

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, February 17, 2016, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Chuck Wartner, Rose Walton, Jessica Polfer and Cal Robbins. Absent: Jim Sysko and Terry Sheffer. Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Ryan Carver. Others present: Jonessa Haas, Ben Heidemann, Deputy Paul Klang and Deputy Steve Schultz. 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 (Polfer, Walton) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on January 20, 2015 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Ben Heidemann from Town and Country Engineering presented a summary of alternatives for Phosphorus Compliance. A lengthy discussion of the many options followed. Ben will return for the March 16th board meeting with some more detailed information.

Paul Klang, Lafayette County deputy, presented information for (The Trade Up Program) to replace the taser Officer Steve Schultz is currently using. His taser is being phased out and eventually we will not be able to get service or batteries for this unit. The incentive program is available until June 1st. The board will further discuss at the March 16th, board meeting.

Office Steve Schultz informed the board of the need to upgrade the rifle in the squad. He will have a discussion with the Lafayette County Sheriff Reg Gill and get back to the board.

Ryan Carver let the board know that Eric Mowry was requesting to trim some trees on Main Street. They make it dangerous for the street sweeper. *Approved by general consent.*

Gary McCrea gave the second reading of Ordinance amendment #2016-001, Vehicles All Terrain ordinance #317-3. *Motion (Walton, Wartner) to approve Ordinance amendment #2016-001, Vehicles, All-Terrain #317-3. Roll-all ayes. Carried*

Gary McCrea gave the second reading of Ordinance amendment #2016-002, Construction and repair of sidewalks #288-4. *Motion (Walton, Polfer) to approve Ordinance amendment #2016-002, Construction and repair of sidewalks #288-4. Roll-all ayes. Carried*

Gary McCrea gave the second reading of Ordinance amendment #2016-003, Truancy ordinance #361-6. *Motion (Polfer, Walton) to approve Ordinance amendment #2016-003, Truancy ordinance #361-6. Roll-all ayes. Carried*

Rose Walton voiced her concern about trucks being used to plow the sidewalks. Discussion by the board to resolve this issue.

Gary McCrea explained that he had spoken to the Benton School District regarding the crossing guard on main street. The Village Board is requesting an adult take over that responsibility.

Motion (Robbins, Polfer) to approve the 2015-2016 Operator License for Susan Reynolds. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Discussion regarding Net Operating Loss in the Sewer Fund for the last few years. ***Sewer rates have not been changed since 1998.*** *Motion (Walton, Polfer) to approve a 5% increase in sewer utility rates beginning with the March 31st bill. (usage from 2-15-16 forward) Roll-all ayes. Carried*

Discussion regarding use variance request at 34 W Main Street. *Motion (Robbins, Polfer) to approve. However this has to go thru the zoning board of appeals. Bev Hitz will request an application in order to proceed.*

Gary appointed Jessica Polfer to the Planning and Zoning Commission to replace Myrna Sysko who is no longer able to be a member.. He also appointed Pete White to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace Alfred Kluge who is no longer able to be a member.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment. *Motion (Polfer, Walton) to pay the claims against the Village.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Wartner, Robbins) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.