

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:30 p.m. on December 15, 2010, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Katey Neis, Ron Fladseth, Terry Sheffer, and Lisa Lawrence. Absent: Chuck Wartner. Citizens: none. Consultants: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet. Others present: Officer Eric Seiler. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; the Zephyr Depot, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Benton Business Incubator Building.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held November 17, 2010 and the special meeting held December 8, 2010, as presented. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The board was advised that the village had received a check from the Lafayette County Clerk of Courts for the 2010 police revenues in the amount of \$2,983.28. This was the back revenues for fines for the entire year. The Lafayette County Sheriff's department, including, officer Seiler, will be entering the village of Benton's tickets manually from this point forward until a better solution can be found for the problem of the village's tickets not showing up as village fines/revenues.

The November 2010 police report was approved by general consent.

The board inquired as to the status of the public nuisance violation outstanding at 404 Railroad Avenue. Officer Seiler indicated he had not had a chance to speak with the property owner yet.

A discussion was held regarding alternate side parking issues. McCrea reiterated that he would like tickets issued if cars are parked on both sides of the street.

Hendricks advised the board that the electric department was in need of at least 24 new electric meters. The electric department currently has an opportunity to purchase one year old meters for 50% of their regular price from a community that needs time of use meters. These meters are available from HD Supply. The board agreed to put this item on the 1/19/2011 agenda.

Lawrence advised that an order had been placed for two new sand digger toys for a total purchase price of less than \$1000.00.

Lawrence provided an updated quote for a new flag pole for the village park. It was recommended that the company, Flag Center, Inc. be contacted to find out if the quote was still good in 2011. Again donations will be solicited for the cost of this flagpole and assembly. Fladseth indicated he would contact the Benton State Bank, Sheffer would contact the VFW and American Legion, Goffinet the Benton Fire Department, and Walton the Benton Community Development Corporation. In addition, donations will be solicited via the board notes that will be distributed with the 12/31/2010 utility bills. This item will be placed on the next agenda for final action.

A discussion was held regarding the final draft of the employee handbook.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the recommendation provided by Goffinet to purchase a 2012 dump truck and chassis from Henderson and Truck Country for a total of \$124,163.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Goffinet requested the board consider selling its rotary mower at an upcoming consignment auction at Scott's Implement in February. This mower is approximately 14 years old and is in poor shape. Goffinet indicated he will get bids for a new one by the January 2012 meeting. This item was deferred for action until the January meeting.

Goffinet left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve the appointment of the following election workers for 2011 through 2012: Lorene Kreul, Shirley Bryant, Ann Smythe, Cathy Halweg, Darnell

Hendricks, Marilyn Kluge, Renee Wartner, Ruth Goffinet, Melissa Keleher, Phoebe McCrea, and Danette Brink. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

An ordinance to amend section 3-1-8 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton regarding Disbursements from the Local Treasurer, authorizing purchases up to \$500 for department heads, \$1000 for the Village Administrator or Village Trustee, and \$2500 by the Village President, was read. Any expenditures greater than \$2500.00 must be approved by a majority of the board.

A discussion was held regarding the cars parked on both sides of White Street. The board advised the police officer, Eric Seiler, they would like him to enforce the alternate side parking ordinance. The issue of no parking on one side of the street may have to be revisited again in the spring when signs can be posted and the curb painted.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to authorize a donation of \$10,000 each year for the next three years to the Benton Community Foundation. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Sheffer) to approve making the zoning administrator position a paid position with an annual salary of \$500.00 per year effective January 1, 2011. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to approve the master application for a new option for the village employee's deferred compensation plan (100% employee funded) with Kim Havens, Hartford Company. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve a consent to assignment of contract from Sequoia to Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. Roll-all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve renewal of the building inspection contract for 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011 with Smrcina Inspections, LLC. Roll-all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) pursuant with Chapter 19.85 Sub (1) par (c) of WIS. STATS, adjourn to closed session to discuss employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, including discussion regarding employment related issues and 2011 and 2012 wage rates. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to reconvene to open session. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the employee handbook as amended. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Neis) to accept the personnel committee's recommendation related to the village employee's 2011-2012 contract concerning hours, wages and benefits. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

Motion (Lawrence, Fladseth) to adjourn. All ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.