

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, July 18, 2012, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Chuck Wartner, Cal Robbins, Rose Walton, Ron Fladseth and Lisa Lawrence. Absent: Terry Sheffer. Citizens present: none. Employees: 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.

The meeting minutes of the regular village board meeting held June 20th and the ordinance committee meeting held July 11th, were approved by general consent.

Hendricks advised of a citizen complaint related to Wilson Avenue and Frontier Street. Evidently, people are driving their vehicles off the end of Wilson Avenue and then through the local farmer's crop land and back onto the road on Frontier Street. McCrea will advise the police officer to monitor this area and talk with the drivers. Village employees will also put up fence posts as a future deterrent.

Hendricks updated the board on the replacement of a sewer lateral at 243 Second Street. The lateral was televised and the cause of the sewer back up was determined to have been due to the lack of fall in the lateral and a ball of roots at the end of the lateral near the main. The sewer department replaced approximately 42' from the street right of way to the main.

Perkins provided an update on the street lighting project. There is one more cement base needing to be poured, but all boring work is complete. All of the wires still need to be pulled through the flexible conduit and then hooked up. The poles themselves should be delivered in the next three to four weeks.

Perkins confirmed the trees on Main Street that were scheduled to be removed include: two at 17 W. Main Street, one at 29 W. Main Street, 33 W. Main Street, 243 W. Main Street, and one across from the median on Main Street.

Robbins advised Perkins to tighten the bolts of the railing at the United Methodist Church. He also indicated the newly purchased railings should be installed at the Catholic Church and another set somewhere between Lawrence's Pub and M. Robbins and Company.

Hendricks updated the board on the compliance deadline of January 1, 2013, for narrow banding its radios. Since the village no longer uses radios for communication and since all of the fire department, as well as the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department have narrow band radios, it was agreed that it does not make fiscal sense to purchase new radios for use only in the case of a disaster. By general consent the board agreed not to do any updates at this time.

Walton updated the board on the recent Ordinance Committee Meeting in which the current vicious dog ordinance was reviewed. Walton indicated the committee was looking into what other communities have for this type of ordinance as well as information from local dog trainers related to the "pit bull" breed. The committee will be meeting again on August 8th to review this additional information.

Lawrence and Hendricks updated the board regarding the issue of Eastern Sand Wasps in the sand areas at the village park. It was agreed by general consent to continue the current efforts to at least decrease the population, and then get pricing information for a different surface area such as recycled rubber, rubber mats, as well as looking into any grant funds that might be available to assist with this project.

By general consent it was agreed to wait until at least October before planting the new tree in the village park.

Motion (Walton, Wartner) to approve changes to the Village of Benton Revolving Loan Fund policy and procedures. Roll-Walton-yes, Lawrence-no, Fladseth-yes, Robbins-no, Wartner-yes, McCrea-yes. Carried.

By general consent the board approved the May and June 2012 police report.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve an operator's license for Eldon Kruser, Dave Kane, and Bill Sides. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Wartner, Fladseth) to approve a temporary Class "B"/"Class B" retailers license for the Benton Booster Club for August 3-5. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve a news release regarding a recent fraudulent identity theft scam claiming to offer help with utility bill payments. Voice-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. Motion carried.*

Robbins requested a letter be sent to the property owners of 72 Easy Street requesting them to cut their weeds, put up a silt fence completely around the building where there is currently no grass growing, and advise when the driveway and parking area will be blacktopped.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.