

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, April 18, 2012, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Chuck Wartner, Cal Robbins, Rose Walton, Lisa Lawrence, Terry Sheffer and Ron Fladseth. Absent: none. 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 (Walton, Robbins) to approve the minutes of the following meetings: March 21st Regular Board Meeting, March 27th Street Committee Meeting, April 10th Street Lighting Committee Meeting, April 10th Street Committee Meeting, April 10th Public Nuisance Committee Meeting, April 12th Park Committee Meeting, and April 16th Street Lighting Committee Meeting. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Sheffer gave a committee report regarding the two street committee meetings held March 27th and April 10th. It was indicated that the gravel bins in the Swift Park parking lot area should be moved up closer to the salt shed and made more permanent. The parking lot should be dug out, replaced with breaker rock and a gravel foundation this year and shot with a double coat of seal coat next year.

It was agreed that the utility poles will be organized and placed on the rack next to the salt shed. A total of 10 good poles will be kept, the rest will be sold.

It was agreed that the storm sewer on the south side of Swift Park needs to be extended.

It was agreed that the right side of the school driveway needs the rip rap lowered to allow the water to drain from one tube to the next.

It was agreed that the school driveway drainage tube needs to be extended. Hendricks will e-mail Kyle Luetdke regarding this matter.

The street committee made a recommendation that letters be sent to people regarding trees not in compliance with the tree trimming ordinance. These letters have been mailed by village office staff. In addition, a list compiled by employee, John Perkins, was also discussed. It was agreed by general consent to send letters to all of these property owners as well except those on Main Street. Village employees will take care of trimming and removal of trees on Main Street. Notification will be sent to the adjacent property owners of the trees that will be removed.

The street committee reported that it had completed its sidewalk survey and that approximately 25 letters had been sent.

The public nuisance committee indicated it had met and had approximately eleven notification letters that had been sent.

The Ordinance Number 2012-003 to add Section 5-4-1 to 5-4-8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Outdoor Wood Furnaces was read a second time. *Motion (Wartner, Walton) to approve the passage of Ordinance Number 2012-003 to add Section 5-4-1 to 5-4-8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Outdoor Wood Furnaces.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to donate \$2000 to Cole Acres swimming pool. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent it was agreed to hire three part-time summer work-study employees: Alex Droessler (compost site), Kane Hoffmann (grass cutting), Jason Neis (grass cutting and park maintenance).

Motion (Sheffer, Robbins) to approve an operator's license for Dana Dougherty. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

After a thorough discussion related to the street lighting project, *motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve the Main Street lighting project to include the purchase and installation of 30 new decorative light fixtures to be installed on Main Street. These light fixtures will include Hapco poles and Beacon fixtures that will be purchased from Crescent Electric.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve authorizing the Street Lighting Committee to purchase new Christmas decorations for the new street lights for a total budgeted amount not to exceed \$13,000. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The March police report was reviewed and approved by general consent.

The first reading of an ordinance to amend section 7-9-1 to 7-9-11 of the Municipal Code related to Commercial Garages and Auto Repair Shops was completed.

Motion (Sheffer, Robbins) to authorize McCrea and Hendricks to review a revolving loan and other assistance possibilities with a potential business. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The 2011 General Fund, Electric and Water Utility, and Sewer Utility audit report was approved by general consent.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve village personnel to install cement along the outside of the median on Highway 11, pending the Department of Transportation's approval of the project and the Benton Community Development Corporations payment for the materials. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Walton) to purchase five cement planters for a cost of no more than \$3,000, for placement along Main Street where the whiskey barrels were previously placed. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

Motion (Rose, Terry) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.