

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, September 20, 2017, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Kenneth Farrey, Jill Knight, Chuck Wartner, Jessica Polfer, Cal Robbins and Terry Sheffer. Village employees present: Beverly Hitz Others present: Abby Haas, Lafayette Development Coordinator. 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, Polfer) to approve minutes from the regular village board meeting held on August 16th and a special board meeting on September 6, 2017, as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried

Abby Haas, Lafayette Development Director since August 3rd, 2017, gave an overview of her accomplishments since taking office. She reported that the next meeting would be on Monday, September 25th in Fayette at 6pm. She is working to get more tourism in Lafayette County as well as increased broadband access. Strategic planning is also in the works.

Jill Knight reported that as of September 14, 2017, Michele Anderson is the new Library Director and they have also hired Connor McCarthy as a Library Assistant. Jill also asked why the yellow curb in front of the old post office on Main Street had not been painted.

Cal Robbins discussed the trees at Tammy Hendricks and the request from Vicki Farrey on Alma Street for a hidden driveway sign. He requested more traffic control on Alma Street and County J North. The Public Nuisance Committee will review these situations and report back to the board.

Bev Hitz mentioned the possibility of more radar signs in the village. There was a lengthy discussion of possible solutions. Bev will check in to the possibility of getting some funding through the Police Safety Grants.

Motion (Wartner, Robbins) to approve leaf and garden waste pick up dates October 30th - November 3rd, and November 13th-17th, brush pick up November 15th-17th and supervised burn dates November 3rd -12th. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Gary informed the Board that the School House Museum is in need of repairs to preserve the building as well as the contents. Kenny Farrey mentioned that it was once a part of the St. Claire Academy. Bev Hitz will contact Abby Haas to see if there is any grants available to help restore the museum.

Bev Hitz reported that the Postmaster contacted her to inform the Village that they will be contacting residents of Main Street (except from the library to Park Street) to let them know Main Street is on the rural route. All residents are required to put up a box or pay one at the post office.

The claims against the Village were presented for payment.

Motion (Polfer, Wartner) to pay the claims against the Village. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Farrey) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.