

The Village of Benton Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Jessica Polfer, Jim Sysko, Chuck Wartner, Terry Sheffer, and Cal Robbins. Citizens present: William and Sharon Bastian. Employees: Beverly Hitz and Ryan Carver. Others Present: Joe Rettenmeier, Frank Banigan, and Ed Faherty. Proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Benton Business Incubator Building, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Zephyr Depot, in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Motion (Sheffer, Polfer) to accept the meeting minutes of the regular village board meeting held April 16th, 2014 and Park Committee meeting held April 28th, 2014 as presented. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

William Bastian presented a proposed chicken ordinance which would allow single family dwellings in the Village of Benton to have up to 6 hens. The ordinance committee will meet to discuss the proposed ordinance, and it will be presented at the June 18th board meeting.

The Board discussed recycling and garbage options with Joe Rettenmeier (Dittmer Recycling), Frank Banigan (Allied Waste Services), and Ed Faherty (Faherty Incorporated).

Ryan reported that the new rubber mulch, curb, and sod had been finished at both Village and Swift Park. We had more cost for removal of sand and black dirt than we had anticipated; however, we are still under budget for the project.

Jim Sysko advised that we will need to replace the sidewalk around the pavilion in Village Park as well as the concrete inside the pavilion. The board discussed options and timing of replacement. We will look at this again at budget time to see what funds we have left for 2014 and possibly do this project after Labor Day. If we replace in 2015, it will be done between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We have recently planted 4 new trees in the Village Park to replace what we have removed.

Ryan went over the options for a new utility meter reading system. The system we have is obsolete. We cannot get parts, batteries, or software support. He recommended a radio read system that will reduce the amount of man hours needed to read meters and create the bills. The cost would be spread over the next 3 years. The board will consider this during the budget process for 2015. Ryan will research all of our options for radio reading systems.

Motion (Wartner, Sysko) to approve John Perkins request for vacation May 27th – May 31st Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Ryan explained that Viola Roling contacted the Village concerned that she had the sewer line cleaned several times, and they have found gravel in the line. After much discussion, Viola had the line televised and there is a break in the line that is very near or possibly on the Village sewer line. *Motion (Sheffer, Walton) Viola will pay for repairs already done, and the Village will dig up, clean, and repair the lateral and lawn/road at no cost to Viola.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The board tabled the discussion of crack filling until the June 18th meeting to obtain a more accurate cost for the project.

The April 2014 police report was presented.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment. *Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to pay the claims against the Village.* Roll-all ayes. Motion carried.

Gary informed everyone that the meeting of the Lafayette County Economic Development Corporation will be at 7 pm on May 29th.

Garbage and recycling proposals, pros and cons were discussed in detail.

Motion (Robbins, Walton) to award the Recycling/Solid Waste contract to Faherty Incorporated, with the stipulation that all board members will review the material and confirm by June 4th.

Motion (Walton, Polfer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50p.m.