

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, October 21, 2015, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Jim Sysko, Terry Sheffer and Cal Robbins. Absent: Rose Walton, Jessica Polfer and Chuck Wartner. Village employees present: Beverly Hitz and Eric Mowry. Others present: Jim Kruser, Deb Slater and Sue Nelson. 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 (Sheffer,Robbins) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on September 16th, 2015 as presented. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Jim Kruser from the Benton VFW questioned the reimbursement request that Gary McCrea had presented at the last VFW meeting. The main question was regarding the amount of wages the Village had paid for work done at the memorial. They were also questioning the amount for tree removal from Steitz Tree Service. Following a lengthy discussion it was decided that Jim Sysko would look into the tree removal to confirm that the amount was correct. Jim stated that they would be reimbursing us the amount we requested.

Eric Mowry presented the pros and cons of owning a skid steer or renting one. He explained what equipment was needed for a machine with an 18" planer that we could use for the repair of the tennis courts. After a lengthy discussion of our options, the board tabled the options for repair of the tennis court at Swift Park until the November 11th meeting. This will enable the board to make a decision which will impact our 2016 budget. Eric will do further research and put together a presentation for the board.

Gary McCrea explained the request from the Benton School District asking the Village to put in place a truancy ordinance. Jim Sysko explained a request for changes to our public nuisance ordinance. Bev Hitz will contact the Ordinance Committee to set up a meeting. Gary also mentioned that the DOT had removed the double yellow line on highway 11 coming into Benton. He has been in contact and waiting for them to call him back.

The board discussed possibilities for upgrading the dog kennel used for stray dogs. Cal Robbins will look into chain link fence and Terry Sheffer will look into an insulated dog house. We can also put a dog in the village garage if necessary in cold weather.

Motion (Robbins,Sheffer) to approve a donation of \$200 to the Lafayette County Historical Society for the 2016 budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The September 2015 police report was approved by general consent.

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

Motion (Robbins,Sheffer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.