A non-profit organization, the QVCOG facilitates multi-municipal efforts and provides cost-effective programming on behalf of its 15 member communities. The organization operates under a set of written by-laws and is governed by a Board of Directors with each member community having one voting delegate.

### **2022 Year in Review**

The QVCOG continues to adapt and evolve to serve its member communities. Though full of challenges and opportunities, 2022 saw a “return to normalcy” with many meetings, conferences, and training opportunities returning to an in-person format. As the past two years have demonstrated, it is more critical than ever that communities work together across municipal boundaries in an effort to build cost effective and efficient solutions for their residents.

This year the QVCOG has worked to develop and build upon the following initiatives:

### **Recycling Programming**

#### Glass Recycling

2022 witnessed the launch of a drop-off Glass Recycling Program for our member communities. Two sites have been established in order to conveniently serve our region’s residents at **Sewickley Borough’s Riverfront Park (300 Chadwick St. Sewickley, PA 15143)** and **across from Avalon Borough’s Public Works Facility (629 New Brighton Road, Avalon, PA 15202)**. Residents within participating member communities are invited to use the site free of charge. This Program is partially funded through the QVCOG’s Joint Recycling Fund with the remaining cost being generated from participating communities using a formula based on each community’s population size. Over 55 tons of glass has been collected since the program started.

#### Yard Waste Drop Off Program

At its September 21st meeting, the QVCOG Board of Delegates approved a drop-off yard waste program in partnership with the Michael Brothers Company. Beginning immediately, and free of charge, residents of QVCOG member communities may drop off yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, and more at Michael Brothers' Reserve Township facility located at 408 Hoffman Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. The pilot program is being funded through the QVCOG's Joint Recycling Fund and is expected to last approximately 6 months for evaluation purposes. The guidelines of the Program can be found below as well as in the provided illustration.

*Program hours of operation:* Tuesday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. & Saturday from 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Do's and Don'ts:* Patrons may drop-off materials such as grass clippings, leaves, brush, wood chips, small logs (under 12" in diameter), Christmas trees, concrete chunks (clean), and dirt (clean). Items such as stumps (greater than 12" in diameter) and food items (such as pumpkins, etc.) will not be accepted.

#### Hard to Recycle Event

On July 23, 2022 the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) hosted a Hard to Recycle Collection Event at the Quaker Valley High School (625 Beaver Street, Leetsdale, PA 15056). The event was organized at no cost to the QVCOG with electronics such as televisions, computer monitors, printers and items such as tires being accepted being collected and sustainably recycled for a nominal fee (paid by users). A total of 605 participants took advantage of the event. The QVCOG will be working with PRC to continue this annual event in 2023.

#### WM Recycling Center Tour

On May 4th the QVCOG organized a site visit and tour of the GreenStar Recycling Center located on Neville Island. Municipal Officials and Staff were able to observe the single-source separation and recycling process and engaged with WM representatives to better understand proper recycling techniques specific to the curbside recycling program.

#### **Police Chiefs Committee**

Initially convening to tour the new Allegheny County Emergency Services Facility, the QVCOG's Police Chiefs Committee has developed into a comprehensive work-shop group which meets six times annually to discuss a variety of issues facing our regional police departments. A few of the accomplishments of the group include the following:

#### Latent Evidence Grant

The QVCOG is proud to announce that it has received two equipment awards from the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association totaling \$18,813.50 through the "Latent Evidence Improvement Project". These grant awards were used to procure a shared digital camera kit, a 48-inch floor model Safefume CA Fuming Chamber, and a 36-inch floor model Drysafe Evidence Drying Cabinet which may be utilized by our region's 9 Police Departments. The Ohio Township Police Department (serving Aleppo Township, Ben Avon Borough, Emsworth Borough, and Kilbuck Township) will be taking the lead on the storage of the aforementioned equipment and has stated an intention to train officers on latent fingerprint capture practices.

#### Mutual Aid Agreement

In the spring of 2022 the QVCOG Board of Delegates requested that the Police Chiefs Committee review the current Police Mutual Aid Agreement which was approved and enacted in 2009. After two meetings, the Police Chiefs Committee contributed towards and agreed upon an updated mutual aid agreement. At its August 17th meeting, the QVCOG Board of Delegates approved the structure and language of the Agreement. Highlights of the Agreement include updated verbiage, increased insurance requirements, and the addition of Leet Township and the Quaker Valley Area School District into the pact. The Agreement was unanimously approved by all participating agencies.

#### Police Active Shooter Training

On November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> QVCOG Police Departments participated in a two-day comprehensive active shooter training course. The event was facilitated by the Ohio Township Police Department and the SRT tactical operating unit and took place at the Ross Township Police SRT Training Facility.

