

The public hearing of the Benton Village Board was called to order by Village President, Gary McCrea, at 6:45 p.m. at 244 Ridge Avenue in the conference room of the Benton Business Incubator building on Wednesday, December 03, 2008, with the following members present: Rose Walton, Lori Droessler, Ron Fladseth, Lisa Lawrence, Katey McCarthy, Terry Sheffer and Gary McCrea. Absent: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks. Visitors/Citizens present: none. 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. A discussion was held regarding the 2009 General Fund Budget. By general consent the board adjourned the 2009 General Fund Budget Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

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 of the Benton Business Incubator Building at 244 Ridge Avenue on Wednesday, December 03, 2008, with the following members present: Gary McCrea, Rose Walton, Katey McCarthy, Terry Sheffer, Lisa Lawrence, Lori Droessler, and Ron Fladseth. Absent: none. Citizens: none. Village employees present: Darnell Hendricks and Jim Goffinet. Consultants and others present: none. 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.

Motion (Sheffer, McCarthy) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held November 12, 2008, as distributed. Voice -all ayes. Carried.

A discussion was held regarding a Public Employee Safety and Health Inspection Report and Order the village had received from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The violations noted were related to section 1910.132 (d) (1) and 1910.146 9 (c) – related to employers failure to evaluate and assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present or if any spaces are permit-required confined spaces. The appointment of a board member or village employee as a safety director was discussed. *Motion (Walton, Lawrence) to appoint Ryan Carver as the village's safety director. Roll-all ayes. Carried.*

The board discussed the preferred method for distributing the “Go Green” reusable grocery bags it had purchased. By general consent it was agreed to give each village property tax payer a coupon for one free bag and sell the extra bags for \$2.00 each. These bags will be available for pick up at the village clerk’s office, as well as, at all of the home basketball games in December and January. Tax payers may bring their coupons to either location to pick up their free bag.

Walton reported the Ordinance Committee had met and would be making a recommendation for a change to the abandoned vehicle ordinance at the January 21, 2009, regular meeting.

Lawrence reported no information had been obtained from UW-Platteville regarding a grant for playground equipment.

Fladseth reported the sewer committee had met and would be making a recommendation regarding replacement of sewer main under Cross Street in 2009.

Sheffer reported the Lafayette Development Corporation had held its annual dinner meeting and Gary McCrea, Terry Sheffer, Michael and Maggie Langkamp had attended.

A request from the Wisconsin Tourism Council for donations to its tourism packets was discussed. *Motion (McCarthy, Sheffer) to approve a donation of 5- \$10.00 “Benton Bucks” certificates. All ayes. Motion carried.*

Motion (Lawrence, McCarthy) to approve the renewal of the Assessor's contract with Gardiner Appraisal from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2011 for an annual fee of \$3,250.00 per annum. Roll-Walton (yes), Lawrence (yes), Droessler (no), Fladseth (yes), Sheffer (yes), McCarthy (yes), McCrea-yes). Vote-six yes, one no. Motion carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve a payment of \$5,610.82 to Lawinger Bros. Construction for sidewalk replacement. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Fladseth) to approve the payment in lieu of taxes contract with the Lafayette County Housing Authority for 2009 in the amount of \$660.00 (\$55.00 each unit). Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The Sewer Committee made a recommendation that the sewer main be replaced under Cross Street in 2009. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

Motion (Sheffer, Walton) to approve the 2009 General Fund Budget with a local tax levy of \$123,866.00. Roll-all ayes. Carried.

The November 2008 monthly police report was not available at the time of the meeting.

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

Motion (Walton, Sheffer) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.