

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, January 17, 2018, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Jessica Polfer, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Jill Knight and Chuck Wartner (by speaker phone) Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Ryan Carver
Others present: Abby Haas, Lafayette Development Coordinator

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 budget hearing and the regular village board meeting held on December 6, 2017 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Abby Haas, Lafayette County Development Coordinator informed the board that she is writing a Broadband Grant that includes running Fiber to around 440 homes in the Village of Benton. ComElec Internet is partnering with the Village of Benton to provide the latest advancements in broadband coverage and to seek all available grants to provide and subsidize the cost of necessary broadband infrastructure. She will submit the grant on January 23rd and they will decide in March who will get funding. It will take 16-18 months to install. The cost per household will be \$50-\$75 per month and the speed will be up to 1000 megabytes per second. The total cost is \$750,000. ComElec will contribute 49% or \$375,000 and Lafayette County will contribute \$3,250. Gary McCrea recommended that we put \$3,250 of matching funds toward the project. We will only have to pay if it is awarded. Abby also recommended that we adopt Resolution 18-01 in favor of Broadband expansion.

Motion (Sheffer,Polfer) to adopt Resolution 18-01 in support of the broadband project and provide matching funds of \$3,250 if the grant is awarded.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

Ryan Carver explained that the main gas pipe has been installed for the 1st phase of Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. He also received approval today from the DNR for the project at the well following the reservoir collapse on October 10, 2017. Jill Knight asked about recent water main breaks. Ryan explained that there have been 2 water main breaks and 2 instances of malfunctioning valves due to bolts that have deteriorated. They have been replaced with stainless steel bolts.

Ryan Carver presented two vacation requests for 2018.

Motion (Polfer,Robbins) to approve Ryan Carvers vacation requests as presented.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

Jessica Polfer was asked to relay a concern about the electric installation for Lutes Manufacturing. She was told that it was holding up construction of the building. Ryan explained that there have been extreme weather issues and heat is need to do it correctly when it is this cold. He also mentioned that the contractor has a generator that he could use if electric is not available.

Gary McCrea received a letter from the attorney handling the Jamieson Estate. He explained that if we are still interested in the 11.80 acre parcel that we need to submit a bid by February 14, 2018. A discussion took place regarding development of this parcel.

Motion (Robbins,Knight) to submit a bid of \$120,000 for the Jamieson property.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

James Kearns is requesting access to his property that is located in the Town of Benton. It is at the end of Van Buren Street in the Village of Benton. This property is a street that has not been developed beyond the Adelle Rowe property located at 187 N VanBuren Street.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to grant an easement to Ted Kearns for the undeveloped portion of North Van Buren Street. This easement is to include language that indicates the Village of Benton will not pay for any of the cost of this easement. Furthermore the Village of Benton will not maintain this property, Kearns will be responsible to clear and maintain.

Roll-all ayes. Carried

Gary reported that the **USPS** would like us to put up a cluster box for mail at Roling Oaks Heights Subdivision. A discussion by the board members took place. It was decided against the cluster box and Gary will contact the Postmaster in Cuba City to let them know.

The board also discussed coverage for the Village Office on Tuesdays if needed. The board will put the word out and hopefully find someone willing to fill in.

Gary stated that we need to get John Perkins and our village workers to do some work at the School House Museum. The structure is in bad need of repair. The ceiling is falling and we need insulation, posts and beams for support. He has a heater in his garage that they can use if needed.

Gary also let the board know that he made multiple phone calls to Ryan, Johnson, Baldwin, Poca, Tranel & Governor Walker, regarding the phosphorus issue, without much response. He wanted to make sure they are all aware of the expense for the Village.

Ryan let the Village Board know that Howard Marklein and Travis Tranel will be at the Benton High School to discuss funding for rural schools on January 29th at 9:30 am.

Jessica Polfer informed the board that this will be her last meeting. They will close on their house February 16th and move to their new home in the Town of Benton.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

Motion (Knight,Polfer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.