

Benton Township Board Meeting

July 10th, 2019

7606 E State Rd 45, Bloomington, IN 47408

Attendance

- Michelle Bright, Trustee
- Joe Husk, Chair
- Hans Kelson, Secretary
- Lynn Stevens, Board Member
- Deputy Chief Matt Bright, Northern Monroe Fire Territory

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Minutes: Kelson

This includes both the May 8th and June 12th minutes.

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously

Financial Report

Rainy Day Fund:

- YTD Expense: 0
- Cash Balance: 196,039.27

Township Fund:

- YTD Expense: 45,599.53
- Cash Balance: 198,146.41

Township Assistance Fund:

- YTD Expense: 3,795.03
- Cash Balance: 98,103.49

Firefighting Fund:

- YTD Expense: 153,160.83
- Cash Balance: 441,964.26

Cumulative Fire Fund:

- YTD Expense: 0
- Cash Balance: 331,774.91

Recreation Fund:

- YTD Expense: 1,508.19
- Cash Balance: 19,530.75

Financial Report, Continued

Deposits:

- **Restitution Deposit from Heather Cohee**
\$23.26
This is half of what it usually is.

- **Income Tax**
\$10,959.00

- **Trust Indiana account**
\$1,839.36

- **Vegetation Complaint Reimbursement**
\$260.00

- **Property Tax**
\$208,965.02

- **Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax**
\$13,291.69

- **License Excise Tax**
\$1,023.00

No Chase payment this month, it was made late in May.

Motion to Approve Financial Report: Stevens

Second: Kelson

Approved Unanimously

Trustee Report

Budget Information

Growth Quotient

- The Growth Quotient has been set at 3.5% for next year.

Cumulative Fire Fund

- The Cumulative Fire Fund can be set between 0.0288 and 0.0333. Currently, it is set at 0.0300.
- The deadline to raise that is April 30th, which would not go into effect until 2021. We missed out on \$11,000 this year because that rate was set low. However, given the possibility of joining the Fire District, it likely isn't worth raising it now.
- Funds could be used for purchase of building, vehicles, land, etc.

Heather Cohee Restitution

- Contacted Kevin Fitzgerald at the Attorney General's Office to find out why restitution balance went up again. He said that there is an 8% increase per year. Cohee's payments aren't even covering that increase. She has medical issues and may not be able to work.
- Also asked about the new law that says that pension funds can be emptied to pay for public misconduct. Fitzgerald is looking into this.

Bryan Park Update

From Ryan Steele:

- Baseball season is over.
- Storage shed finished, except for electrical work.
- Working to install lighting in park.
- Some question over location of lights and impact; hoping for resolution by the end of the week.

Senior Center

No Updates

Cemeteries

- Got Surveys for Brock and Richardson
- For Brock Cemetery, Monroe County Planning says that we need to be able to show who were the original owners, and genealogy down to current generation. Will talk with family of the Townsends to make sure they are on board.
- The area surrounding Brock Cemetery is currently owned by the City of Bloomington, so an easement is required.

Volunteer Contract

- What information would the board like to have, or potential changes?
 - As they increase or decrease staffing, perhaps they should come up with a set amount per run
 - Perhaps some kind of a bonus for recruitment/training
 - Rewards for longevity
 - Rewards for referring a friend who continues to serve as a volunteer
 - Pay monthly, or at least more frequently than annually, especially since volunteers have out-of-pocket expenses

Squad 14

- Last month, Squad 14 was reportedly out of service.
- Somehow, the volunteers have managed to get it started, and it has gone on a few runs.

Fire Station

- We are waiting for the final report from the structural engineer about the support beams.

Tanker Replacement

- Met with NMFT administrators to go over details of specifications
- Sent email to Chief Dillard of the Monroe Fire District as well. We want to make sure we have a truck here which would suit our needs. We would like tanker to stay here if we do join the district, but we won't have say over that.

Public Safety LIT Application

- Requested \$110,000 for station renovations, \$46,000 in extrication equipment, \$6500 in 5-way gas meters
- Public Safety Committee would like a letter of support from board
- Monroe Fire District and Van Buren also requested support for renovations

Fire District Meetings

- Van Buren will hold public meetings at the Fairgrounds on July 30th, July 31st, and August 1st at 5:30 P.M. regarding their move to join the District
- Bloomington Township will hold public meetings at Station 5 on August 6th and 7th at 6:00 P.M., and on August 8th at 7:00 P.M.
- It could be helpful to see what concerns are raised by citizens
- If more than one township board members attend these meetings, we may need to post it publicly, or avoid sitting together and interacting.

Next meeting: August 14th

Motion to approve Trustee's Report: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Fire Reports

NMFT June Report

Run Details Overview

- NMFT Only: 9
- Benton Only: 0
- Both Units: 9
- Only one BTVFD on scene: 8
- Disregarded: 0
- Weekdays: 12
- Weekends: 6
- No info available: 3
- 37% of runs are between noon and 6pm
- 27% of runs are between 6pm and midnight

Motion to approve: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

BTVFD May Report

Not received, have asked again.

BTVFD June Report

Run Details Overview

- Some inconsistencies in report. Will request clarification.
- Volunteer hours this month: 94

Motion to approve: Stevens
Second: Kelson
Approved Unanimously

New Business

Vegetation Policy

Discussion

- The list of noxious vegetation in Indiana Code has been expanded to include many more invasive species
- If you're in you're in a platted neighborhood, there's a certain expectation for keeping vegetation trimmed. Should there be a different standard specified for Benton's 19 neighborhoods, vs. more rural areas? 6 inches in neighborhood, 12 inches outside?
- Sometimes complaints are about front yard but not backyard, or vice versa
- Does not include trees, shrubbery, ornamental grasses, crops, certified wildlife habitats, or areas being allowed to return to natural habitats. However, there should be some wording that ensures that it's neat or at least has a boundary.
- Other considerations: visibility for drivers, safety for people attempting to trim steep banks, possibility that there is another reason for not trimming
- There is a process for notifying the homeowner of complaints, trimming if necessary, then charging the homeowner for work done.

Public Safety LIT Application

Read Resolution Aloud

Motion to approve resolution: Kelson

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously

NMFT Truck Checks

Discussion

- There have been a few kinks to work out in the truck check process
 - Has taken a lot of time due to having to learn about differences in equipment
- 14-6 appears to have some sort of a power issue
- No checklist for Squad 14
- 14-8 was at Zach's house, so it was not checked

No public comment.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:46: Kelson

Second: Stevens

Approved Unanimously