

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Lori Droessler (7:03 p.m.), and Ron Fladseth (7:10 p.m.). Absent: Katey McCarthy. Citizens: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver. Consultants and others present: none. 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 approve the minutes as distributed from the last regular meeting held December 3, 2008. Voice -all ayes. Carried.

Hendricks requested permission for Ryan Carver to attend a training related to excavation safety. Permission granted by general consent.

Hendricks advised the board that the Federal Emergency Management Agency had contacted the village and advised that it had been accepted into the National Flood Insurance Program.

Lawrence, park committee chairperson, reported on the status of the new playground equipment grants and fundraising efforts. Lawrence, a Tastefully Simple Consultant is planning a Tastefully Simple fund raiser in March 2009 in which she will donate all proceeds from this fundraiser to the new playground equipment fund.

McCrea reported on some issues related to cars parking in the business district on Main Street for extended periods of time. McCrea has talked to the police officer about being more diligent in enforcing the no parking in this area. In addition, McCrea indicated the officer had been told to be more diligent in enforcing the alternate side parking during periods of no snow. Specifically discussed was the parking on both sides of Galena Street. This parking makes it extremely difficult for the snow plow, as well as other larger vehicles, to pass through this street. The board directed Hendricks to discuss these parking issues again with the Benton police officer.

A discussion was held regarding the installation of an additional water hydrant on Cross Street prior to the reconstruction of this street. The total cost is estimated at \$3,814.13. It was explained that typically hydrants are 400 feet apart, however, the two hydrants on Cross Street are currently closer to 1200 feet apart. The spacing, number and pressure of the village's fire hydrant's help determine the fire rating for the village. *Motion (Droessler, Sheffer) to approve installation of a new fire hydrant on Cross Street. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The first reading was completed for an Ordinance Amending Sections 12-5-1 through 12-5-7 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Abandoned or Junked Vehicles.

The board reviewed the November 2008 and December 2008 police reports.

Hendricks requested a clarification that the clothing allowance for electric department employees was \$400.00 per two year contract. The board agreed by general consent.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to adopt Resolution 2009-001 Recommending the Adoption of the Village of Benton's Community Outdoor Recreation Plan. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Fladseth) to amend the 2009-2010 employee contracts to remove Good Friday as a holiday and substitute an additional personal day. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Droessler) to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending section 12-1-21 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to alternate side parking on Third Avenue and First Street. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

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