

The Village of Benton Regular Board Meeting 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, November 12th, 2014 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Jessica Polfer, Rose Walton, Cal Robbins, Jim Sysko and Terry Sheffer. Absent: Chuck Wartner. Citizens present: None. Employees: Beverly Hitz and Ryan Carver. Proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Benton Business Incubator Building, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Zephyr Depot, in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Motion (Sheffer, Robbins) to accept the meeting minutes of the regular village board meeting held October 15th, 2014. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Ryan Carver presented his concerns about 2015 water system improvements on Galena Street. He also discussed the need for a new meter reading system in 2015. The cost would be shared by Electric, Water and Sewer.

Beverly Hitz informed the board that Char Reynolds has resigned from her volunteer gardening position at the Village Park.

The donation to Cole Acres Pool will remain unchanged for 2015.

Tabled discussion of 2015 street improvements until the December 2014 meeting to get more information from KD Engineering.

Motion (Walton, Robbins) to accept the \$2,300 bid from Stietz Tree Service for removal of 2 trees from the Village Park with the stipulation that this must be completed by March 1st, 2015. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The October 2014 police report was reviewed and approved by general consent.

Beverly Hitz informed the board that the Christmas party would be on December 20th, 2014 at Lawrence's Pub.

Motion (Polfer, Walton) to approve the 2015 general fund budget with a local tax levy of \$133,231.00 for posting. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Polfer, Walton) to adopt the amended Municipal Deposit Schedule updated November 12th, 2014. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Tabled discussion of water and sewer rates until December, 2014 meeting. Bev Hitz will get more information from our auditors to make a more informed decision.

Tabled review of utility deferred payment agreements until December 2014 meeting to give the board members more time to review the options.

The board was given a copy of the notice of the spring election to be held April 7th, 2015.

Motion (Robbins, Walton) to purchase 6 LED Street Lights at a cost of \$1,440. This will replace the last of our mercury vapor lights and will be more energy efficient. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sysko, Robbins) to contract L&R Meter to perform the annual commercial cross connection inspections with 19 each year for a cost of \$1500-\$1900 per year. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

Jim Sysko commented that we should plan on replacing the trees we are removing from Village Park.

Terry Sheffer advised that he had inquiries from the State Historical Society regarding the median that is also a Veterans' Memorial. The DOT would like to remove it so wide loads can easily get through Benton. Gary McCrea also received phone calls and stated that they would have to talk to the American Legion and the VFW.

Motion (Polfer, Sheffer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.