

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, February 18, 2009, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Lori Droessler (7:06 p.m.), Katey McCarthy (7:03 p.m.), Ron Fladseth (7:08 p.m.). Citizens: Kenneth Farrey, Elaine & Dennis Lewis and Mark Richardson. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks, John Perkins and Jim Goffinet. Consultants and others present: Keith Dalsing, John Reichling and Brandon Gudgeon. 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 January 21, 2009. Voice -all ayes. Carried.

Keith Dalsing, K.D. Engineering, presented information regarding the reconstruction of Cross Street from Main Street to Temple Avenue. Citizens/property owners present for the discussion included: Kenneth Farrey, Elaine Lewis, Dennis Lewis, and Mark Richardson. The options discussed included a 30 foot wide street with a 33 foot right of way or a 36 foot wide street with a 36-40 foot right of way.

The 30 foot street would not allow parking on either side of the street and barely allows two lanes of driving, however, has the most minimal impact on the adjacent property owners as it fits into the existing right of way.

The 36 foot street would allow parking on one side of the street, it allows for more positive traffic flow through the area, however, would require the most cooperation with the property owners via easements and additional right of ways. This plan also requires movement of an electric pedestal, extension of a storm sewer culvert and additional landscaping. The issue of storm water drainage was briefly discussed, however, specifics were not available until the street width is determined. The cost difference between the two options is estimated at \$10,000-12,000.00.

The pine trees on the south side of Cross Street near the intersection of Temple Avenue and Cross were discussed. It was explained that since these trees are in the village right of way, they are technically, village property.

Keith Dalsing explained the schedule for the project. It is anticipated that it can be completed by Labor Day if bids are awarded in April.

The January 2009 police report was distributed and approved by general consent.

The issuance of parking tickets the evening of January 30, 2009, during a high school basketball game, was discussed. Deputy Sheriff, John Reichling, explained that the county had reviewed its call log and determined no citizen had called to complain, however, officer Gudgeon was acting on a previous direction issued through the village board to enforce alternate side parking.

By general consent the board agreed to have officer Gudgeon put up temporary signs reminding of the alternate side parking ordinance on the appropriate side of Alma Street on days/nights affected by activities at the school. Officer Gudgeon will also be available in the area to warn people before they park.

Hendricks explained the water lateral freezing and repair policy to the board. The repair of these services is regulated by the Public Service Commission.

Lawrence informed the board she was planning on holding a Tastefully Simple Fundraiser in March and April for the new playground equipment. Lawrence plans to have a table set up for parent teacher conferences. Lawrence plans to donate 100% of the profit to the playground fund.

Sheffer advised Perkins that squirrels and a woodpecker were causing damage to a telephone pole on Galena Street.

Motion (Walton, Droessler) to approve the second reading and adoption of an ordinance amending section 12-5-1 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Abandoned or Junked Vehicles. Roll—all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve the second reading and adoption 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.

A special meeting to discuss the width options related to Cross Street reconstruction was set up for February 26th at 5:30 p.m.

The board was notified of a notice from Allied Waste Services that it had elected to not extend the current Solid Waste Handling Contract under the current terms and conditions. *Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to authorize Gary McCrea and Darnell Hendricks to negotiate the new terms and conditions of a contract with Allied Waste Services.* Voice. All ayes. Motion carried.

No further action was taken regarding the alternate side parking issue. As previously decided the board agreed to have officer Gudgeon put up temporary signs reminding of the alternate side parking ordinance on the appropriate side of Alma Street on days affected by activities at the school. Officer Gudgeon will also be available in the area to warn people before they park.

The Lafayette County Sheriff's Department January monthly report was distributed.

The board authorized Hendricks to attend a Symposium Focusing on Federal Stimulus Strategies for Governmental and Business Entities in Madison, WI on February 20, 2009.

DVD's from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities regarding Public Officials Liability were distributed. If all board members and village employees watch the DVD's, the village will receive a check from the League in the amount of \$210.00.

An official notice from FEMA regarding the Village of Benton's approved application to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program was distributed.

A copy of the response to the Wisconsin Department of Commerce Safety and Buildings Division survey was distributed for the board's information.

A notification of revision of franchise application from Mediacom was distributed for the board's information.

Hendricks inquired as to how many people would be interested in attending the Annual Lafayette Highway Meeting in Darlington on March 3rd. Terry Sheffer, John Perkins and Jim Goffinet volunteered to attend.

The final Electric Distribution System Arc-Flash Hazard Study prepared for the Benton Electric and Water Utility was distributed for the board's information.

A request for a donation from the Lafayette County Historical Society was tabled until additional information could be obtained.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve Ryan Carver's vacation request and request to carry-over one week vacation from March 17, 2009 to April, 2009. Motion carried.

Lisa Lawrence advised that the Dubuque Racing Association grant application had been completed and hand delivered on February 17, 2009.

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

Motion (Walton, Droessler) to adjourn. Voice—all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.