

The regular meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village Trustee, Rose Walton, at 7:00 p.m. at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator building on Wednesday, August 15, 2007, with the following members present: Katey McCarthy, Lisa Lawrence, Lori Droessler, Ann Neis (7:03 p.m.) and Rose Walton. Absent: Terry Sheffer and Gary McCrea. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and John Perkins. Consultants present: none. Citizens: Don Cruse, Kristi Cruse, Tony Dougherty, Pat McCarthy, and Blaine Forseth. 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 Zephyr Depot.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting held July 18, 2007, were approved by general consent. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried .

Blaine Forseth was present with a complaint regarding the speed of traffic on First Street. Forseth requested the board consider installing a children at play sign or lowering the speed limit to 15 mph in this area. Perkins raised the issue of whether there would be any enforcement of the lowered speed limit. Lawrence indicated she would make sure the police officers were aware of the concern and have them patrol the area more frequently.

Tony Dougherty was present with questions regarding his utility bill both at his home and the Zephyr Depot. This month's Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) was +0.0464/kwh, which is almost double what it was the previous month. Dougherty had questions related to what the PCA was, how often is it billed, and why it was so high. Hendricks explained that the PCA is a power cost adjustment charge that is equivalent to the amount by which the current cost of power is greater or lesser than the base cost of power purchased monthly. The main reason for the increase is due to Alliant Energy's recent wholesale rate increase. Hendricks indicated she would look into Dougherty's specific bill and provide information comparing Benton's electric rates with other surrounding communities.

Perkins indicated the bathrooms were progressing and would be completed by Labor Day. A discussion was held regarding the installation of a security system in the park once these bathrooms are completed to deter vandalism. Hendricks will contact the county sheriff's department regarding this matter. Perkins informed the board that the long-term plan would be to have lights installed in the park which will stay on all night.

The police committee reported that it had met and is recommending the village hire its own police officer effective the next budget cycle. The reasons discussed included a need for consistency, increased crime rate, enforcement issues, and need for ownership in the community by the police officer.

The street committee reported it held a street committee meeting on August 4, 2007, and reviewed the condition of the existing storm sewer located between 185 Arbor Street and 132 Bean Street. The street committee's recommendation is that full reconstruction of Catherine Street to Bean Street, with new curb and gutter and a new storm sewer be considered for the next budget cycle. The street committee also looked at the sidewalk located on Second Avenue. It was determined repairs are needed and the owner (who was present for this part of the street committee meeting) indicated he would be replacing it soon.

Walton made a recommendation regarding the purchase of a radar speed monitoring unit. Hendricks will contact Cuba City for information related to costs and where they purchased theirs. Hendricks recommended submitting a DRA grant in 2008 for a unit.

No update was available related to the location for the new United States Postal Service Building. The USPS had contacted the clerk's office and indicated an announcement would be made August 17th regarding which location had been chosen.

Hendricks advised that McCrea had reported that the owner requesting permission to install a retaining wall on the corner of Galena Street and County J North had withdrawn his request.

Motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to approve the proposal from Steve Calvert for the Twinning of Benton/Shullsburg with Middleton-in-Teesdale, County Durham, England. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

An amendment to the fencing requirements for swimming pools was discussed. This item will be placed on the agenda for next meeting.

Pat McCarthy was present to request a 75 X 75 foot beer garden to the rear of the "A Bit of Irish" bar on August 31st from 6:00 p.m.-midnight. The beer garden will be entirely enclosed by a fence. *Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve a beer garden for "A Bit of Irish" on August 31st from 6:00 p.m.- midnight. Roll-Droessler-yes, Neis-yes, Lawrence-yes, Walton-yes, McCarthy-abstain. Motion carried with four yes and one abstention.*

Motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to approve a picnic license for St. Augustine Chapel Fund, Inc. on Sunday, August 26th. Voice vote-all ayes. Motion carried.

Don and Kristi Cruse were present to make a request for extension of electric lines by the Benton Electric Utility to property they own in the Benton Township, just outside the village corporate limits. *Motion (Neis, McCarthy) to approve the extension of electric service to Don and Kristi Cruse outside the corporate limits. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

A discussion was held regarding the sale of testing equipment that is no longer used by the wastewater treatment plant. *Motion (Droessler, Neis) to authorize Ryan Carver to sell the wastewater treatment plant testing equipment he no longer uses, including a D.O. meter, probe, thermometers, and a chlorine scale. Voice-all ayes. Carried.*

Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve the purchase of 23 new UV bulbs for the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$22.00 each. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to authorize the village clerk/treasurer to make payment for a cement driveway for Felderman's Lawn and Garden and then special assess the costs to the tax roll for up to three years with a 9% interest rate. Interest will start accruing on any unpaid balance after January 1, 2008, and be added to the tax roll assessment. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, McCarthy) to approve pay requests from Augelli Concrete, Curb and Gutter and Flatwork, 2007 Street project in the amount of \$16,441.27, from Iverson Construction, for Bituminous Concrete, 2007 Street project in the amount of \$51,542.73, and from Mowry Brothers for Excavation, Road Gravel, and Storm Sewer, 2007 Street project in the amount of \$31,838.77. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve a request from the Benton Bible Church to close First Street from Third Avenue to Second Avenue, September 1st and 2nd. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, McCarthy) to approve an operator's license for Brandee Blaine. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The 2006 audit report was distributed to all board members.

Hendricks was asked to contact someone to paint the welcome signs.

A notice of an upcoming training session for Incident Command System 300 & 400 levels was distributed to all board members. Anyone interested in attending should contact Hendricks before the training date.

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

Motion (Lawrence, McCarthy) to adjourn. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.