

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, October 17, 2007, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Katey McCarthy, Lisa Lawrence, Ann Neis, Terry Sheffer, Gary McCrea, and Lori Droessler. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver (7:20 p.m.). Consultants/Visitors present: Laj Waghray, Janet Fitch, Ann Marie McCrea, Mark Escribano. Citizens: 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 Zephyr Depot.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to accept the minutes from the regular meeting held September 19, 2007, as distributed. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding cell phone usage during working hours and obtaining bills for cell phone usage. The board advised Hendricks to discontinue payments to employees that do not turn in cell phone bills. If bills are still not turned in after this action, the board will look at the matter again.

Laj Waghray, Janet Fitch, Ann Marie McCrea, Mark Escribano were present regarding a documentary they are working on related to suicides in rural America. This is the third documentary they have completed related to this issue. They will be spending October 18th in the village videotaping and interviewing residents related to this issue.

A discussion was held regarding the Village of Benton's application to become members of the National Flood Insurance Program. By general consent the board directed Hendricks to pursue the repealing and replacing of the village's current flood plain ordinance with an ordinance that will qualify it for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The process will take approximately two months depending on how long the Department of Natural Resources takes to review the village's draft floodplain ordinance.

Carver arrived at 7:20 p.m.

Walton inquired as to whether any tickets had been issued for parking violations on First Street. Evidently parish members are continuing to park diagonally although parallel parking is the only permitted form of parking on this street. Warning notices will be provided initially by the police officer or village personnel and tickets will then be issued to continued violators. In addition, village personnel will paint white lines on the street to indicate the proper parking stalls.

By general consent the board agreed that a yield sign was needed at the north corner of First Street and Third Avenue facing east. Hendricks will direct Goffinet to have this ordered and installed.

Neis, street committee chairperson, reported that the street committee had met October 1, 2007, to discuss the parking/visibility issues at the intersection of Bean Street North and Main Street. The committee's recommendation is to paint the curb yellow an additional car length and move the existing no van/truck parking sign west one parking spot. Roll call - all ayes. Carried.

The Harris Flooring and Strictly Oak sign hanging at 25 South Bean Street was discussed. The owner of the property will be contacted for permission to remove these signs.

Sheffer and McCrea volunteered to take an inventory of the street signs around the village that are in need of replacement. This list will be forwarded to the clerk's office to order replacement signs.

Neis inquired as to the status of purchasing a radar speed monitoring unit. Hendricks had contacted Cuba City for information related to costs and where they had purchased it. Cuba City and Dickeyville purchased a unit jointly. A recommendation was made to contact Hazel Green

and Shullsburg regarding submitting a joint DRA grant in 2008 for the purchase of a unit to be shared by all three communities.

Carver left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed amendment to section 7-1-6 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton relating to vicious dogs/pit bulls. *Motion (Walton, Droessler) to approve the amendment to section 7-1-6 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton relating to vicious dogs/pit bulls.* Roll-all ayes. Carried.

No additional information was available regarding the purchasing of fire sirens from Platteville, therefore no action was taken on this matter.

A discussion was held regarding the Benton Community Development's plan to give away a free residential building lot in the Roling Oaks subdivision. *Motion (Sheffer, Lawrence) to approve donating up to \$5,000 to the Benton Community Development Corporation in support of this marketing campaign for the village of Benton and the Benton School District.* Roll-Walton-abstain, Droessler-abstain, Neis-yes, Sheffer-yes, McCarthy-yes, Lawrence-yes, McCrea-yes. Vote-2 abstentions, 5 yes. Motion carried.

Motion (McCarthy, Droessler) to approve amending section 10-1-143 (f) (2) and (g) of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Swimming Pool Fences. Roll- all ayes. Carried.

Hendricks advised that the final cost for the cement driveway at Felderman's Lawn and Garden was \$18,683.71. The board was reminded that this amount will be placed as a special assessment on the property owner's taxes.

An update of the United States Postal Service building at 33 Bean Street was provided and approved by general consent.

No information was available regarding fire resistance clothing for the electric department. The board requested that Perkins have this information for the next board meeting.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve the recertification of the Village of Benton's investment policy. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent the board approved the 2008 General Budget timeline.

Motion (Neis, Lawrence) to approve a \$50.00/month increase in the employer contribution rate for 2008 health insurance. Roll-All ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve an operator's license for Travis Kaiser. Roll-All ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve Hendricks' vacation request for October 31st through November 6th. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, McCrea) to approve a request from the Benton Community Development Corporation (BCDC) to plant a tree on the vacant lot located at 39 E. Main Street with the understanding that the tree would be planted far enough back from the sidewalk so as to not interfere with pedestrian traffic and with the understanding that the BCDC will be responsible for its trimming and removal at any point the village deems trimming or removal necessary. Roll-Walton-abstain, Droessler-abstain, Neis-no, McCarthy-no, Sheffer-yes, Lawrence-no, McCrea-yes. Motion failed with two abstentions, two yes, and three no's.

Motion (Droessler, McCarthy) to approve a \$4,970.00 donation to the Lafayette Development Corporation in 2008. Roll- Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Neis-yes, McCarthy-yes, Sheffer-abstain, Lawrence-yes, McCrea-abstain. Motion carried with five yes and two abstentions.

Motion (Sheffer, Lawrence) to approve a \$100.00 donation to Point of Beginnings in 2008. Roll: Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Neis-no, McCarthy-yes, Sheffer-yes, Lawrence-yes, McCrea-yes. Motion carried with six yes and one no.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve hiring Johnson Block to do the village's general fund and utility audits for fiscal year 2007. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

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

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

Approved 11/13/2007

Posted 11/15/2007