

A regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room in the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, September 20, 2006, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler (7:05 p.m.), Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Ann Neis, and Ron Fladseth (7:05 p.m.). Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks (7:00 p.m.) and John Perkins (7:10 p.m.). Consultants: none. Citizens/others present: Marianne Calvert, Mary Belle Whaley and Dee Suchomel. 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.

Hendricks inquired as to where the village board would like the debris from the street sweeper dumped upon completion of each scheduled street sweeping. Presently the debris is dumped at the compost site, however, a new site is necessary. Robbins indicated he would inquire as to whether this debris could be dumped on a lot his family owns on Main Street. Robbins will advise at the next board meeting.

Dee Suchomel, director of the Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN) program, was present requesting a 2007 donation for the SUN program. Suchomel advised that the program serves approximately 12-13 meals per day. A person is eligible for the program if they are age 60 or over. *Motion (Sheffer, Droessler) to approve a 2007 donation of \$2,000.00 to the SUN program.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

*Motion (Neis, Walton) to hire Travis Kaiser as a UW Platteville workstudy student for the fall.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

*Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve a fire hydrant replacement program commencing in 2007 which will include replacing one or two fire hydrants per year until all in need of replacement are changed out. The approximate cost for a new hydrant is \$1200.00 with an estimated total of four in need of replacement.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Perkins advised that the recommendation of village employees for North Van Buren Street would be to have it filled with cold mix and then have it slurry sealed. The street committee will look at this recommendation and approve at its next meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the lights in the village park. Perkins advised there are two poles without lights and two lights that do not work. Perkins advised he has four lights that can be put up to replace these and he will be working on getting these fixed.

A discussion was held regarding the trees in need of removal in the village park. The park committee will meet and discuss which trees should be totally removed and which just need branches removed. The design and placement of new restroom facilities for the village park in 2007 was referred to the park committee. Robbins indicated he would meet with the committee and assist in the design of these restrooms.

Perkins was advised to remove the new tennis court net (which is too large) from the village park and use it at Swift Park. A new, smaller net will then be ordered for the village park.

Neis indicated she would set up a street committee meeting to look at North Van Buren Street and review the estimates from K.D. Engineering for the 2007 street improvement projects.

Hendricks updated the board on a recent incident involving village employee's mowing on private property. By general consent the board approved Hendricks sending a letter to the property owner regarding the matter.

Perkins indicated the bus turn-around had been completed using lot 17 in the Roling Oaks subdivision. By general consent the board approved using this lot for the hook up of a new water and sewer service at the end of Creek Drive. This option will involve less disruption to the street.

Neis requested the "Do Not Block Driveway" sign located on Park Avenue be moved

approximately three feet west to allow the rescue squad vehicle room to exit to the left. Currently it is impossible to exit to the left when vehicles are parked on the north side of the street.

No discussion was held regarding the purchase of new fuel tanks for the dump truck. Goffinet will bring this information to the next regular meeting.

A discussion was held regarding village personnel providing assistance to village non-profit organizations during working hours. By general consent it was agreed that village personnel will be allowed to assist local non-profit organizations during regular working hours with the following contingencies: assistance can be provided without the employee incurring overtime, assistance will require only a brief, reasonable amount of time away from employees village related duties.

The Benton Community Development Corporation's (BCDC) repayment of its loan to the Village of Benton was discussed. Hendricks will get additional information and report back to the board at its next regular meeting.

By general consent the board approved an extension of its police contract with the Lafayette County sheriff's department for 2007.

A discussion was held regarding the development of a new village web site. The BCDC has obtained a \$2,000 grant from Alliant Energy to assist in the development of this new web site. Web site committee members Lori Droessler, Sherri Timmerman, and Rose Walton will work on obtaining requests for proposals (RFP's) for this new web site.

*Motion (Neis, Robbins) to approve an operator's license for Cynthia Bartell and Rebecca Bruzek pending background checks. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The board reviewed the survey plat done by K.D. Engineering of 39 East Main Street.

*Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve the preliminary Certified Survey Map of the Treganza Area. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

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

*Motion (Walton, Fladseth) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*

Approved 10/18/2006

Posted 10/19/2006