#### **Municipal Intern Program Host Site**

This summer the QVCOG brought Ms. Anna Richard on board through the Local Government Academy's 2022 Municipal Intern Program. Anna is now a senior at Washington and Jefferson College studying political science with a public policy minor and a concentration in conflict and resolution studies. Throughout the internship, Anna experienced the multifaceted nature of local government and directly engaged with many QVCOG member municipalities as well as the other Councils of Government within Allegheny County. Anna also participated in a number of local government activities, including code/zoning enforcement and solid waste and recycling administration.

Anna's capstone project began with her creating and administering a survey for the Allegheny County Inter-COG Council, which is a collaboration of COGs within the Allegheny County area. The survey collected information concerning the COG's programs and services and gauged their successes and shortcomings. Additionally, the survey collected practical solutions to common problems facing the municipalities in the county. The second step of Anna's project was to create an additional survey out of the data from her initial COG questionnaire and administer the survey to the QVCOG communities. Ultimately, Anna's work will help evolve the QVCOG's programs, services, and overall structure.

In addition to the survey, Anna was also tasked with increasing engagement (both in person and digitally) with all member communities and their residents. In an effort to boost visibility, Anna created an interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) map of community locations, such as community centers, libraries, schools, and municipal buildings. Further engagement efforts included constructing informational graphics, managing the QVCOG's website and Facebook Page, and reaching out to community partners. These efforts amplified the QVCOG's presence and enhanced the organization's connection to member communities and their residents.

#### **Route 65 Study**

On January 26, 2022 the QVCOG hosted a presentation facilitated by Michael Baker International & the Remaking Cities Institute on the topic of the Route 65 corridor.

The presentation was based on a 5-year study, design guide, and report generated by the aforementioned organizations. The Route 65 Corridor Strategic Design Guide incorporates focused case study work on the corridor and provides a broader review and analysis to redefine regional highway corridors. The Study reflects a need for both standardization and stronger identity for the corridor.

The study produced a strategic design guide which includes preliminary recommendations to improve the Route 65 corridor. Additionally, the study produced a Corridor Design Toolbox which identifies potential improvements applicable to municipalities along the busy corridor. Recommendations include the narrowing of travel lanes to creating pocketed turns, enhanced gateways, and designation of pedestrian space, coordinated to support economic growth.

Subsequent steps identified within the report include the formation of inter-municipal cooperation agreements aligned with the master planning process and TIP project recommendations. These will all contribute towards the clearly expressed community objective of a safer, greener, and cleaner Ohio River Boulevard corridor. Those who are interested may access the entire Design Guide and Toolbox by visiting [qvcog.org](http://qvcog.org).

#### **Ongoing Programming & New Initiatives**

Zoning Technical Assistance Program - Proper zoning administration is a challenge for both small and large communities alike. Zoning is an often misunderstood and underutilized community development tool that leaves many communities with the challenge of hiring a qualified professional to implement and oversee its given set of rules. The QVCOG's Zoning Technical Assistance Program is a service offered to member communities that provides a AICP certified expert that will work with Municipal Staff and officials (i.e. Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing Board, etc.) throughout the permitting/plan review and approval process. Currently Leet Township utilizes this program.

Proactive Code Enforcement Program – The QVCOG has developed a professional solution for member communities concerning the procurement of a Code Enforcement Officer with its Proactive Code Enforcement Program. This program provides municipalities with a qualified professional to pursue a progressive code enforcement solution within their community.

Shared Streets and Infrastructure Map - An accessible GIS map is available for all QVCOG member municipalities. This free resource provides a “one stop shop” for residents, staff, and business owners to help identify designated zoning classifications for any parcel within participating communities. Additionally, users can access the zoning regulations (if available), Allegheny County parcel info, Google Street View, and more! To date, 12 member municipalities have contributed their zoning information or are in the process of doing so. More info can be found at [qvcog.org/cog-wide-gis](http://qvcog.org/cog-wide-gis).

#### **Annual Dinner**

2022 saw the return of the QVCOG's Annual Dinner which took place at the Edgeworth Club and saw over 60 attendees convene to celebrate the spirit of intergovernmental collaboration. Ms. Marie Pelloni served as the event's keynote

speaker highlighting the challenges and opportunities facing the region's technology sector. The event included a 50/50 raffle with proceeds benefiting 412 Food Rescue, an innovative software solution that links volunteer drivers with food donors and those in need. Ms. Cathy Jones, Municipal Secretary for Emsworth Borough, and Mr. Fred Gregorich, Public Works Supervisor for Edgeworth Borough were both recognized for their many years of Public Service to their communities. Additionally, the QVCOG received 11 financial sponsorships for the event.

