

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 19, 2011, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Gary McCrea, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Chuck Wartner, and Ron Fladseth. Citizens present: Tom Slater, Carl Langkamp and Jim Kruser. Others present: Officer Eric Seiler. Employees present: Darnell Hendricks, John Perkins and Janet Johnson. 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, Fladseth) to approve the minutes of the last regular meeting held September 21st, 2011 as distributed. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried.

Tom Slater was present but did not have any comments.

James Kruser was present to request approval from the board to put a new veteran's memorial monument up in the Village Park on Main Street. The official kick off for the fund-raising would be Veteran's Day on November 11th. There are currently only 14 names on the existing monument, however, by recent counts there are close to 361 veterans that should be included on the monument. Kruser also provided a drawing as to what the monument would look like. *Motion (Robbins, Walton) to approve the installation of a Benton Area Veterans Monument in the proposed location in the Village Park. Voice-all ayes. Carried.*

Carl Langkamp was present representing the Benton Fire Department. Langkamp said he would like to remind the village board that the Fire Department will be looking to replace its frontline engine truck in the next three to four years. The total cost of a new truck is anticipated to be \$220,000 to \$240,000. The cost for each municipality will be approximately \$80,000. Hendricks indicated she thought the village had at least \$80,000 in its designated balances for a fire truck currently.

Carl Langkamp was present representing the Benton First Responders. Langkamp indicated the First Responders had just recently replaced their vehicle. Langkamp was requesting each of the three boards consider making a donation to this purchase sometime in 2012. The village board agreed to include this donation toward a vehicle in its 2012 budget.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve replacing the underground electric wire along Water Street for a total cost of approximately \$6000.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Perkins advised that the leaf box had been purchased and that they were in the process of getting ready to pick up leaves next week.

Perkins requested the board look into pricing and options for replacing the 1998 electric utility pick up. The box on the truck is not in good shape, and the truck is currently overloaded with the crane on it. He would recommend looking into the purchase/trade of a ¾ ton truck. By general consent the board approved Perkins to get prices for a new or used ¾ pickup truck and the replacement of the crane as well for the 2012 budget.

Perkins advised the restrooms at Swift Park were now closed and the Village Park restrooms would be closed this week.

Officer Eric Seiler was present with the September police report.

Sheffer reported on a meeting he and McCrea attended in Fennimore related to broad band internet in southwest Wisconsin. Sheffer indicated there would be grant money available to help older people learn how to use the internet. He also indicated they are looking for volunteers to train people on how to use the internet.

McCrea indicated Tom Slater was interested in purchasing a piece of property that is currently located in the business park to square off his land. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

A discussion was held regarding increasing board members pay from zero to \$20.00 per special or committee meeting. *Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve an increase in board members pay from zero to \$20.00 for a special meeting or committee meeting effective April 2012. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Wartner, Lawrence) to authorize Hendricks to contract with an online bill pay company to allow citizens to pay their utility bills and taxes online. This online bill pay option will be strictly optional

for customers, and all fees for these services will be paid by the customer using the service. There will be no charges to the village for providing this online bill pay option. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Library director, Janet Johnson was present with the library's 2012 budget proposal. The requested village allocated funds for 2012 are \$33,901.00. This represents a \$70.00 decrease from the 2011 budget allocation. *Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve an allocation of \$33,901.00 in 2012 for the library's budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Sheffer, Wartner) to approve Resolution 2011-04 opposing Assembly Bill 260, amendment of Wis. Stat. § 59.69(3)(b), eliminating the requirement that the county development plan include the master plan of any city or village. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board agreed to the same terms for the 2012 land rental agreement with Stephen and Vicki Redfearn for the land in the industrial park.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve the 2012 Budget Timeline as proposed. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

Motion (Wartner, Lawrence) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.