

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, October 15th, 2014 with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Jessica Polfer, Chuck Wartner, Rose Walton, Cal Robbins, Jim Sysko and Terry Sheffer. Citizens present: Jim Kruser. Library personnel: Jean Christensen and Bill Foltz. Employees: Beverly Hitz and Jim Goffinet. 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, Walton) to accept the meeting minutes of the regular village board meeting held September 17th, 2014. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Jim Kruser thanked the Village of Benton for their donation of financing and labor for the Veterans' Memorial. He stated that Jim Goffinet and John Perkins went above and beyond their expectations. Jim also mentioned giving the public the opportunity to rename Village Park. Gary suggested we put something in the next Village Newsletter.

Jim Goffinet reported that Iverson Construction plans on finishing the patching before winter. Jim is also planning to reseal the concrete at the Veterans' Memorial. He met with Keith Dalsing who is doing the preliminary work for Jenkynsville Road and a storm sewer on Galena Street.

Jim left at 7:00 p.m.

Gary read the request from Cecile McManus on behalf of the Seniors United for Nutrition Program to cover rent and phone at the VFW dining site. *Motion (Sheffer, Sysko) to approve a donation of \$3,500 for 2015.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Jim Sysko explained that Redfearn's Tree Service would be moving the red maple tree in the Village Park that is too close to the sidewalk, and we may add one or two more trees. The museum also has a tree that is dying.

Terry Sheffer reported that tree branches were obstructing the 25 mile per hour sign.

Tabled Cole Acres Pool discussion until November 12th meeting; we need input from Chuck Voight.

Library Director, Jean Christensen, and Library Board President, Bill Foltz, presented the library's 2015 budget. *Motion (Sysko, Polfer) to approve the library budget for 2015 with a village allocation of \$45,000.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Gary McCrea gave the second reading of Ordinance #2014-02, Amending Chapter 115-15 Animals: Providing Proper Shelter. *Motion (Wartner, Sheffer) to amend Chapter 115-15 Animals: Providing Proper Shelter.* Roll-all ayes. Carried

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

The board reviewed the proposed 2015 budget timeline and approved it by general consent.

Motion (Walton, Wartner) to approve John Perkins' request for vacation October 27th, 28th, 30th and 31st. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Gary advised that Benton Schools and the Village of Benton met on October 5th and agreed to pay the Summer Recreation Director \$2,400, each paying \$1,200. It was also agreed that Benton Schools will do the payroll, the Village will reimburse them, and we will withhold the final \$800 until the summer program has been completed. *Motion (Sysko, Walton) to approve \$1,200 in 2015 for the Summer Recreation Director.* Roll-all ayes. Carried

Gary mentioned that he liked the idea of a state flag pole at the Benton Business Incubator building, which Fred and Carrie Norder would like to donate. The Village Board agreed by general consent. Jessica Polfer advised that she would get back to Carrie with our acceptance.

Gary spoke with John Heimann about Federal Funding for Senior Housing and at this time none is available. They will let us know if funding becomes available.

Gary advised that the Personnel Committee met on Monday October 13th to discuss employee contracts for 2015 and 2016. It was decided to give a 5% increase in 2015 and a 3% increase in 2016.

Jim Sysko mentioned the bank across from Swift Park. He feels we should make a plan to improve the area. It appears overgrown.

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

Motion (Polfer, Wartner) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.