

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, April 17, 2019, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Katey Neis, Jill Knight, Terry Sheffer and Chuck Wartner. Absent: Cal Robbins, Village employees present: Beverly Hitz

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, Sheffer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on March 20, 2019 as presented. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Jill Knight reported these Library Board Stats: 2018 was up 2.26 percent over 2017. There were Library 3,803 visits in 2018. There are \$11,922 in library materials owned.

Gary McCrea and Terry Sheffer attended the Mark Pocan meeting in Darlington.

There has been a request for a dog park in the Village of Benton. There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons. ***Motion (Farrey, Knight) to table this request until 2021.***

Voice-all ayes. Carried

Jill Knight reported that the playground equipment needs sandblasting and painting. Bev Hitz will call and get an estimate to sandblast and paint. Hopefully in the very near future.

Jill Knight presented an estimate for purchasing 2 pieces of playground equipment for Village Park that will replace one swing set and the teeter totter. The estimate is for \$11,520. We will need volunteers to help install the equipment and some concrete. We have \$5,000 in our budget for playground equipment. We will write a grant to the Benton Community Fund for the balance.

Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to purchase 2 pieces of playground equipment for \$11,520, the Village will pay \$5,000 and write a grant to the Benton Community Fund for the balance.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

The library/museum project is moving forward and they plan to sign an agreement with a design company. They will look at sites and do site inspections. This agreement will cost \$25,900 and will be paid for out of the Library Building Fund. ***Motion (Sheffer, Neis) to move forward with the Library/Museum project. Roll-all ayes. Carried***

Lori Droessler was concerned that we are not getting enough earnest money for our lots in the Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. We currently get \$500 down when someone is purchasing a lot. ***Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to leave the earnest money required at \$500***

Roll-all ayes. Carried

Jim Goffinet gathered estimates for the street lights in Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. He is suggesting that we start out with 6 and see how many more we will need. Irby has the best deal with the lights and fixtures costing \$825 each. ***Motion (Knight, Wartner) to purchase up to 12 lights from Irby at a cost close to \$825 each. Roll-all ayes. Carried***

Gary reported that he asked KD Engineering to get us an estimate of the cost to build a 10,000 square foot building. This would be a lease to buy building in the Benton Business Park. We don't currently have a time frame to receive this information.

The board discussed getting new banners for the street light poles on Main Street. Bigger ones will catch more wind and damage much faster. They discussed using brighter colors and even having a contest at school to come up with a design. Jim had checked with Spooky Pinball and they can print any design or color we want. This was tabled until the next board meeting.

They will schedule a Public Nuisance Meeting for next week. The board wants all issues taken care of this year, no more waiting. Some buildings have been slated for inspection by Mike Fenley. Bev is working with our Attorney to get this process going.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

Motion (Sheffer,Knight) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.