

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 Monday, November 20, 2006, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Ann Neis, Cal Robbins and Ron Fladseth. Absent: Terry Sheffer. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver. Consultants present: none. Citizens/others present: Tim White, Carl Langkamp, David Davis and Angie Davis. 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 October 18, 2006, were approved by general consent.

McCrea reported to the board about several issues that need to be resolved regarding the police contract with Lafayette County. In light of these unresolved concerns, it was approved by general consent to include additional funding for police coverage, and send a letter to the sheriff's department regarding the board's concerns.

The board reviewed the 2007 General Fund Budget. A special meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2006 to finalize the budget for posting.

The street committee agreed it needed to look at First Avenue and Third Street again and prioritize which should be done in 2007.

Tim White and Carl Langkamp were present to discuss the Benton Fire Department's Emergency Response Policy. *Motion (Robbins, Neis) to approve the Benton Fire Department's Emergency Response policy as amended.* Voice-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding the fire department obtaining a credit card for purchasing diesel fuel at the Southwest Mart in Hazel Green. With consideration given to the fact that the fire department needs to get diesel fuel at night when other gas stations are closed, and given that the fire department is better able to verify legitimacy of charges, it was agreed by general consent to approve the fire department's request for obtaining a credit card under its name to purchase fuel at the Southwest Mart in Hazel Green. It is further understood that the payment of the bill for this credit card will be done by the fire department, however, receipts for these fuel purchases will be forwarded to the village clerk for reimbursement to the department.

Langkamp advised the board that the department has decided to eliminate the steward position within the fire department. Currently the district pays \$50.00 per month for a fire department member to maintain the fire trucks, however, this member is not qualified to do the Department of Transportation inspections. The fire department will be paying Dave Shelliam to do these inspections as required.

Langkamp further advised that the Hazel Green Rescue Squad building had just had its roof replaced. High winds had caused some problems with the old shingles so these were replaced with high wind resistant shingles with a 40 year guarantee, and a 10 year wind guarantee. The \$13,400 bid for these shingles was ½ the cost a steel roof.

David and Angie Davis were present to get clarification regarding hook up charges, permits, etc. for building a new house. By general consent the board approved hook up charges as previously approved as long as the building permit is obtained by January 1, 2007.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve the web site committee's recommendation to hire Electric Gondola for development of a new village website. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Fladseth) to approve fixing the existing fire siren at 148 Third Avenue. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The board indicated it would like to see this siren fixed within the next month.

By general consent the board approved the water/sewer committee's previous authorization of the updated pricing for the water/sewer extensions to 420 Creek Drive. In addition, the board approved the street committee's recommendations to raise the end of Creek Drive, install curb and gutter on both sides to the end of the street right of way, and then taper the road so the water will run off the end by

following a six foot easement.

By general consent the board agreed to direct John Perkins and Jim Goffinet to share in the off hour snow plowing duties.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve operator's licenses for Patty Walton, Connie Heim, Ashley Burkhardt, Jamie Rupp, and Lisa Lopez. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board authorized Gary McCrea to send a letter of support to Shullsburg for its pursuit of a new casino in its municipality.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve the 2007 Uniform Dwelling Code Inspection Contract with Wisconsin Municipal Building Inspections. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Fladseth) to approve the first reading of an ordinance to amend section 10-9-2 (3) (1) of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton which amends the driveway ordinance allowing a 30 foot driveway at the property line. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The board reviewed the list of past street reconstruction projects.

The board was reminded of the upcoming Spring 2007 election.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to authorize an expenditure of \$300.00 for a Christmas party for village employees. Roll-Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Neis-yes, Fladseth-yes, Robbins-no, McCrea-yes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Fladseth) to approve renewal of the assessor contract with Gardiner Appraisal for \$3050.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The existing nonconforming structure located at 55 South Bean Street was discussed. By general consent it was approved to give the property owner until March 1, 2007, to have the structure occupied.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve the final meter reading policy as presented. Roll-all ayes except one abstention by Droessler. Carried.

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

Motion (Fladseth, Robbins) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved: 12/6/2006

Posted: 12/7/2006