

The public hearing of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:30 p.m. at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator building on Wednesday, December 05, 2007, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Ann Neis, Lisa Lawrence, Katey McCarthy, Terry Sheffer and Gary McCrea. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks (6:30 p.m.). Visitors/Citizens present: none. Consultants present: none. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, Benton Business Incubator Building and the Zephyr Depot. A short discussion was held regarding the budget. *Motion (Walton, Robbins) adjourn the 2007 General Fund Budget Public Hearing.* Roll-All ayes. Carried.

The 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, December 05, 2007, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Terry Sheffer, Ann Neis, Lisa Lawrence and Katey McCarthy. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet. Consultants present: none. Citizens/others present: April Baker. 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 (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held November 13, 2007, and the special meeting held November 19, 2007.* Voice-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board agreed to put the 1991 GMC 3500 pick-up for sale. The board directed Hendricks to put the truck on Craig's list and also in the publication "The Municipality". Proposals will be accepted for the truck until April 15, 2008.

A discussion was held on what accommodations will have to be made for obtaining diesel fuel for the village's street sweeper, high-arm, tractor and new truck. The Benton fire department would also have a need for diesel for its fire trucks. The purchase of a fuel tank was discussed. More information will be obtained and provided at the next meeting.

The board agreed by general consent that it was a fire department decision as to how much to pay its paid positions. It was felt that the fire department should be looked at the same as the library, that is, given a budget, and it is up to the members to decide how to spend the budget.

A discussion was held regarding the village purchasing its own trencher. A decision was deferred until additional information can be obtained regarding prices, cost sharing and past trenching related expenses.

By general consent the board authorized the policy of having two village employees plow the streets at night and on weekends as necessary.

Goffinet left at 7:25 p.m.

April Baker, Director of the Grant County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity (HFH), was present to provide information regarding the Habitat for Humanity organization. Ms. Baker explained that HFH is not a governmental organization, all money it receives is either donated or granted, a home built by HFH is built in partnership with low income families, and the home is not given away to the families. HFH is not in competition with banks, or contractors. The low income families must provide sweat equity. Ms. Baker further explained that if a lot was obtained via donation, all materials would be purchased with grant money. Ms. Baker explained the selection process for the family as well as the workshop done in the community prior to the start of the project.

A request from Swindler's Ridge for a donation toward its sewer bill was deferred until the next meeting.

Walton, chairperson of the public nuisance committee, updated the board on the recent public nuisance committee meeting in which the committee had decided to defer any further actions related to public nuisance violators until the end of March, 2008.

By general consent, the board agreed that the normal procedure of sending notices and having village personnel clear sidewalks not yet shoveled would be postponed a few days to allow property owners an opportunity to remove the ice accumulated from the recent storms. Letters will be sent to property owners that have made no attempt to clear any snow from their sidewalks yet this season, however, those that have made an attempt will be given more time.

McCrea advised he would be attending a meeting with the Dubuque Lower Mississippi River Front Economic Development Group on December 6, 2007.

*Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to authorize Hendricks to continue pursuing the Village of Benton's application to the National Flood Insurance Program for membership.* Roll-Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Neis-no, Lawrence-yes, McCarthy-yes, Sheffer-yes, and Gary McCrea-yes. Motion carried with six yes and one no. Carried.

*Motion (McCarthy, Droessler) to approve the second and final reading of the Village of Benton's Ordinance Sec. 7-1-3 (b) Issuance of Dog, Cat and Kennel Licenses specifically related to adding restrictions for the issuance of a kennel license.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Information was provided to the board related to the final cost of installation of water and sewer service at 150 Water Street.

*Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve the replacement of the trailer located at 40 Alma Street with a new double wide trailer as long as all zoning setback requirements could be complied with.* Voice. All ayes. Carried.

*Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve Resolution 2007-006 of the Village of Benton Authorizing Election Poll Workers for 2008-2009 election years.* All ayes. Carried.

The discussion related to the purchase of a portable breathalyzer device was deferred until the next regular meeting.

*Motion (McCarthy, Lawrence) to approve the 2008 General Fund Budget for posting.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

*Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve up to \$400.00 for a Village Christmas Party.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The Ordinance Committee will meet after the first of the year to review and propose an Abandoned Building Ordinance.

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

*Motion (Sheffer, McCarthy) to adjourn.* Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

