

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, February 18, 2015 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Cal Robbins, Jim Sysko, Jessica Polfer and Chuck Wartner. Absent: Rose Walton and Terry Sheffer. Citizens present: None. Others present: David Halloran and Gerald Heimann. Employees: Beverly Hitz and John Perkins. 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 (Sysko, Polfer) to accept the meeting minutes of the regular village board meeting held January 21st, 2015 and the Street Committee meeting held on January 22nd, 2015. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

David Halloran and Gerald Heimann presented the proposed route to expand the ATV trail through Benton. They gave information on the possible increase in revenue for the businesses in Benton. The requested route is Alma Street from County J South to Railroad Avenue, Railroad Ave to Third Street, Third Street to Third Avenue, Third Avenue to County J North. The Lafayette County Highway Safety Committee has already approved using Hwy J North and South. The speed limit in the Village will be posted as 10 MPH. The Village is not responsible for the signage; it is done by the ATV Club. *Motion (Sysko, Robbins) to approve the ATV Route through the Village of Benton as proposed. Roll-all ayes. Carried. Beverly Hitz Village Clerk/Treasurer will complete the Route/Ordinance paperwork and return to David Halloran.*

John Perkins explained the issue between the force main and slip pipe on Alma Street. Ryan is looking into this, however it may have to wait until the frost is out of the ground.

John also informed the board of a problem with the bypass valve at the the Elderly Housing Unit on Whaley Court. The meter was checked today and working fine. However, the bypass is leaking and only about a third of the water is going through the meter. We have had to estimate usage based on averages for the last 2 months. The expense of the repair will be split between the Village and the Lafayette County Housing Authority. We are estimating a cost of \$500-\$800 dollars. *Motion (Wartner, Polfer) to complete the repairs as soon as possible. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

John presented the proposed project to complete the maintenance of the Electrical System Switchgear. This will include a temporary bypass that will be a permanent part of our system going forward in case emergency repairs are needed. This switchgear has been in place since 1985. We need to repair/replace some insulators, wire, a 3 gang switch etc. Alliant Energy will be replacing a pole, and anything above the switch is their responsibility. The cost of this project is estimated to be between \$8,000 and \$10,000 dollars and is slated for completion in May of 2015. *Motion (Robbins, Wartner) to approve the installation of a temporary bypass and repair the electrical system switchgear. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

John left at 7:10 pm.

Jim Sysko reported that we have everything in place to get our flower baskets for Main Street from Cushman's Greenhouse again this year. We are changing the flowers and adding Soil Moist to alleviate the need for watering two times a day. He will be taking the baskets to Cushman's in March to be planted.

Cal Robbins requested that we look into moving the fire hydrant at Galena and Hwy 11 when the state completes their project this summer.

Chuck Wartner mentioned looking into electronic lighted display signs for each end of Benton to advertise special events. These would replace the wooden signs we have now.

The Butch McCarthy family has requested permission to place a memorial bench near the Veterans Memorial in Village Park. *Motion (Sysko, Robbins) to authorize Butch McCarthy family to place a memorial bench in Village Park. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Robbins, Polfer) to approve Ryan Carver's vacation request for 4/28-5/3/2015.

Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Wartner, Polfer) to authorize Beverly Hitz to attend the WMCA District IV meeting on March 17th in Middleton. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The January 2015 police report was reviewed and approved by general consent.

Tabled closed session deliberation until March 2015 to gather more accurate information.

Gary explained that the first auction at Powers Auction Service went well. They would also be open to holding a benefit there.

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

Motion (Sysko, Robbins) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.