

Benton Township Board Meeting

April 10th, 2019

7606 E State Rd 45, Bloomington, IN 47408

Attendance

- Michelle Bright, Trustee
- Joe Husk, Chair
- Hans Kelson, Secretary
- Lynn Stevens, Board Member
- Pam Mitchell, Deputy Trustee

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve a minor correction: Kelson (Replace "President" with "Chair")

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously

Motion to approve minutes: Kelson

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously

Financial Report

Fund Balances:

- **Rainy Day Fund:**
YTD Expense: 0
Cash Balance: 104,650.79

- **Township Fund:**
YTD Expense: 12,077.41
Cash Balance: 194,977.60

- **Township Assistance:**
YTD Expense: 2,778.69
Cash Balance: 93,974.96

- **Firefighting Fund:**
YTD Expense: 4,117.83
Cash Balance: 407,658.71

- **Cum. Fire Fund:**
YTD Expense: 0
Cash Balance: 282,472.61

- **Recreation Fund:**
YTD Expense: 926.49
Cash Balance: 16,470.40

Deposits:

- **One Restitution Deposit for March 20th**
\$46.52 from Heather Cohee

- **Income Tax**
\$10.959

- **Trust Indiana account**
1,924.53

Motion to approve Financial Report: Stevens

Second: Kelson

Passed Unanimously

Trustee Report:

Legislative Update:

- **HB 1177** (Requires that our capital funds need a plan if it is over 150% of our budget)
 - Added: Amount must also be over \$200,000{
 - Passed in the Senate, now back to the house for final approval

- **SB 221** (Board member matters for Merged Townships)
 - Approved by both houses, back to the senate with amendments
 - Didn't look closely at it, as it doesn't apply to us

- **HB 1182** (Increases benefit amount for Worker's Comp. for Firefighters)
 - Has officially been signed, in process to become law

- **SB 248** (Distributions of Public Safety Income Tax revenue)
 - Still in the house, no second reading
 - Doubtful to pass, did contact Peggy Mayfield to express support

- **SB 603** (Annexation protection for areas with over \$1M in Assessed Valuation)
 - Not applicable to Benton, but does apply to Perry-Clear Creek & Van Buren
 - Passed by both houses. City of Bloomington has been opposing this. Bill was authored by Jeff Ellington.

Mowing Services:

- **Bid was awarded to ProScope**
 - Did not have any bidders from Benton Township

Change to Website:

- **Minutes will now be posted online**
 - Older minutes can still be accessed by calling the office.

Danny Smith Park:

- **Updates from Ryan**
 - They have equipment & supplies, but not the staff to use it. Hoping to make progress soon.
 - Talked about meeting with some graduate students from the School of Public Health to find out if a multi-purpose trail at the park is something that's feasible.

Senior Center:

- **No Update since last month**

Vegetation Policy:

- **Reviewed 2 examples from other areas**
 - Appreciated a definition of "rank" vegetation having many examples including "useless"
 - Mostly just taken from Indiana Law
 - "Vegetation, trees, or woody growth on private or government property which is abandoned, neglected, disregarded, or not cut, mowed, or otherwise removed which has attained a height of 12 inches or more."
 - Some say 6, 8, 9, 12 inches.
 - Residential Areas are defined in Vigo County as "any 2 or more adjoining parcels of real estate, used or intended for residential purposes, whether platted or unplatted, neither or none of which exceed 3 acres in size"
 - Complaints are usually from people in a neighborhood

Cemeteries:

- **Richardson Cemetery**
 - Created in 1860 by the Richardson Cemetery assoc.
 - According to Lynn, we've been taking care of it for at least 26 years.
 - Having looked through documents from Secretary of State, Auditor, and Plat books back to 1888, can't find any record of the Richardson Cemetery Association
 - Steve Buschmann's office has filed a document in court on our behalf to see if we can get the deed transferred to us

