

A 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 in the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler (7:04 p.m.) Terry Sheffer, Ann Neis, and Ron Fladseth. Absent: Cal Robbins. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver. Consultants present: none. Citizens/others present: Jim Leach and Carl Langkamp. 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.

The minutes of the regular meeting held September 20, 2006, were approved by general consent.

Leach, operations manager for Allied Waste, was present to request permission to provide a proposal for a fuel cost adjustment clause to be added to the village's current contract. By general consent the board approved entertaining a proposal from Allied Waste for amending its current contract to include a fuel adjustment clause, however, no promises were made as to the authorization of this amendment. Sheffer recommended that if an amendment is allowed to be added, it include a consideration for a decrease in the contract price if fuel prices go down. The village is currently in the middle of the second year of a five year contract.

Langkamp, representing the Benton Fire Department (BFD), advised the expected delivery date of the new fire truck chassis is to be on or around December 25, 2006 to Seminary, Mississippi. The total of the cost to the BFD for the truck and chassis is expected to be \$86,500, for a total price of \$28, 834 per municipality.

Langkamp also discussed the possibility of implementing a policy of charging for fire calls. By general consent the board agreed to review this fee schedule from the BFD at its next regular meeting. Langkamp further explained that these funds would then be set aside into a separate account to be used specifically for equipment and fuels.

Carver reported on the recent televised sanitary sewer system. The televising revealed approximately sixty feet of sanitary sewer on the lower end of Third Avenue which is in need of repair. The cost of this repair is expected to be \$1,400. *Motion (Neis, Droessler) to authorize the repair of sixty feet of sanitary sewer main on the lower end of Third Avenue for a total cost of approximately \$1,400.00.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding the installation of water main on Third Avenue from Second Street to Third Street. Carver recommended consideration be given to installation of this main prior to Third Avenue being reconstructed. The estimated cost would be \$9,750.00. This matter was postponed until a final decision was made on the reconstruction of Third Avenue.

Walton indicated the storm sewer drain in front of 164 Second Street was in need of cleaning. Hendricks advised this was already on the work list of items to be completed this week.

Sheffer reported that the water committee had met on Monday, October 9, 2006, and approved the purchase of a new pump at well #1 for a cost of \$1,715.00.

Carver updated the board on the total cost for the rehabilitation of the motor for the pump at well #1. Initially it was thought that the cost would be close to \$15,000, however, the final bill closer to \$8,800.

Neis, chairperson of the street committee, indicated the street committee's recommendation for the 2007 street reconstruction project is to postpone the reconstruction of Jenkynsville Road and Temple Avenue at this time and reconstruct both **First Street** from Third Avenue to Second Avenue and **Third Avenue** from Main Street to Third Street due to these streets being in greater need of reconstruction. The street committee also recommended the current width of 46 feet be retained for First Street. *Motion (Droessler, Fladseth) to approve the street committee's recommendations, along with the repair of the sanitary sewer main and installation of new water main as previously discussed.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Carver updated the board on a notice he had received from the Department of Natural Resources regarding unsafe water samples. New samples were taken with no positive results, and therefore no boil order was issued. The hydrant flushing procedure has since been changed to safe guard against this happening again.

McCrea said the recent meeting he had attended in Shullsburg regarding a casino in Lafayette County seemed to point toward an imminent approval. With this in mind, McCrea asked the board to be considering the need to research the purchase of additional land for further residential development in the village.

By general consent the board approved budgeting \$4,960.00 in the 2007 budget for the Lafayette Development Corporation.

The 2007 rental rate for a brush chipper from Felderman Lawn and Garden will be \$125.00 per day.

The Benton Community Development Corporation's (BCDC) repayment of its loan to the Village of Benton was deferred to the next regular meeting due to the fact that the additional information necessary had not been received back from the village attorney in time to place this item on the agenda.

The board was advised that the public test for the electronic voting equipment would be done October 31, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator Building located at 244 Ridge Avenue.

The board looked at the proposed Benton Municipal Final Meter Reading Policy. This item will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda for consideration.

The board approved the 2007 General Fund Budget timeline. This timeline changes the regular meeting in November from the 15th to the 20th. A special meeting will be held November 21st to finalize the budget for posting.

The board was advised that requests for proposals for a redesign of the village's website had been sent out. The deadline for these proposals is November 6, 2006.

Several requests for sidewalk extensions have been made to the village office. By general consent the board approved allowing extensions on sidewalk replacement until spring of 2007.

Hendricks again inquired as to where the village board would like the debri from the street sweeper dumped upon completion of each scheduled street sweeping. Robbins had not advised whether the debri could be dumped on the lot owned by his family, therefore, an alternate solution is necessary. By general consent it was agreed that this debri could be put in a pile near the wastewater treatment plant until a long term solution is found.

It was reported that the fuel tanks for the dump truck would be repaired for approximately \$400.00 each. This was considerably less than the cost for new tanks.

Motion (Neis, Sheffer) to increase the village's 2007 monthly contribution to \$1,000.00 from the current \$950.00 for a family health insurance policy. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve using the \$300.00 donation to the Benton Community Development Corporation (BCDC) previously approved for a plaque in memory of Keith Farrey, toward reducing the BCDC's final bill for a new electric service installation at 39 E. Main Street, leaving the outstanding bill amount at \$393.05 to be deferred until after the 2007 street dance. All ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve the proposed personal cell phone use policy. Roll-All ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve an operator's license for Marcus Snedeger pending a final background check. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve the 2007 audit contract with Johnson, Block. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

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

Motion (Fladseth, Walton) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved: 11/20/2006

Posted: 11/21/2006