

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, May 20, 2020 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Katey Neis, Jill Knight, Chuck Wartner, Terry Sheffer and Cal Robbins. Absent: Kenneth Farrey
Village employees present: Beverly Hitz 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 (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on March 18, 2020 as presented. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Eric Mowry asked the Board about opening the parks for the summer. The lights at Village Park are not all working, something is tripping the breaker. They are waiting for the ground to dry so they can get the bucket truck in the park to do the repairs.

Motion (Robbins, Neis) to open the parks equipment and restrooms with daily cleaning. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Eric explained that the building to house the chemicals for treating phosphorous has been started. Village personnel are constructing this building. He also stated that they have two street lights up in the subdivision. Gary asked that they make the subdivision street lights a priority.

Jill Knight stated that the Benton Community Fund Advisory Board met to discuss the BCDC Park and they have agreed to pay an extra \$1,300 to have a swing set redone for the park. They will make a payment to the Village of \$11,300 in 2020. The new equipment is here and Jill will notify them so we can get it installed.

Jill said a former resident of Benton is donating funds to the Community Fund that are designated for improvements to the Village Park. These will include 2 new basketball hoops and 3 new trees.

Jill also reported that the Library remains closed at this time. They will meet on Wednesday, May 27th in the Village Park to discuss the summer library program options. It is difficult to safely open the library.

Eric reported that KD Engineering will be looking at the road right of way on Bean Street. There is an area about 200 feet long that is washing and he would like to do some rip rap work to stop it from washing. We need to determine the road right of way in order to do the repairs.

Gary has been contacted by someone who may be interested in a spot in our business park. Also, there is a family looking for a rental in Benton that will want to build in 6 months.

1st Reading of Ordinance #2020-001 to amend Chapter 205 Juveniles, Section 205-9 through 205-11 and Chapter 268 Smoking Section 268-3

Motion (Wartner, Robbins) to prorata the 2020-2021 class B beer and class B Liquor licenses for the four taverns that have been closed (VFW, McCarthy's Tavern, Hoppy's Bar & Grill and Lawrence's) They will be charged 50% of the annual fee.

Roll-all ayes. Carried (Katey Neis abstained)

Bev Hitz received a phone call from Devin Feryance requesting permission to start softball on June 7th. The board decided against it at this time and will discuss it again at the June 17th Board Meeting.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

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

meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.