### **Grants**

GEDTF Awards The QVCOG has been awarded a total of three Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund Grants through the Commonwealth Finance Agency during the 2022 & 2023 cycles. Funding through the GEDTF program is made possible through a state law requiring casinos to pay a daily assessment of 5.5% of their gross terminal revenues. Highlights of the awarded projects can be found below:

*Ben Avon Borough Building Renovation Project* - This project includes the abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint, replacing the slate roof, replacing the overhead door, and replacing 15 windows to improve energy efficiency, thermal comfort, and security. **Award amount - \$200,000**

*Sewickley Heights Borough Public Works Infrastructure Improvement Project* - This project includes the installation of 4 new catch basins and 220 linear feet of storm pipe. Additionally, the project will include the reconstruction of 1,235 square yards of driveway and buffer yard. The project seeks to resolve sedimentation from degraded asphalt surface and improve surface to subsurface drainage to mitigate future impacts from heavy precipitation events. **Award amount - \$190,000**

*Leet Township Stormwater Improvement Project* - This project will reconstruct a failed stormwater management facility in the Old Sewickley Highlands neighborhood. **Award amount - \$100,000**

*Leet Township Park Improvement Project* - This project will include the restoration of the existing basketball court and deck hockey court at the Township facility including replacement of the surfacing, new fencing, new playground equipment, and construction of a War Memorial. **Award amount - \$300,000**

Recycling Performance Grant - The QVCOG has aggregated 2021 residential and commercial recycling data for 14 member communities for the submission of a joint Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant through the PA Department of Environmental Protection. Please note, In December of 2021, the QVCOG received an award in the amount of \$23,691.55 for its 2020 application. Of that amount, \$7,109.58 was sent directly to participating communities with the remainder being allocated towards the QVCOG's Joint Recycling Fund (used to sponsor activities such as the glass recycling and yard waste programs).

### CDBG Projects - Implementation and Awards

The QVCOG administered the following projects from CD Year 47 (awarded in 2021)

- Leetsdale Borough - Kohlmeyer Park ADA Parking Project **complete**;

- Leet Township - Eckert, Willow, & Neely Street ADA Sidewalk Project **complete**;
- Bellevue Borough - Bayne Park Retaining Wall; and
- Bellevue Borough - Dakota Avenue Blight Remediation **complete**.

The QVCOG was awarded the following CD Year 48 Projects in 2022

- **CD 48-7.4a** - Bell Acres Borough Park ADA Parking Project
- **CD 48-7.4b** - Centennial Avenue ADA Ramp Replacement Project
- **CD 48-7.4c** - Henle Park ADA Parking & Sidewalk Project
- **CD 48-7.4d** - Orchard & Beech ADA Ramp & Sidewalk Replacement Project

\*The QVCOG has submitted 7 CDBG Year 49 Applications on behalf of 6 member communities for consideration. Award announcements for this cycle will be made in the spring of 2023.

Please note that every QVCOG member community is eligible to apply for CDBG funding for “non-income based” projects such as ADA accessibility improvement projects and blight remediation. Communities may also conduct targeted household income surveys in pursuit of CDBG funding for other project types (i.e. road reconstruction, water & sewer, recreation, etc.). All project requests must total at least \$20,000 and municipalities may submit multiple applications each year for consideration. Projects that do not receive funding in a given year may be reconsidered the following year. Pre-Applications are due annually in the month of September.

#### **The Year Ahead**

With each new year comes new opportunities for the QVCOG to provide answers and solutions for ongoing challenges within member communities and the region as a whole. The following topics have been identified as priorities in the coming year:

- Introduction of annual in-person introductory gathering for QVCOG Board of Delegates;
- Construction of enhanced organizational administrative safeguards;
- Continuation of Route 65 Analysis; and
- Establishment of a QVCOG Fire Chiefs Committee

2022 QVCOG Delegates

Aleppo Township  
Arthur Williams

Glenfield Borough  
Curtis Reiner

Avalon Borough  
Roberta Edwards

Haysville Borough  
Amy Paff  
Amanda Muzichuck\*

Bell Acres Borough  
Carmee Murphy  
Lane Grafton\*

Kilbuck Township  
Jean-Sébastien Valois

Bellevue Borough  
Sabreena Miller  
Dan McKelvey\*

Leet Township  
Marty McDaniel  
John Stephansky\*

Ben Avon Borough  
Rick Wagner  
Tavia Washington\*

Leetsdale Borough  
Jeff Weatherby

Edgeworth Borough  
John Schwend, Treasurer

Sewickley Borough  
Julie Barnes, Vice President

Emsworth Borough  
Paul Getz

Sewickley Heights Borough  
Nate Briggs

Glen Osborne Borough  
Barbara Carrier, President

Staff  
Patrick Connors, Executive Director

\*Alternate Delegate