

The 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 Wednesday, January 16, 2008, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Terry Sheffer, Ann Neis, Lisa Lawrence and Katey McCarthy. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Ryan Carver. Consultants present: none. Citizens/others present: Marcella Fuller. 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 from the regular meeting held December 5, 2007, and the public hearing held December 5, 2007, were approved by general consent.

Carver provided an update on the status of the water and sewer utilities under Temple Avenue and Arbor Street. The water utilities appear to be in good condition and the sewer utilities will be televised prior to construction, this spring. Carver said the manholes in the streets will probably have to be raised and may need to be slip-lined, however, no other action appears to be necessary at this time. More information will be available after the televising.

A discussion was held regarding other manholes needing to be raised.

A discussion was held regarding the water leak on Van Buren Street, January 4, 2008. Sheffer inquired whether this leak had anything to do with the manhole farther down the street that needs to be raised. Carver indicated the two had no connection.

It was agreed by general consent that snow would be hauled away from the Casey Funeral Home when a funeral necessitated it. McCrea will relay this information to the business owners.

Marcella Fuller was present to request an extension to the 60 day vacancy limitation for her mobile home located at 150 Arbor Street. *Motion (Sheffer, Neis) to allow an extension to the 60 day requirement until May 1, 2008.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Hendricks updated the board regarding diesel fuel now being available at the Zephyr Depot.

Hendricks advised the white truck had been put out for proposals on Craig's List, the Municipality, and our Board Notes. Proposals are being accepted through April 15, 2008.

Due to the lack of consistent and frequent use, the discussion on purchasing a trencher was tabled.

Hendricks advised two lots within the village had been donated to Habitat for Humanity. Construction is expected to take place on one of the lots this spring.

Sheffer brought it to the attention of the board that a number of the lights outside the business incubator building were not working. Hendricks will advise the incubator manager. Also, a couple of locks are in need of changing. This will also be addressed.

Lawrence advised she had been looking into grants for new playground equipment. By general consent the board agreed that the Dubuque Racing Association Grant should be written for new park equipment versus its previous decision of a new radar board. The park committee will meet and make a recommendation regarding what type of equipment should be submitted for the grant application.

McCrea reiterated once again to the board the need for the village to continue its search for suitable property for development of an additional subdivision

A policy related to requests for posting on the village's web site and the village's welcome sign was discussed. *Motion (Droessler, Walton) to approve proposed website and welcome sign request policy.* Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve renewal of the rental agreement with Allan Droessler for the crop land in the business park area for a rate of \$175.00/acre with the understanding that Droessler can plant part corn and part hay. Voice vote-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Droessler) to approve the purchase of 30 new water meters at a cost of approximately \$98.00 each. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, Sheffer) to allow Carver to continue wearing his current uniform clothing until such time as he has enough new uniforms to wear them exclusively. Roll-all ayes. Carried. By general consent it was agreed that the embroidered logo for all uniforms should remain the same, that is, with the water tower insignia, on them.

A copy of the Department of Natural Resources 2007 Annual Inspection results were reviewed. Carver was commended for the excellent job done in taking care of the water utility. By general consent the board authorized Carver to get bids to have the water tower inspected.

A discussion was held regarding personal cell phone use during working hours. It was agreed that no reimbursement would be made unless copies of bills were presented. No further action was taken.

Hendricks requested permission for the village crew to trim trees along Main Street. Permission granted by general consent.

Carver left at 8:30 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding the first reading of the flood plain ordinance. Additional information will be obtained prior to the second reading of this ordinance.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve an operators license for Thomas Cullen. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Neis, McCarthy) to approve a credit of \$300.00 toward the sewer bill at Swindler's Ridge. Roll all ayes. Carried.

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

Motion (McCarthy, Lawrence) to adjourn. Roll-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

APPROVED 2/20/2008

POSTED 2/21/2008