- **Brock Cemetery**
 - There is a township resident who is very interested in genealogy, and is trying to do research of the people buried in the cemeteries maintained by the township

- She would like to see if the boy scouts would be interested in building a bridge to facilitate access to Brock Cemetery, as currently you have to cross a creek.
- Talked to Michael Carter from the City of Bloomington about what we would have to do to get permission to build a bridge/trail.
- This parcel was sold to the city, but the cemetery was removed from the transaction. Therefore, it is still private property.
- Found the deed, which was in the name of Charles and Lula Townsend.
- Through tireless research, located a grandchild. They would like to give the cemetery to the township.
- County Planning would like to go through the same procedure as we did for Frye cemetery.

Fire Department:

- **Territory:**
 - Bloomington Twp. board passed a resolution inviting Benton Township to enter discussions
 - Washington Twp. board would like to have a meeting with Bloomington Twp. Board to discuss whether they are interested in allowing Benton to join discussions
 - A meeting between these two entities is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 at Station 5.
 - Husk and Kelson to attend
 - Reached out to volunteers about getting feedback about the next steps, having scheduling difficulty trying to get a meeting
- **Other:**
 - Discovered an electrical issue that caused a circuit to trip, disconnecting battery chargers for all the trucks. This was repaired by our electrician, Woods Electrical.
 - Tanker 14-7 has been out of service, parts have been ordered.
 - Have asked Chief Shaw to research pros and cons of having our tanker truck refurbished rather than buying a new one- ours only has 9,000 miles on it
 - Cost would likely be between $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cost of buying a new truck

Township Assistance Report:

- **Applicants:**
 - Granted assistance for rent for one person: \$505
 - Granted someone \$250 for rent and \$100 for electricity while she recoups from an accident so she can get back to her job
- **Food Pantry:**
 - Michelle's mom donated over \$100 worth of stuff
 - Moved food pantry to be more accessible

- Used twice, \$67 and \$40
- Most used items from our pantry are generally things that you can't get from food stamps- paper products, cake mixes, etc.
- **Misc:**
 - Had a resident come in who was concerned that her property value had gone down as a result of her neighbors
 - Another couple came in who were upset about the condition of nearby property
 - Called Monroe County Solid Waste and Monroe County Planning, who issued citations and since then, the problem has been remedied

Motion to Approve Trustee Report: Stevens

Second: Kelson

Passed Unanimously

Fire Reports:

NMFT:

- 8 runs from NMFT only
- 8 runs with both
- Reviewed Detailed Report

Motion to Approve NMFT report: Kelson

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously

BTVFD:

- Had one truck move 3 times, and one other truck move once
- In March 2017, we had 30 volunteer hours for runs, 117 hours for training, 13 hours for a meeting, for a total of 60 person-hours. There were 12 runs.
- In March 2018, there were 46 volunteer hours for runs, 36 for training, 14 for meetings, 22 for other, for a total of 118
- BTVFD auction and chili supper has been changed to a touch-a-truck event, they are not doing the auction.

Motion to Approve BTVFD report: Stevens

Second: Kelson

Approved Unanimously

New Board Business:

Fire Protection Discussion:

- Trustee Bright has received an email from Barb Ooley saying that there are people claiming that their properties have been put into foreclosure because they could not pay their taxes. Barb Ooley could not find properties where that had happened, but it could have been different circumstances
- Residents of Washington Township have reportedly saved up to \$571 on property insurance, but they did have to shop around for another company
- Reviewed new driving distance map
 - Some places (shuffle creek road) see up to an 11 minute savings.
 - Northern part of the township is currently served faster by the temporary station in Wash. Twp.
 - For next version, should go through the list of actual events that have occurred and see the time difference for those, to see what might have happened had there been a staffed station here
- Wash. Twp. is concerned about their rates going up if we were to join. This is why they are meeting with the Bloomington Twp. Board.

Adjournment:

Our next meeting is on May 8th.

Motion to Adjourn: Kelson

Second: Stevens

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 P.M.