

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, September 16, 2009, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Ron Fladseth, Gary McCrea, Lori Droessler and Katey Neis. Absent: none. Citizens: none. Consultants: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet. Others present: Officer Eric Seiler and Deputy Sheriff, John Reichling. 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 (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the minutes as amended from the last regular meeting held August 19, 2009. Voice -all ayes. Carried.

Reichling was present to address any concerns regarding the current police situation. Reichling further introduced Eric Seiler as the interim officer for the Village of Benton. The previous officer, Brandon Gudgeon, has taken a full time position with Lafayette County effective September 5, 2009. It was agreed that a joint public nuisance/police committee meeting should be set up in the near future to discuss operations, procedures, and status of public nuisances. This meeting was scheduled for October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Officer Seiler updated the board on the status of the two public nuisance violations discussed at the August 19, 2009 meeting. The property on 171 Main Street has received a letter clearly instructing the property owner the actions that must be taken to avoid further prosecution of an issued ticket. No action had been taken regarding enforcement at 398 Railroad Avenue. The status of these items will be again discussed at the October 7, 2009, public nuisance/police committee meeting.

Goffinet advised Lafayette County Highway Department is planning to complete the street overlay on south Water Street within the next two weeks. The property owner at 180 Water Street will be contacted regarding an LP tank currently located at the end of her driveway.

Sheffer brought up a complaint from a citizen regarding a fire siren whistle blowing too long. Goffinet indicated he would relay it to John Perkins but he did not think there was anything that could be done to shorten it.

A discussion was held regarding a request from Ray Fawcett to install a second driveway. *Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to permit the driveway only after the following conditions are met: 1) sanitary sewer lateral is sleeved with a hard water main/lateral pipe 2) void between the sanitary sewer lateral and the water main pipe is filled with blown in insulation 3) a backflow preventer/check valve is installed on the sewer lateral after Fawcett's property line and before Hoppenjan's house 4) a legal document is drawn up by Fawcett's attorney accepting all liability related to the sanitary sewer lateral and this legal document is approved by the village attorney and the village board. All expenses related to meeting these conditions will be Fawcett's responsibility. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve a driveway extension for Fred and Carrie Norder at 220 White Street. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding the street committee's recommendation to allow the installation of a convex mirror on the old water tower for safety reasons. The board asked Hendricks to contact the state historical society to determine if it had any concerns with this convex mirror being mounted right to the rock base of the water tower or the metal ladder on the outside of the rock base. *Motion (Sheffer, Droessler) to approve the installation of this convex mirror on the ladder of the old water tower contingent on approval from the State Historical Society. Roll-all ayes.*

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve the leaf/brush pick up and burn dates. Voice - all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve Trick-or-Treat hours for Saturday, October 31, 2009, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Voice—all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Sheffer) to authorize expenditures up to \$250.00 for fall Main Street beautification. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding putting information related to the BCDC Garland Sale and Christmas Decorating contest in the upcoming village newsletter and on the village's website. Permission granted by general consent.

A discussion was held regarding putting lights on the top of the old water tower. While the board supports the concept, it was felt that a financial commitment could not be made to this project at this time. It was suggested that the Benton Community Development Corporation contact the State Historical Society for permission prior to taking any action.

Pictures showing the results of the Main Street grant program were passed around. These pictures are also available on the village's website: www.bentonwi.us. It was agreed that the grant program was a huge success and the improvements greatly enhanced the downtown area. Written thank you's were received from Sysko's, A Bit o' Irish, and Dave Sysko's Fine Woodworking.

Lawrence inquired as to the status of painting the new and old water tower. It was requested that Ryan Carver, water superintendent, take care of getting bids for repainting as soon as feasible.

A letter from the Benton Water Utility to its customers was distributed. The letter explains that a water sample sent via the United States Postal Service was not received by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in time to meet the 48 hour requirement for testing. Precautions have since been put in place to make sure that a follow up is done when samples are sent close to the end of a month.

The board was updated on the status of the village's request for a temporary stream crossing to allow it to extend storm sewers in the Roling Oaks subdivision. It was explained that the DNR had received a hit regarding an endangered species, the Northern Cricket Frog, in the area, and this was holding up the project.

Lawrence advised the board that pictures and a thank you note regarding the playground equipment had been put in the paper and around town.

Sheffer brought up a complaint he had received about the house located at 374 East Main Street. Walton indicated she had also received the complaint and had Officer Gudgeon look at it. It appears there is no public nuisance violation at this location.

Sheffer also brought up a complaint he had regarding a truck left running all night near Swift Park. The village will have a police officer follow up with the truck driver and reiterate the conditions of parking down near Swift Park.

Information related to the Village's tax increment #1 was distributed.

The board was invited to the annual MEUW informational dinner meeting to be held at Red's Supper Club.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve an operator's license. Roll ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to authorize payment of pay request #1 & 2, Lawinger Brothers Construction, 2009 Street Project – Curb and Gutter, \$14,829.85. Roll-all ayes. Carried

Motion (Neis, Walton) to authorize payment of pay request #3 & 4, Mowry Brothers, 2009 Street Project -Gravel and Excavation, \$16,689.92. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The board reviewed the 2010 building inspector options, including proposals from Smrcina Inspections, LLC and Wisconsin Building Inspectors. Hendricks will request additional proposals before the November meeting.

The August police report was reviewed.

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

A committee comprised of: Walton, Lawrence, and Neis, was set up to review the proposal of a sidewalk from Third Avenue to White Street. A public meeting will be set up to discuss this with property owners in this area of town.

Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.