

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, February 21, 2007, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Ann Neis, Cal Robbins, Terry Sheffer, Ron Fladseth (7:05 p.m.) and Gary McCrea. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins (7:00 p.m.). Visitors/Citizens present: Nelson Kari and John Reichling. 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 January 17, 2007 were approved by general consent.

Nelson Kari was present regarding establishing a neighborhood watch program. Kari was requesting permission to get volunteers together to discuss and see how much interest there would be in developing this type of program. McCrea indicated he would like to see some information on this type of organization. This matter was deferred to the March 21, 2007 regular meeting agenda.

The Benton Bible Church has offered its church as a tornado shelter for anyone in need. Nelson Kari requested permission to alert the local churches, papers, etc. regarding the existence of this shelter before tornado season starts. Permission was granted by general consent. A notice will be put in the April 1st utility billing mailing.

John Perkins was present and advised the board that he has retired as the chief of the fire department. Perkins indicated he is willing to stay on as the emergency director for the village if the board so desires. By general consent the board approved having Perkins remain as the emergency coordinator.

By general consent the board approved selling the four tires taken off the new squad car by sealed bid. Hendricks will put up a notice to accept sealed bids until March 19, 2007.

John Reichling, Deputy Sheriff of the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, was present with information regarding the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department's request for an increase in the hourly wage for the agreement for law enforcement services between the county of Lafayette and the Village of Benton from the current \$18.20 per hour to \$26.00 per hour. *Motion (Neis, Robbins) to accept the contract changes in the agreement for law enforcement services between the county of Lafayette and the Village of Benton and authorize Village President, Gary McCrea to sign on the village's behalf.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

A vacation request from Ryan Carver was approved by general consent.

The board reviewed the proposed building plans for a bathroom facility addition to the existing shelter house in the village park. The final decision on this matter was deferred until the March regular meeting to allow the board an opportunity to review the plans and look at possible alternative layout/designs.

Quotes for a new cable and pipe locator were reviewed. The final decision on which distributor to purchase the locator from was deferred until the March regular meeting. This will allow village employees time to test the locator at an upcoming open house and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

Motion (Sheffer, Droessler) to purchase the shoring/trenching from the City of Fox Lake at a price not to exceed \$1900.00. Roll Call—all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding trading in the village's tractor to C B & C. This item was deferred until the next meeting to allow time to get additional quotes from other vendors.

A discussion was held regarding a request for utilities (water, sewer and electric) to be extended to property outside the village limits. *Motion (Robbins, Walton) to extend utilities with*

the contingency that the land that the house will be located on is annexed into the village first. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The board asked Hendricks to make sure the property owner was aware they would not be able to have a horse or other farm animals within village limits.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to not require Jim Goffinet to be certified as a wastewater treatment operator. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Robbins and Sheffer agreed to attend the Lafayette County Highway Department meeting, Tuesday, March 6, at 11:30 a.m..

Perkins left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding the police department moving into the business incubator building. This item will be discussed by the Benton Business Incubator Board.

Motion (Sheffer, Neis) to authorize Gary McCrea and Darnell Hendricks to sign on behalf of the Village of Benton, to guarantee the principal portion of the loan obtained by the Benton Community Development Corporation, as it relates to the incubator (including any extensions or renewals). Voice vote-all ayes. Motion carried.

Motion (Walton, Fladseth) to approve a resolution regarding planning, construction or operating a recycling program in the Village of Benton. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Robbins, Sheffer) to approve Ryan Carver's attendance at the Rural Water Conference, March 28th -30th. Voice vote-all ayes. Motion 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 (Sheffer, Neis) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Approved 3/21/2007

Posted 3/23/2007