

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 7:00 p.m. at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator building on Wednesday, January 17, 2007, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Ann Neis, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Ron Fladseth (7:10 p.m.) and Gary McCrea. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet (7:00 p.m.). Visitors/Citizens present: none. Consultants present: none. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places; Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, Benton Business Incubator Building and the Zephyr Depot.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting held December 6, 2006, and the special meeting held December 29, 2006, were approved by general consent.

A discussion was held regarding the sewer repair at 280 Third Street. Goffinet explained that although both manholes were checked and it was clear the plug was not in the sewer main, the recent sewer televising showed the main to be in poor repair at the point that the lateral tapped into the main. With consideration given to the fact that additional time was necessary in unplugging the lateral due to the condition of the sewer main in front of this location, *motion (Sheffer, Droessler) to have the sewer department pay 50% of the repair bill from M. Robbins and Co. for the sewer lateral plugged on November 22, 2006, at 280 Third Street.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Goffinet asked for clarification on the park committees recommendation for building new bathroom facilities in the village park on Main Street. The committee indicated it would like to see the north side of the shelter house extended to include an addition that will house a men's and women's restroom. Also, the entire shelter house will be re-roofed as well. Perkins is working on developing plans for this new bathroom facility. Hendricks will research possible grants available for the project including the Dubuque Racing Association grant.

Hendricks requested vacation April 23, 2007-May 2, 2007. *Motion (Sheffer, Neis) to approve this vacation request.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board agreed to hire part-time fill-in assistance in the clerk's office during the assistant clerk's medical leave of absence.

It was brought to the board's attention that an error had occurred in an annexation done in 1996. The Wisconsin Department of Administration has been contacted and is advising on the proper method to correct this error. Hendricks will facilitate hiring the village engineer to correct the annexation description and the village attorney to handle the revised annexation process.

A discussion was held regarding the policy of providing village utilities to parcels of land not within village limits. The past precedent has been that the electric department has extended its utility lines outside the corporate boundaries, however, the water and sewer utilities have not. The board reconfirmed this policy. The board discussed the fact that the cost associated with the average electric service hookup is much less than that of a new water/sewer service given consideration to each utility's system cost.

The park committee indicated it had met and had determined which trees should be cut and trimmed in the village park.

McCrea indicated he would be meeting with the Lafayette County Sheriff's department regarding the village of Benton's contracted policing services this week to address several issues.

McCrea asked all board members to be thinking of ideas related to long range planning for the village. McCrea also asked for volunteers to be on a long range planning committee.

The board was provided with an update on the final cost for the Third Avenue sewer main replacement project. All five lateral connections were made with new taps, additional backfill was necessary due to large rocks being removed and causing the ditch to cave in and

become wider. This will also result in additional costs to repair the street due to the excavation being wider than anticipated. The total additional cost is anticipated at just over \$2,700.00.

By general consent the board approved allowing Allan Droessler to plant corn on the land he rents in the industrial park for one year only.

*Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve the 2006-2010 Community Outdoor Recreation Plan for the Village of Benton. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.*

A news release from Alliant Energy related to an authorization for interim wholesale electric rate increase was distributed to the board for its information.

By general consent a contribution of \$4960.00 to the Lafayette Development Corporation was approved for 2007.

The renewal of the domestic animal officer contract was discussed. It was agreed to offer the current domestic animal officer an increase in wages for 2007 to include a salary of \$100.00 per month, \$20.00 per dog, and \$5.00 per cat. The conditions of this offer were approved by general consent.

The 2006 Annual Inspection report of Benton's Waterworks was distributed. The board commended Carver for a job well done.

*Motion (Walton, Neis) to approve the final Certified Survey Map for the division of land located in the Northwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 8, T 1 N, R 1 E, also part of lots 3 & 4 of CSM #340, lots 1 & 2 of CSM #371 and vacated Treganza Street all in the Village of Benton, Lafayette County, Wisconsin. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

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

*Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to adjourn to closed session pursuant with Chapter 19.85 Sub (1) par ( c ) of WIS. STATS, to discuss personnel matters including employee contract negotiations. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

*Motion (Walton, Droessler) to reconvene to open session. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

By general consent the board approved all wage and contract items as recommended by the personnel committee.

*Motion (Robbins, Fladseth) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

Approved 2/21/2007

Posted 2/28/2007