

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board 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, March 21, 2018, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Terry Sheffer, Jill Knight and Chuck Wartner. Absent: Cal Robbins. Village employees present: Sonya Silvers and Eric Mowry

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.

Motion (Sheffer, Farrey) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on January 17, 2018 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Eric Mowry reported that in early May they will start to install the 6,000 feet of water and sewer pipe in phase 2 of Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. He stated the first step would be removing black dirt and cutting the street to grade. Farrey asked if additional bidding would be needed for the street for Phase 2. It was explained that no further bidding would be needed. Eric noted that the reservoir has been filled in and it will need to settle. Once the settling has taken place they will fill again and seed. Concern was mentioned about filling cracks in the street. Eric explained most of the streets were done last year and in good shape with the exception of a few. Main Street and County J South do need work, which are the responsibility of the county. McCrea will reach out to the county. Eric will fill the hole that was dug on Mains Street to fix the water leak early next week. Well 2 has a small leak that will need to be fixed but the upgrade is close to being done and back online. Eric Mowry left the meeting at 6:50.

Police chief Scott Pedley submitted a request to hire additional part time police officers to help fill village coverage for no more than 30 combined total hours a week. It is also requested to authorize Pedley to fill at his discretion the positions in the future if openings should occur. It is noted that the officer's will be participating in 24 hours of in-service annual training and firearm range qualifying with firearms (4) times annually per WI mandates. The village will assume responsibility for these training expenses.

Motion (Knight, Wartner) to authorize Scott Pedley to hire at his discretion police officer's for 2 current part time positions at a flat, non-benefitted rate of \$20.00 an hour, and any future vacant positions.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

The board discussed the summer employment hours and responsibilities. The Village will hire Nathan Mowry and Jimmy Haas again this year. The main focus will mowing and watering the flowers. If time permits cleanup of some park equipment will be included. The hours and assignment of duties will be discussed and sorted out among the village workers and the summer hires. The need for additional help mowing was not thought to be needed. ***Motion (Sheffer, Wartner) to approve the hiring of Nathan Mowry and Jimmy Haas for mowing and watering flowers for the 2018 summer. Roll-all ayes. Carried***

Ryan Carver and Jim Goffinet made request to attend the WRWA annual meeting in LaCrosse March 27-29th. ***Motion (Farrey, Knight) to approve Ryan Carver and Jim Goffinet to attend the WRWA annual meeting in Lacrosse March 27th-29th. Roll-all ayes. Carried***

Bev Hitz made a request to attend the WMCA District IV Board of Review Training April 11 in Waunakee and the annual LWMMI (village insurance) policy holder conference May 17-18th in

WI Dells. *Motion (Sheffer, Farrey) to approve Bev Hitz to attend the WMCA training April 11th and the LWMMI annual meeting May 17th-18th.*

Roll-all ayes. Carried

The board discussed the purchasing of Cuba City's current bucket truck for \$17,000. Cuba City will be purchasing a new bucket truck and we would purchase the old truck in November. After acquiring the new truck, we will sell our old bucket truck. Eric did some research and could not come up with a similar comparison for the truck but all believe it is a good investment and will be more efficient than what we currently have. *Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to approve purchase of Cuba City's Bucket truck when it becomes available. Roll-all ayes. Carried*

The board discussed the purchasing of fiberglass street poles for Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision rather than the wood poles that are currently utilized around town. The fiber glass and wood poles are fairly close in price comparison. The board had considerable questions about the fiber glass poles and it was recommended that the Village provide more information before purchase, such as longevity, color, price, and obtain information from a municipality that currently utilizes them. *Motion to approve investigating, Table it.*

Roll-all ayes. Carried

The spring leaf, brush, and garden pick up will be April 16th -20th. The supervised burn dates will be April 2nd – 13th. *Motion (Wartner, Knight) to approve the dates for spring, brush, garden pick up, and supervised burn dates.*

Roll-all ayes. Carried

Gary reported that he has not heard anything more from the **USPS** regarding the mailboxes for Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision.

Bev Hitz contacted KD Engineering to get an easement prepared for James Kearns to allow access to his property in the Town of Benton using the undeveloped portion of North Van Buren. It is made clear that the village incurs no cost or responsibility due to this easement. It was explained that we would have to mark the property so he would know where he could clear. He will have to clear and maintain for his use.

The bid offered for the Jamieson property was accepted. We will have to wait for the attorney to get a court hearing for approval of this sale. The attorney will have the tree removed that has been down for some time.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to pay the claims against the Village. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Knight) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.