

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Katey Neis and Jill Knight. Absent: Chuck Wartner and Kenneth Farrey, Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Ryan Carver.

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 (Knight, Sheffer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on March 21, 2018 as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Ryan Carver informed the board that they would begin installing the water and sewer pipe for the second phase of Roling Oaks Heights tomorrow, May 17, 2018. Ryan mentioned and Jill agreed that the salt shed is in need of repair. Bev Hitz will get ahold of Benton Township to discuss as they will be responsible for half of this project. Gary asked about the plan for sidewalks in need of repair. This was put on hold to make time for the work at the subdivision in 2018. A discussion regarding who is responsible to mow the area along the highway took place. It is the owner's responsibility to mow to the road. Ryan also asked about renting out the property at 515 Arbor Street, that the Village is in the process of purchasing. Ryan also mentioned the dandelions at the empty lot in the Roling Oaks Subdivision. Gary will talk to Phil Houtaker about spraying the lot. Ryan left at 6:15.

Terry Sheffer asked about mowing at the end of Calvert Street that is road right of way but not a paved street. Bev will confirm that this is a platted street and let Ryan Carver know that this needs to be mowed.

Bev Hitz reported that Dittmer is raising our garbage rates 2% from \$12.32 to \$12.57 per month beginning July 15th, 2018. She also reported that the court has approved the sale of the Jamieson Property at 515 Arbor Street to the Village of Benton and we are waiting for the title work to be completed per Attorney Augsburger.

Gary still does not have an answer from the post office about mail boxes for Roling Oaks Heights. He will try to get ahold of them.

Gary presented the new Committees and Assignments as well as the list of Election Inspectors. These were approved by general consent.

Jill Knight asked if the Village Board would consider keeping the annual interest rate steady for the Business Note from the Benton Community Development. The interest rate has doubled since 2016 and is causing a hardship at this rate. Gary McCrea suggested that the Village forego annual interest rate payments and allow them to make payments on the principal as they are able.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve that there will be no annual interest payment due from the Benton Community Development Business Note. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Jill Knight explained that the BBI sign by the highway is falling apart and cannot be repaired. She presented designs for an illuminated sign with a color LED message center to replace it.

Motion (Neis,Robbins) to approve the purchase of an illuminated sign with a message center in Donegal Green to replace the current BBI sign. Roll-all ayes. Carried

First Reading of Ordinance #2018-001 to amend Section 390-9 Use Restrictions

B. Accessory Uses

Motion (Knight,Neis) to approve amendment 2018-001 to Section 390-9 Use Restrictions

B. Accessory Uses Roll-eyes: Knight,Neis,Sheffer,McCrea No: Robbins Carried

The Police Department has requested to rent the office space that is available as of 6/1/18 in the Benton Business Incubator. It will provide them with much needed privacy when handling delicate issues.

Motion (Robbins,Sheffer) to approve renting office space for the Police Department in the Benton Business Incubator as of 6-1-18. Roll-all ayes. Carried

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

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

Motion (Neis,Sheffer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.