

Benton Township Board Meeting
January 9, 2019
Unionville Senior Center - 7616 E. State Road 45, Unionville, IN 47468

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

Approval of minutes

Stevens: Motion to approve November meeting minutes

Kelson: Second

Motion carries 2-0 with one abstention

Stevens: Motion to approve January Organizational Meeting Minutes

Kelson: Second

Motion carries 3-0

Old business: none.

Financial Report (Michelle Bright):

- Reviewed December 2018 Budget, Year to date Expenses, Appropriation Balance, and Cash Balance
- Reviewed deposits (restitution from Heather Cohee) as well as income from taxes and Trust Indiana.
- Notes:
 - Township assistance is actually two separate funds
 - Welfare Administration (supplies, postage, clerical time)
 - Direct Assistance, (paid to vendors such as REMC, Vectren, or landlords for the actual services.)
 - Of \$20,000 budgeted, only spent \$6,393.61. Expenses in 2018 were lower than usual. Will discuss totals for the year next month.
 - Firefighting fund: budget of \$382,000.
 - Appropriation balance of \$118,189.31, and a cash balance of \$393,315.18.
 - Sounds high, but expecting big bills this year
 - Cumulative Fire Fund: 2018 budget was \$200,000;
 - Spent \$88,781.30, leaving a cash balance of \$284,500.55.
 - Savings fund. Meant to have a cash reserve buildup.
 - Recreation Fund:
 - Used to fund the senior center this year, and the senior center plus part of Danny Smith Park renovations for next year.

- Budget for 2018 was \$6,000. YTD expenses of \$3,440.14, leaving a cash balance of \$17,329.70.
- Reviewed Deposits:
 - Heather Cohee restitution amount. Spread out over funds she was charged with repaying.
 - Brittany Cohee has fulfilled her obligation.
- Reviewed Tax and Trust Indiana income.
- Detailed check listing included in Financial Report.
- Financial Report approved unanimously

Trustee Report

- Cohee Restitution Update: Attorney General is going back to court in May to see if they can speed up the process of restitution
- Parcel of property behind the Church of Christ in Unionville, adjacent to Unionville Elementary, that was deeded to Benton Township in 1967.
 - Has notified MCCSC that it belongs to Benton, in case they had ideas about building anything on it. Indicated to MCCSC that Board may be willing to sell it.
- Parcel of property at Honeycreek that appears on GIS to be owned by Marion Township school.
 - Looking into whether that belongs to Marion Township, which was merged with Benton in 1947.
 - Long-running search for date of aforementioned merger completed- it was January 1, 1947.
- General Assembly is considering a handful of bills concerning townships, but none seem particular relevant to Benton.
 - One addresses multiple family members on township boards
 - One involves capital funds
 - Township cemeteries would be transferred to county
 - Merged townships must include a board member from each board
 - Required advertising for meetings to be switched to online only
 - Appeal process for people who don't get a response to a request for assistance
 - Possession of documents under audit
- Danny Smith Park has broken ground and begun laying concrete blocks
- Nothing to report for the senior center
- Quote restoring for Richardson-Fleener Cemetery stones: \$20,000 for the project, willing to complete it over a 2-year period
- Fire Department: 2 incidents when Benton did not respond.
- Upcoming meeting: complete report of all expenses for 2018
- Township Assistance Report
 - Application packet available when no one in office. 3 were picked up in November.
 - Received a lot of food pantry donations. December was busy. 4 food baskets provided at holidays. No township money spent, but township facilitates

- Food pantry stocked with school supplies, diapers, cleaning supplies, etc. as well as food staples.
- Fire Protection. Information will be presented in a binder for board review, and will be discussed over the next few meetings.
 - Types of calls:
 - Allergic reaction at Unionville Elementary
 - Pole barn fire near a house, on Brummets Creek
 - Car accident on Nehrt Rd
 - Cars trapped on flooded roadways
 - Powerlines down on South Shore Drive
 - When someone calls 911 with an emergency:
 - EMS automatically comes. Can treat on the spot and transport to hospital
 - Contract with Northern Monroe Fire Territory: they come, with personnel and needed equipment
 - In certain areas, City of Bloomington will respond automatically.
 - Volunteers: all work during the day. Respond from home or work if they're able. Depending on who's available, maybe nobody responds or maybe all respond. Some volunteers have retired, others have moved away. Will discuss details of this later.
 - What happens if we discontinue agreement with Northern Monroe or Bloomington?
 - No one would come from other agencies.
 - Rely completely on volunteers. (Response rate was 50% Oct, 50% in Nov, 33% in December.)
 - Mutual Aid agreement
 - If you get to the scene and need help and call for help, someone will come.
 - Request made by Fire Chief or designee.
 - Must designate what kind of assistance is needed.
 - Automatic Dispatch: happens as soon as 911 is called.
 - Conversation in Monroe Co: 3 units to be dispatched for structure fire.
- Trustee Report unanimously accepted.

Fire Reports

- Information included: Time of Day? Canceled? Weekday/weekend? Benton volunteer present?
- December: 12 calls where Northern Monroe responded and no Benton volunteers did
- How many times did volunteers respond without Northern Monroe? None.
- Both responded for 5 runs.
- Number of volunteers has decreased substantially.
- Would be interesting to see trends by month/year for last 3 years

New Board Business

- 2019 Investment Policy Report

- Last year discussed cashing out 14 month CDs. Benton has 2, maturing in April, 2019. Trust Indiana has better yields, less complicated paperwork
- Motion to approve 2019 Investment Policy Report; approved unanimously.

Public Comment - none

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.