

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, September 21, 2011, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Gary McCrea, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence and Ron Fladseth. Absent: Chuck Wartner. Citizens present: Leo Scanlan. Others present: Officer Eric Seiler. Employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet. 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 (Sheffer, Walton) to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held August 17, 2011 and the special meeting held August 26, 2011. Roll-all ayes. Motion carried.

No citizens were present at this time with comments.

Goffinet reported on a recent electric outage experienced on First Avenue Extension. It was due to faulty underground wire. It is believed this wire is very old, and splices and wire like it are non-existent. The fix was a temporary fix, but it will be necessary to schedule complete replacement of this section of wire (approximately 590 feet) in the very near future. The cost to replace this wire will be close to \$6,000.00. This project should be completed yet this fall. By general consent the board approved this electric project.

Leo Scanlan was present regarding the village's donation to Swindler Ridge for sewer charges.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to donate \$300.00 to cover the sewer charges for the next year. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Hendricks explained the situation with a possible future annexation petition being initiated by an owner of property located in the Town of Benton. The board discussed options available to the property owner and advised its first choice of the options available would be to have the property owner do a 50% annexation that would include the street in its entirety, as well as make the property contiguous with the village.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to scale back on the purchasing of street signs previously approved due to the recent withdrawal by the federal government of the sign requirements it had previously imposed. The total cost is now expected to be \$822.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the purchase of a new volute for pump #2 of lift station #2 from L.W. Allen for a total of \$2892.00 plus freight. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Fladseth) to approve installation of drain tile behind Benton Schools and along Park Avenue jointly with the school. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Lawrence) to approve the purchase of paint and seal for all the buildings at the wastewater treatment plant for a cost of up to \$10,000 that will come out of the sewer maintenance and repair budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to purchase a new leaf box that would be all steel and would be one piece that is placed in the back of the dump truck, as well as the purchase of stainless steel side boards for a total cost of \$3,146.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

After some discussion related to the storm sewer drainage issue at 150 Water Street, *motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the option using erosion fabric and filling with black dirt for a total estimated cost of \$404.50. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.*

Goffinet requested consideration for the purchase of a new computer. A laptop would most likely be best for his needs. Hendricks suggested that he might be able to utilize the one Carver currently uses and then Carver could obtain a new laptop. This item will be reviewed for budget consideration.

Goffinet left at 7:18 p.m.

Officer Eric Seiler was present with the August 2011 police report.

Hendricks advised there will be additional space available for winter storage this year due to one more unit being vacant. Anyone interested should contact Hendricks at the village office.

A discussion was held regarding increasing board members pay for special and committee meetings from zero to at least some compensation. This item will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

The second reading of the proposed new discipline and grievance procedure section of the employee handbook as required by State Budget Act 10 was held. *Motion (Fladseth, Walton) to approve these changes to the discipline and grievance procedure section of the employee handbook.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The discussion related to online bill payments for utilities, taxes, and other payments was postponed until further information can be obtained.

The discussion related to a veteran's monument in the village park was put on hold since Jim Kruser was not present.

A letter from the State of Wisconsin – Department of Revenue regarding implementation of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice as well as storage and maintenance of municipal assessment data electronically was distributed for the board's information.

The discussion related to the sale of a lot in the business park was put on hold until more information can be obtained from the potential buyers.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve a two year assessment contract from December 1, 2011 to November 30, 2013 with Gardiner Appraisal for \$3,250.00 per year with additional fees of \$4.00 per improved parcel to create digital files of all drawings as per the new state requirement. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Fladseth) to approve an operator's license for Angelica Soppe. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Sheffer) to approve an operator's license for Jamie Lawrence. Roll-six ayes, Lawrence-abstained. Carried.

Motion (Fladseth, Sheffer) to approve an operator's license for Deborah Kinane. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Sheffer) to approve the proposed leaf, garden waste and supervised burn week dates. Roll-six ayes, Lawrence-no. Motion carried.

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

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.