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, January 18, 2012, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Gary McCrea, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence (6:32 p.m.), Chuck Wartner, and Ron Fladseth. Absent: Cal Robbins. Citizens present: none. Others present: Officer Eric Seiler. Employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins. Proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Village of Benton Business Incubator Building, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Zephyr Depot, in compliance with the Open Meeting Law.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held Dec 7, 2011 and the Budget Hearing held Dec 7, 2011. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried.

John Perkins was present with questions as to how many and the location for trees to be planted in the village park. Committee chairperson, Lisa Lawrence, indicated she would set up a meeting sometime in late March to make a decision related to this matter.

Another park item discussed was the need to replace some of the lights in the village park. It was agreed this item will also be placed on the Park Committee's agenda in March.

Lawrence said she would like to see recycling containers purchased for both parks. This item will be added to the Park Committee's agenda in March.

A discussion was held regarding the removal of some of the trees planted along Highway 11/Main Street. The Street Committee will have a meeting in the spring to determine exactly which trees will be trimmed and which need to be completely removed. The street committee will also look at all the other trees in the village that are not in compliance with the village's municipal code at this time.

The upcoming street lighting project was discussed. The street lighting committee comprised of: Gary McCrea, Chuck Wartner, Rose Walton, Sherri Timmerman, John Perkins, and Darnell Hendricks will meet sometime during the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> through February 10<sup>th</sup> regarding this matter.

Motion (Lawrence, Fladseth) to approve the purchase of nine new 100 watt street lights for a total price of \$1,275.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Officer Eric Seiler was present with an update on the status of the alternate side parking violators.

Officer Eric Seiler presented the December police report.

No committee reports were provided.

McCrea reported that the Mayor of the City of Shullsburg had contacted him and had indicated that the casino project for Shullsburg is back on the table.

Motion (Walton, Sheffer) to approve increasing the budget for the 2012 Village Christmas party to \$800.00 and increasing the invitee list to include all committee members and library employees. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to approve a donation to the Benton First Responders in the amount of \$2000.00 for the organization's new vehicle. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

John Perkins left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve Jim Goffinet's vacation request for March 26<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup>. Voice. All ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Sheffer) to approve an operator's license for Robert Hawk. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The first reading of ordinance number 2012-001 An Ordinance To Amend Section 7-2-15 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Closing Hours: Fermented Malt Beverages and Intoxicating Liquor was completed.

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

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.