

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, February 20, 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 John Perkins. Consultants present: none. Citizens/others present: Julie Ramaker, Joseph Slater, Stephanie Lloyd, Jennifer Gerber, Kristen Cole, and Ruth Gerber. 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 January 16, 2008, were approved as amended by general consent.

Julie Ramaker, Joe Slater, and Stephanie Lloyd, were present with concerns related to the alternate side parking ordinance as it relates to parking during the business hours for The House of Hair. The board agreed to advise the police officer to forego issuing any further tickets in the direct vicinity of this business during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. through April 1, 2008. The alternate side parking ordinance will be reviewed prior to next fall for consideration of an amendment in business districts or during a certain time period.

Perkins and Lawrence reported a problem with parking and plowing on Wilson Avenue. By general consent the board agreed to have the police officer contact the property owner of concern and ask them to not park on the street or in other people's driveways. In addition, it was agreed by general consent to have the police officer put up temporary no parking signs on both sides of the street. No permanent action will be taken at this time unless further action is deemed necessary.

Perkins advised the board that Jim Goffinet had passed his third year of lineman apprenticeship class. The board was happy to hear Goffinet was doing so well in the class.

Jennifer Gerber, Kristen Cole, and Ruth Gerber were present to discuss the licensing of Jennifer Gerber's dog. At the time of the initial request, the dog was listed on the rabies vaccination form as a pit-bull. Since this initial request Ms. Gerber had been able to determine the dog's exact lineage. Since the dog was determined to be only 25% pit bull, and it is not a majority pit-bull, *motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to issue a dog license to Jennifer Gerber for her dog, Paris*. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Perkins gave a status report on the street plowing and salting situation in the village. Perkins reported there is an extreme shortage of salt in this area and the village is now spreading either a gravel/salt mixture or straight gravel. It was indicated that if a mixture could be obtained that would be the first choice, however, if a mixture could not be obtained, straight gravel would need to be used.

Hendricks indicated notification had been received from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville that due to the rise in the minimum wage and other factors, it would not have any off-campus work study agencies this summer. Hendricks said she would be checking with the CESA coordinator to determine the status of that program. This item will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion.

Sheffer confirmed with Perkins that the street light at the end of Creek Drive had not yet been completely hooked up and would be hooked up as soon as the ground thawed in the spring.

Sheffer advised that some of the storm sewers in the village were now blocked with snow. Hendricks advised that Goffinet was already planning on clearing as many of these as possible.

Sheffer requested the flag being flown outside the Business Incubator building be removed at night since it does not have a light shining on it. Hendricks advised the pole was frozen and could not be removed but the flag would be removed from the pole.

A discussion was held regarding the outside lights on the Business Incubator Building. These will be checked to determine if some are still not working.

The purchase of a new ferrous metal locator for curb stops and manholes was discussed. *Motion (Droessler, Walton) to purchase a new ferrous metal locator for the water and sewer department for a price not to exceed \$700.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

Perkins advised that the transformer at well number one has been leaking oil. Perkins does not have a quote to fix it yet, however has ordered a repair kit for a cost of \$60.00. A new transformer is valued at \$9,800 to \$13,560. This transformer supplies power to two transformers and the well house, as well as housing the controls for the entire water system. Perkins will speak with Alliant Energy for suggestions as to the best method of repair/replacement.

The purchase of 150 keyed padlocks for the Benton Electric Utility was discussed. It was explained that the disposable locks (useable once) are \$2.74 each, and the re-usable locks are \$5.00 each. Since the Public Service Commission requires inspections of transformers with a thermal imaging camera every five years, and there are other inspections/occurrences for the transformers to be opened/closed, the re-usable locks would pay for themselves in a short period of time. *Motion (Sheffer, Droessler) to purchase 150 locks from Gassers for \$5.00 per lock for the Benton Electric Utility. Roll-all ayes.*

Perkins indicated he would discuss the grading of the ditch area along Jenkynsville Road with the Lafayette County Highway Commissioner at the meeting scheduled for March 4, 2008.

Perkins left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The second and final reading of ordinance number 08-01, amending section 10-2-1 through 10-2-90 of the Municipal Code of the Village of Benton related to Floodplain Zoning was deferred until after the Planning and Zoning Commission could hold a public hearing and meeting for its recommendation.

The board was advised that the crop land in the Benton Business Park had been rented to Alan Droessler.

Bids for inspection of the new water tower were reviewed. *Motion (Droessler, Neis) to approve the bid from Liquivision Technology in the amount of \$3,010.00 for the cleaning and inspection of the water tower, contingent on the verification of its necessity. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The board requested Hendricks research whether any grants are available to paint the old water tower.

Motion (Neis, Walton) to approve contracting with Davy Laboratories for the 2008 laboratory services for the Benton Water Utility. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Lawrence, McCarthy) to approve Ryan Carver's vacation request. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Droessler, McCarthy) to approve the purchase of a new computer for a price not to exceed \$1700.00, with the understanding that the old computer in the village office will then be moved to the sewer plant for Carver's use. Roll-all ayes.

The board was made aware of the upcoming Application Workshops for Habitat for Humanity, Feb. 26th and March 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. These workshops will be held at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Business Incubator Building.

The board recommended the welcome signs be changed to read: "It's a great day to be a Zephyr."

Final minutes –approved on March 13, 2008.

Motion (Sheffer, Lawrence) to approve the request from the library to carry over any additional funds from its 2007 budget to its 2008 budget. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The January 2008 Lafayette County Sheriff's Department Patrol Officers' Monthly Report was discussed. The board indicated it would like to see more speeding tickets issued if they are warranted. It also would like to see the location of the squad car while running radar changed more frequently than it does currently. Hendricks will relay this information to the police officer.

The board was made aware of the upcoming Southwest Wisconsin Technical Referendum to be held at the April 1st election.

Motion (Droessler, Lawrence) to allow Hendricks to attend the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association District IV meeting, February 28, 2008. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent it was agreed that McCrea, Goffinet, Perkins and Sheffer would attend the Lafayette County Highway Department Annual Municipality Meeting on March 4, 2008 at noon at the Darlington Country Club.

Motion (Lawrence, Neis) to authorize a donation of \$100.00 to the Wisconsin Rural Water Association for its loaner equipment fund. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

By general consent it was agreed to decline making a donation to the Lafayette County Historical Society.

Motion (Walton, McCarthy) to approve the application to the Dubuque Racing Association for new playground equipment at Swift Park. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding an operator error that had occurred at the Lafayette County Housing Authority apartment complex located at 163 Whaley Court. After testing a water meter at the Park Apartments, a by-pass valve was not completely closed and water was allowed to by-pass the meter. This resulted in a large amount of water being under-billed. After discovery of the error, the under-billing was calculated and submitted to the Public Service Commission for review. The Public Service Commission (PSC) subsequently approved the back-billing of the under-billing for water; however, the PSC has no regulatory authority over the sewer charges. Therefore, the Lafayette County Housing Authority had submitted a request to the village board for consideration of a reduction in the amount of sewer charges billed for this error. *Motion (Walton, Neis), with consideration given that the under billing of the sewer charges were a result of an error by the water utility operator, to approve a sewer credit of \$1,047.40 (equal to 1/2 of the total sewer charges billed) to the Lafayette County Housing Authority, with the Roll; Walton-yes, Droessler-yes, Lawrence-yes, Neis-yes, McCarthy-no, Sheffer-yes, McCrea-no. Motion carried with a vote of five yes and two no.*

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

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