

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, March 15, 2017, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Jessica Polfer, Rose Walton, Terry Sheffer and Cal Robbins. Absent: Chuck Wartner. 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 (Walton,Sheffer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on February 15, 2017 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Jim Goffinet explained the need for a 3-Phase transformer in the Business Park. He presented 3 bids for transformers. *Motion (Robbins,Sheffer) to purchase a refurbished transformer from T&R Electric at a cost of \$8,597. Roll-all ayes. Carried*

The Village received a request for sewer service to a property that is in the Town of Benton, owned by Joe Weber. The board discussed the possibility and the associated costs. The board chose to table this discussion. We will gather more information and discuss at the April 19th meeting.

Jim informed the board of the need for additional help this summer. We have projects that need immediate attention as well as the care of flowers on Main Street. There will also be a need for someone to mow when Bill McCauley is on vacation. There would be 2 employees at least 16 years old. They would work up to 20 hours each per week.

Motion (Robbins, Walton) to hire Jimmy Haas and Nate Mowry to work up to a combined 40 hours per week. They will be paid \$10 per hour. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer,Robbins) to approve spring leaf and brush collection dates April 17th – April 21st and the supervised burn dates April 7th – 15th, 2017. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Gary reported that he attended a phosphorus strategies meeting at Godfrey and Kahn in Milwaukee. They did not recommend adaptive management because the land owner could change their mind. You can pay the County to make a deal with the farmer. Minnesota law requires farmers to have a cover crop along waterways. He said there is a good chance that there will be changes to the law soon.

Motion (Polfer,Robbins) to approve request from Ryan Carver and Bev Hitz to carryover 40 hours of vacation each. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Walton,Robbins) to approve request from Ryan Carver to attend WRWA conference March 29th- 31st, 2017. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Walton,Polfer) to approve request from Bev Hitz to attend LWMMI policy holder conference May 11th-12th, 2017. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Polfer, Walton) to approve renewal of agreement between the Village of Benton and the Benton School District from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 related to Swift Park use. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins,Sheffer,) to approve Annexation Ordinance #2017-01, moving 21.59 acres from the Town of Benton to the Village of Benton. Roll-all ayes. Carried

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

Motion (Polfer,Walton) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.