

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 20, 2019, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Terry Sheffer, Jill Knight, Cal Robbins, Katey Neis and Chuck Wartner. Village employees present: Sonya Silvers and Ryan Carver.

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 (Farrey, Knight) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on February 20, 2019 following amendment of date. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Ryan Carver reported on Jim Goffinet's recommendations for the installation of the street lights in Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. He explained that Jim would prefer to install the minimum lighting required as a test to measure the brightness. If the lighting was not adequate they would be able to easily install more lights. The board had considerable questions and concerns with the height and the style of light fixtures, how much light they would actually produce and where that light would be directed. It was requested that Jim present more information before making decision.

Ryan also presented the plans for the Phosphorus Treatment Building that will be submitted to the DNR. It will be a 12x16 basic building with insulated block. The estimate is coming in at around \$50,000 with the Village workers doing most of the work. It was discussed that John Perkins would be contracted to serve as the general contractor. Ryan will be running a pilot test soon on the chemicals to determine which will work best. Ryan requested permission from the board to start moving forward with the building of the Phosphorous Treatment Building.

Motion (Robbins, Wartner) to approve building of the Phosphorous Treatment Building. Roll-all ayes. Carried

The board discussed the summer employment hours and responsibilities. The Village will hire Nathan Mowry, Jimmy Haas and Bill McCauley again this year. There will be a need for additional help mowing due to the empty subdivision lots which is believed to add an extra 10-15 hours of mowing a week. The main focus will be mowing and watering the flowers. There may be a need to water flowers twice a day this year to prevent the flowers from dying. If time permits other small projects will be included. The hours are estimated at about 30 a week per worker and assignment of duties will be discussed and sorted out among the village workers and the summer hires.

Motion (Knight, Sheffer) to approve the hiring of Nathan Mowry, Jimmy Haas, and Bill McCauley for mowing and watering flowers for the 2019 summer. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Ryan Carver made request to attend the WRWA annual meeting in La Crosse March 27-29th.
Motion (Robbins, Farrey) to approve that Ryan Carver attend the WRWA annual meeting in La Crosse March 27th-29th. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to approve leaf and garden pick up the week of April 15th-19th and supervised burn dates of April 1st-April 12th. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Neis, Wartner) to approve renewal of agreement between the Village of Benton and the Benton School District from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 related to Swift Park use. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Sonya mentioned that Rockford Mutual Insurance for the Swindler's Ridge Museum had increased by \$170.00 this year. This is high considering previous years increase were less than \$10. A call was made to the agent to get more insight into this high increase.

Jill presented a request that the one of the tennis courts at Swift Park be converted into a pickle ball court. It is believed this will get utilized more than the tennis court, as there are other tennis courts available in the Village. Jill did some research and shared how the transformation could be done. It is believed there will be very minimal cost incurred to the Village for this change. The board agreed to this.

Gary reported that the BCDC may have some funds to help with parks this year. Jill will connect with the BCDC about parks.

Motion (Sheffer, Neis) to approve operator's license for Dawn Tiesman at the Zephyr Depot. Roll-all ayes. Carried

The board held discussion on the proposed plan to build a manufacturing building and lease it with the option to buy down the road. It was determined that they will need to figure out pricing to build it roughly 10,000 square feet. Gary has been in contact with Keith Dalsing to get more information and this will be discussed more at a later time.

Discussion was also held relating to the purchase of new banners for Main Street that would be bigger in size than what the Village currently has now. The board would also like to update the image that is currently on them. Ryan explained that it can be done with some modifications to the brackets that hold them up. Jill and Katey will look into banner sizes and prices and present at a future board meeting.

A concern was mentioned with the flowers and the watering. It was discussed that the flowers may need watering twice a day to avoid them dying again. Ryan mentioned that he believes there is a different kind of basket we could get that have water retention system right in the baskets. This would prevent the need for watering more frequently. Ryan will look into the cost of this type of baskets.

Ryan Carver left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

Motion (Farrey, Robbins) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.