

A regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, August 16, 2006, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Ann Neis (7:07 p.m.) and Ron Fladseth (7:05 p.m.). Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks (7:00 p.m.) and James Goffinet (7:00 p.m.). Consultants: none. Citizens present: Chuck Voight and Steve Malone. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Zephyr Depot, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Benton Business Incubator Building.

By general consent, the meeting minutes of the regular meeting held July 28, 2006 were approved.

Village employee, James Goffinet, reported a problem with water usage at Swift Park. Goffinet was advised to speak with the coaches regarding this problem.

Goffinet reported the status of the driveway at Swift Park. Mowry Brothers has delivered gravel for the driveway, however, additional grading will be necessary prior to sealcoating. In addition, black dirt is still needed prior to seeding as well.

Sheffer advised a citizen had reported that the fire hydrant on the corner of Calvert and County J was inoperable. Goffinet will check into this.

It was reported that the street light is out on the corner of Galena and Calvert Street.

Sheffer requested that the Benton Fire Department adjust the amount of time the fire siren near his home blows.

Neis, street committee chairperson, reported on the street committee meeting held, August 4, 2006. The committee reviewed the trees and sidewalks along streets that are not in compliance with the tree ordinance. The committee also did a sidewalk survey and marked any sidewalks not in compliance with the sidewalk ordinance. Letters regarding both the trees and sidewalks not in compliance will be sent out next week. Property owners will be given until October 31, 2006 to complete the repairs.

The street committee further recommended that additional gravel be graded into the area at the end of North Van Buren Street and then the area is to be added to the streets to be seal coated.

By general consent the board agreed to hire the village engineer, Keith Dalsing, K.D. Engineering, to look at Cross Street, Temple Avenue, and First Street and make recommendations regarding the reconstruction schedule and options for each.

It was suggested that a note be put in upcoming informational mailings that property owners should make sure to have house numbers on their houses.

A question came up regarding the street light located in front of Frontier Street. Goffinet explained that when this light went out it was determined that the underground wire was faulty so a temporary overhead wire was installed. This wire will be trenched underground and permanently repaired once the village's hi-arm is returned from getting repaired.

Fladseth, park committee chair, reported regarding the park committee meeting held August 10, 2006. It was indicated that all items on the committee's list had been completed with the exception of additional sand around equipment and trimming of trees. The additional sand is to be delivered next week, while the tree trimming is contingent on the return of the village's hi-arm. The committee recommended that lights be fixed or installed at the east end of the tennis courts. Perkins will be advised regarding this.

Sheffer, sewer committee chair, indicated the committee had not yet met to determine the threshold amounts for sewer extensions.

The board was provided brochures as reminders of the upcoming Candidate Forum, to be held at the Benton High School on August 23, 2006, at 7:00 p.m.

Chuck Voight was present to provide additional information related to the Habitat for Humanity

project he is trying to get started in Lafayette County. Voight requested the board consider donating one of the remaining lots owned by the village for a Habitat for Humanity house. Hendricks will verify whether the village is able to make this type of donation and put the item on the next regular board meeting agenda. Hendricks will provide Voight with a copy of the restrictive covenants for the Roling Oaks Subdivision.

Steve Malone, representing the Benton Community Development Corporation (BCDC), was present with a request for assistance in the costs associated with installing two 220 amp services for use by the bands at the Labor Day Weekend street dance. *Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to pay half of the total cost for installation of two 220 amp services for the Labor Day Weekend dance.* Roll: Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Neis-yes, Fladseth-abstain, Sheffer-yes, Robbins-yes, McCrea-yes. Motion carried.)

Malone further reported that the BCDC had received a \$2,000.00 marketing grant from Alliant Energy for updating the village's web site. A meeting will be held to discuss the future course of the web site and its maintenance. Discussion will be held regarding allowing online bill payments through this web site. Malone indicated the bank may be willing to offer this software when it becomes available.

A Classification Detail and Improvement Statement from the Insurance Services Corporation Classification was distributed for informational purposes to the board.

A discussion was held regarding the need to increase the minimum charge when the municipality cuts lawns on private property from its current level of \$25.00 to \$100.00. In addition, the property owner will be responsible for any damages caused to village equipment when cutting grass on private property. *Motion (Neis, Droessler) to pass resolution 2006-004 Village's Costs to Abate the Nuisance of Excessive Lawn Lengths according to Sec. 8-1-6 of the Village of Benton Code of Ordinances.* All ayes. Carried.

Cost estimates related to the extension of water and sewer service for a new house was discussed. *Motion (Robbins, Droessler) to authorize a 2" pressure plastic sewer line, and a 1" plastic water line directionally bored at a cost of approximately \$3,682.24.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board agreed that water laterals are the responsibility of the property owner from the curb stop into the building. Additionally, in a case where the lateral is leaking, the property owner is responsible to repair the lateral promptly to reduce the amount of water loss.

The trimming of trees along North Bean Street was discussed. The Town of Benton had indicated it would mow this area when it does the township's right of way.

Motion (Neis, Fladseth) to approve the amendment to the 2007 Village of Benton's Village Park/Swift Park Shelter House Rental Agreement providing for a refund of the reservation fee if notice is given within 30 days of the reservation date. No change was made in the rental amount. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board approved the Village of Benton, Benton Electric, Water, and Sewer Utility 2005 Audited Financial Statements.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve sending village employee, Ryan Carver, to OSHA training school. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Information was distributed to the board regarding the 2005 Smart Growth survey.

Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve providing the list of dogs that had not yet been licensed to the police officer for citation issuance. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve a temporary description change for a Class B Retail License allowing outside fenced in beer garden-Ronald Spillman dba GG's Tap, Koeller Holdings dba The Hideout, Pat McCarthy dba A Bit O the Irish, and Joseph F. McCrea Post 7896, on September 3, 2006 thru September 3, 2006, 8:00 p.m. until 12 midnight. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Sheffer) to approve an operator's license for Amy Kruser. All ayes. Carried.

A thank you note from Boy Scout Troop 459, McHenry, Illinois was distributed.

By general consent the board agreed not to hire a fall 2006 work study employee.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to set up an account with either Dupaco Credit Union or American Bank and Trust for direct deposit of funds for village employee payroll. This account will be reviewed for placement at the Benton State Bank upon notification that direct deposit service is available at the Benton State Bank. All village employees will be required to have direct deposit of their payroll checks.

Motion (Walton-yes, Droessler-no, Neis-no, Fladseth-no, Sheffer-yes, Robbins-yes, McCrea-yes. Vote: four yes, three no. Motion carried.

Hendricks discussed the upcoming 2007 budget preparation process with the board and upcoming employee performance appraisals.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment. *Motion (Fladseth, Walton) to pay the claims against the Village. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Walton, Fladseth) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved 9/20/2006

Posted 9/28/2006