

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, September 16, 2020 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Katey Neis, Jill Knight, Chuck Wartner, Terry Sheffer, Cal Robbins and Kenneth Farrey. Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Jim Goffinet. 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 August 19, 2020 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried***

Jim Goffinet reported that the parts for the street lights are here and he is replacing as needed. The drivers are not under warranty and cost \$60 each. There are 4 drivers in each street light. He has ordered new flashers for the school crossing signs that are solar with a battery backup. Eric has been working on patching the blacktop this week. He will talk to Eric and make a plan to paint the curbs and crosswalks.

Katey reported that the committee working on the upgrading the tennis/pickball courts at Swift Park has come up with an estimate of \$160,000 to \$180,000 so far. There is other work that they do not have estimates for yet. She has been looking for grant opportunities with no success yet.

Jill Knight received a newsletter from Southwest Regional Planning. There is DNR grant funding available to enhance trails, parks and facilities. She spoke with Troy Maggied at Southwest Regional Planning and they can put together a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for us at a cost of \$3,000.

***Motion (Sheffer,Robbins) to approve contracting with Southwest Regional Planning to put together a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Village of Benton..***

**Roll-all ayes. Carried**

Chuck Wartner would like to schedule another Public Nuisance Committee meeting as there are several areas of concern. He would also like to see a monthly Police report.

Gary mentioned that there is a fund raising effort to save the Red Church. He has ok'd the placing of signs in the Village to support this fund raising effort. He is still working on getting someone to buy and remove the walnut trees on the Jamieson property that we purchased. We have had an inquiry from someone interested in parking their mobile barbeque truck in the Village in the future. We will ask where they are interested in parking and place it on the next agenda.

***Motion (Robbins,Neis) to approve leaf and garden waste pick up dates October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>, and brush pick up November 11<sup>th</sup>. Roll-all ayes. Carried***

***Motion (Robbins,Sheffer) to approve supervised burn dates October 23<sup>rd</sup>–November 1<sup>st</sup>.***

**Roll-all ayes. Carried**

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

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

meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.