

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village Trustee, Terry Sheffer, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, October 21, 2009, with the following members present: Lori Droessler, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Ron Fladseth, Katey Neis and Rose Walton. Absent: Gary McCrea. Citizens: none. Consultants: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins. 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 (Walton, Lawrence) to approve the minutes as presented for the regular meeting held September 16, 2009. Voice -all ayes. Carried.

Perkins updated the board on the status of the new Christmas lights in the pine tree located at 68 West Main Street. Additional sockets will need to be ordered to complete the project.

Sheffer updated the board on an upcoming Lafayette Development Corporation (LDC) meeting scheduled for October 26, 2009. In addition a joint LDC and Lafayette County Economic Development Committee meeting will be held directly after this LDC meeting.

Sheffer also reported a complaint he had received regarding the number of small hauling trailers being left parked on village streets. Trailers currently in violation include one on Wilson Avenue and one on Third Street. The police officer will be reminded of the need for enforcement of this ordinance.

Hendricks updated the board on the status of the request to the State Historical Society (SHS) regarding the installation of a convex mirror on the old water tower. The request has been submitted in writing to the SHS. No further action can be taken until approval is received.

Officer Eric Seiler was present with an update on the status of the public nuisance violations. Seiler indicated he was having difficulty reaching a number of the public nuisance violators. Seiler said he would be sending letters to all those in non-compliance, provide a date of November 1, 2009 for full compliance, and issue tickets on November 2, 2009, for all remaining violators.

The following update on public nuisance violations was provided: the owner of the camper located at 79 W. Main Street has been contacted and advised to move the camper from its current location, the trailer located on Gibson Street has been removed, the black car at 218 Railroad Avenue has been removed, the two cars in the back of the house at 191 Alma Street have been removed, the house at 343 W. Main Street is not completed, the house at 79 W. Main Street was provided an extension to 11/30/2009, the junk in the yard at 177 Third Avenue has not been removed, the siding on the building at 398 Railroad Avenue is still missing, the siding at 112 Second Street is still missing, however the fence has been repaired, and the shed at 173 Second Avenue has been repaired.

The September 2009 police report was reviewed. The board indicated it appreciates the timeliness and thoroughness of these reports.

A number of upcoming schedule changes for the police department were discussed, including hours for October 31, 2009. This information will be relayed to Officer John Reichling.

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to purchase the model 3275 Knox box for the Benton School District at a cost of \$305.00. It is further understood that the installation of this Knox box will be the school's financial responsibility. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve the second driveway request for 361 Creek Drive with the following contingencies: 1) a relief valve must be installed on the sewer lateral after 361 Creek Drive and before 395 Creek Drive, 2)the sanitary sewer line must be covered with at least

Approved as of November 4, 2009

three feet of fill (at property owner's expense), 3) the property owner will allow village personnel to inspect sanitary sewer pipe while it is exposed to verify there is no problem with the pipe being collapsed or damaged previously. Roll- all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve hiring Smrcina Inspections, LLC, for necessary building inspections in the Village of Benton effective January 1, 2010. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Janet Johnson, director of the Benton Public Library, presented the Benton Public Library 2010 budget. The proposed library budget involves a 2.5 % increase in village allocations and a 3.7 % overall increase. This proposal was taken under advisement.

The final estimate of 1007 for the January 1, 2009 population in the Village of Benton was received from the Wisconsin Department of Administration. The village's estimate is 1007.

By general consent the quotation from Municipal Pipe Tool LLC for sewer main rehabilitation in 2010 was taken under advisement.

The board was advised that bids for repainting the old and new water tower were being requested. Currently one bid for each had been received in the amounts of \$25,000 for the old water tower and \$110,000 for the new water tower. Additional bids will be requested, however, these numbers will be used for 2010 budget figures. Grants for painting the old water tower will be researched as well.

Motion (Lawrence, Droessler) to approve the proposal for purchase of a spare pump (Fairbanks Morse, Model D5433MV) for lift station #1 from L.W. Allen for a price of \$9,795.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Fladseth, Walton) to approve the 2009 Audit proposal from Johnson Block for a total contract price of \$11,300 (a 4% increase from the 2008 audit). Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve the sealed bid for the Swift Park slide from Todd Bastian in the amount of \$126.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The distribution of the village's disposable grocery bags to Benton elementary school students was not pursued since it was discovered that bags are already distributed by the VFW. Distribution of these bags via coupons in the tax bills was discussed and approved by general consent for the 2009 tax bills.

An invitation from the Grant County Economic Development Corporation for an Energy and Economic Development information session on Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. was distributed. Sheffer indicated he would attend if McCrea could not.

A final count for the MEUW dinner meeting was determined.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve an operator's license for Joseph Meyer. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to approve training recertification classes for Ryan Carver November 11th and December 8th. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The Village of Benton's public protection classification changing from a 7 to a 4 was discussed. This is a classification improvement which should result in lower property insurance premiums for residential and commercial property owners.

By general consent it was agreed that the village's endorsed application for a 2010 Dubuque Racing Association grant will be a speed monitoring board.

Due to conflicts the 2010 budget timeline was not approved as distributed. An amended timeline will be distributed to the board via e-mail for consideration.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve installation of two new street lights along Park Avenue. Roll – all ayes. Carried.

The installation of two Boys' Basketball State Championship signs were approved by general consent. The Benton Booster Club will be purchasing the signs.

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

Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:55p.m.