

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:00 p.m. at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator building on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Katey McCarthy, Ann Neis, Gary McCrea, Lisa Lawrence and Lori Droessler. Absent: Terry Sheffer. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins. Consultants/Visitors present: none. Citizens: none. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, Benton Business Incubator Building, and Zephyr Depot.

Motion (McCarthy, Walton) to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held October 17, 2007, as distributed. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

John Perkins gave an update on the pricing quotes he had received for the flame resistant clothing necessary for electric department employees. The cost associated with this clothing is at least twice as much as regular clothing. A revision of the code regulating this clothing is in the process, therefore, Perkins indicated he has been hesitant to purchase numerous items until the updated code is complete. With consideration given to the increased cost of clothing related to these requirements, *motion (Lawrence, Neis) to increase Perkins and Goffinet's clothing allowance for 2008 from \$200.00 to \$500.00, with the understanding that all clothing purchased with this allowance must be compliant with the electric safety codes in place at the time of purchase.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The status of the installation of a new street light on the south end of Creek Drive was discussed. Perkins indicated he has been waiting for Wiederholt's to do the trenching. Wiederholt's will be contacted to schedule completion of this installation.

Perkins indicated the village park shelter house lighting and ceiling should be completed within the next couple of days.

Perkins left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Janet Johnson presented the 2008 library budget. The requested increase from the 2007 budget of \$28,886.00 to the 2008 budget of \$31,806.11 is due in part to the enrollment of the director into the Wisconsin Retirement System, the projected increased summer hours of operation, and the increased wages and mileage associated with the directors attendance at Southwest Library System meetings and conferences. The board took the information under advisement for the 2008 General Fund Budget.

A discussion was held regarding the new school crossing signs on Highway 11 and Alma Street. With consideration given to the fact there have been several near accidents due to the stop sign on the sign located on Highway 11, the board suggested the sign located on Highway 11 be taken down when a crossing guard is not present. No changes were suggested for the sign on Alma Street. This information will be forwarded to the district administrator.

Walton reported the illegal diagonal parking on First Street is no longer occurring. No further action is recommended at this time.

It was reported that Cal Robbins has indicated he will take care of the public nuisance issue at 69 South Van Buren Street before the scheduled court appearance of the property owner in December. It was agreed that no further action will be taken if this action is completed by the court date in December.

The board requested Hendricks look into sample abandoned structure ordinances.

Walton indicated a Public Nuisance committee meeting is necessary to review the status of several properties in the village. No meeting date was set at this time.

A discussion was held regarding the issue of dog kennels within residential districts in the Village of Benton. The board reviewed several sample ordinances and directed Hendricks to

prepare an amendment to the Village of Benton Code of Ordinances Section 7-1-3 (b) related to Kennel licenses. This amendment will include wording which will prohibit kennel licenses being issued for kennels closer than 200 feet from a residential structure. The first reading for this ordinance change will be held at the special meeting scheduled for November 19, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Rose Walton gave an update on the Benton Community Development Corporation's free residential lot giveaway. The information related to this giveaway is now available by visiting the Village of Benton's website at www.bentonwi.us and also by calling Rose Walton at (608) 759-3031.

Motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to approve a \$2,000.00 donation to the Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN) program. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding the village's application to the National Flood Insurance Program and the pros and cons of such action. The board advised Hendricks to obtain additional information prior to the next regular meeting, December 5, 2007. No action was taken.

Motion (Droessler, McCarthy) to approve final pay requests from Iverson Construction (\$2,712.78), Augelli Concrete (\$865.33), and Mowry Brothers (\$1675.73) for the 2007 Street Reconstruction project. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve an operator's license for Tory Wetter. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve an operator's license for Sarah McCarthy. Voice-all ayes. Carried. Voice-all ayes, except McCarthy abstention.

A discussion was held regarding a recent complaint received from Dennis Burbach related to Felderman Lawn and Garden's use of his private driveway. The board reviewed a police report regarding a recent incident between the two property owners. According to the police report, Feldermans continued to use Burbach's driveway without his permission after Burbach requested he cease. In order to avoid future similar problems with other business park property owners, Mr. Burbach has requested the village board advise future business park owners that he is the owner of the adjacent property and the owner of the driveway. By general consent the board endorsed a recommendation that Leland Felderman be replaced on the Benton Business Park Board. McCrea will take the recommendation under consideration.

The board advised Hendricks to contact the village engineer, Keith Dalsing, regarding an estimate for the reconstruction of Temple Avenue with and without curb and gutter, without reconstruction of Cross Street. In addition, an estimate for the reconstruction of Arbor Street from Catherine Street to Bean Street only will be requested.

A discussion was held regarding replacement of the street lights on Main Street. Hendricks will inquire as to when Main Street is scheduled to be resurfaced by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Perkins will be advised to get estimates regarding the installation costs associated with the replacement of the street lights. Lighting manufacturers will be contacted to find out if they would be able to do any computer drawings of the area to give an idea of how the new street lights would appear on the street.

Motion (McCarthy, Walton) to approve the 2008 General Fund Budget for posting. Roll-all ayes. Motion carried.

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

Motion (Droessler, Neis) to adjourn. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

