

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:30 p.m. on November 17, 2010, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Katey Neis, Ron Fladseth, Terry Sheffer, Chuck Wartner, and Lisa Lawrence. Citizens: none. Consultants: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver. 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, Wartner) to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held October 20, 2010 as amended. Voice-all ayes. Carried.*

Eldon Kruser was present to again discuss the village selling him or granting an easement to him for land to allow him access to the rear of his property located at 160 North Van Buren Street. It was agreed by general consent to allow him to drive over the curb on Water Street and have access through the village's property on a limited basis at this time. The board agreed that a curb cut would eventually be necessary and it would be Kruser's responsibility to pay for this curb cut.

*Motion (Sheffer, Lawrence) to approve a \$300.00 donation to Swindler's Ridge to assist with its sewer utility expenses. Roll –all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve the acceptance of bids and then purchase a new crimping tool for electric department with a cost not to exceed \$1800.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Ryan Carver updated the board regarding the recent installation of a variable frequency drive in well house #1. He is still looking into the possibility of receiving some money from Focus on Energy for this project.

Ryan Carver updated the board on the recent Notification of Non-Compliance received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding a wastewater bypass from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on August 8, 2010, during a 4.2" storm event. The wastewater discharged from a manhole located on Park Avenue. A response to the Notice of Noncompliance was distributed to the board which basically explained that the rain event causing the wastewater bypass was one of extraordinary conditions and would be very difficult to prevent. The Benton Wastewater Utility takes all sanitary sewer overflows very seriously. Carver left at 6:47 p.m.

Gary McCrea requested the police officer focus his attention on the alternate side parking issues and the number of vehicles parked for long periods of time around the village. The board discussed updating its ordinance to only allow a small number of vehicles at automotive repair shops and those vehicles must be current customers with a short turn-around for the vehicle repair. The officer was advised to speak with the owner of 101 White Street about the number of vehicles parked there and parking in the highway right of way.

Lisa Lawrence, chairperson of public nuisance committee indicated there were concerns regarding various public nuisances around the village. Officer Seiler reviewed the outstanding public nuisance violations currently. One address discussed was 404 Railroad Avenue. It was agreed that a timeline for completion of deed to additional property to allow the building of a garage or completion of the siding at this location is needed. It was agreed that 12/31/2010 would be the deadline for the deed and an additional six months to abate the public nuisance. This would give the owner until June 30, 2010 to either have the garage built or the siding done on the building.

Hendricks advised the board that the police revenue was down greatly from previous years. Officer Eric Seiler will check into exactly how many tickets he wrote out in the last year. McCrea will be in contact with Sheriff Pedley as well about this matter.

Officer Seiler presented his October 2010 police report. *Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to approve the police report. Voice vote-all ayes. Motion carried.*

Approved as of December 15, 2010

*Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to approve installation of a 25' flag pole in village park with the cost of the project being paid for through donations being solicited from the community at large. The estimated cost of the pole and its installation is \$2000-\$2,500.00. Roll call vote-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (park committee) to purchase two new digger toys for the village park before the end of 2010. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Wartner suggested the park committee also look into what it would take to improve the ice skating rink near Whaley Court.

*Motion (Lawrence, Walton) to commit \$10,000 each year for the next three years to the new Benton Community Fund Foundation. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The board reviewed the first draft of the new Employee Handbook. The personnel committee will review additional areas and present a final draft for board approval at its next meeting.

The personnel committee also proposed offering employees a revised work week schedule. This matter was discussed, however, no action was taken.

The board was notified of the upcoming election April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The village president position and three trustees are up for re-election. The incumbent village president, Gary McCrea, and the incumbent village trustees, Lisa Lawrence, Rose Walton and Katey Neis, will all be up for re-election.

*Motion (Lawrence, Sheffer) to approve getting bids and having bid presentations for updating the existing municipal code in 2011. An adequate amount will be put in the budget for 2011 to allow for completion of this project. Roll -all ayes. Carried. The board indicated it would like verification that there would be no charge to put the new code on the village's web site.*

The board was advised that the new lighting had been installed at the village's welcome sign on the east end of the village.

By general consent it was agreed to keep the rental rate for the vacant land in the business park area the same as last year.

A rate increase from the local cable television company, Mediacom, was distributed for the board's information.

The board reviewed the 2011 General Fund Budget. *Motion (Sheffer, Wartner) to approve the 2011 General Fund Budget for posting. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

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

*Motion (Neis, Fladseth) to adjourn. All ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.*