

# Benton Township Board Meeting

October 9th, 2019  
7606 E State Road 45, Bloomington, IN, 47468

## Attendance

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM**

## Approval of Minutes

- Motion to Approve September Minutes: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously
- It was discovered that the August meeting minutes had a typo in the Financial Report section: The Recreation Fund Cash Balance was listed as \$90,498.10. It should have been \$9,398.10.
- Motion to Amend the August minutes to fix the typo noted above: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## Old Business

### Budget Approval

- Tax rate will be very slightly lower this year.
- Motion to Approve 2020 Budget: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously
- Motion to Approve Township Form 17 (Salaries): Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Financial Report**

### **Rainy Day Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$37,102.00
- Appropriation Balance: \$62,898.00
- Cash Balance: \$159,58.27

### **Township Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$60,260.57
- Appropriation Balance: \$22,739.43
- Cash Balance: \$119,780.39

### **Township Assistance Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$7,563.19
- Appropriation Balance: \$12,436.81
- Cash Balance: \$94,814.69

### **Firefighting Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$186,037.02
- Appropriation Balance: \$206,962.98
- Cash Balance: \$427,554.85

### **Cumulative Fire Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$7,345.35
- Appropriation Balance: \$292,209.65
- Cash Balance: \$325,916.65

### **Recreation Fund**

- YTD Expense: \$12,000.75
- Appropriation Balance: \$3,999.25
- Cash Balance: \$9,101.92

### **Deposits**

- Local Income Tax: \$10,959.00
- Interest from Trust Indiana: \$1,877.39
- We did not receive a restitution payment from Heather Cohee this month.

## **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Financial Report: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Trustee Report**

### **Property Updates**

- We have lights on the flagpole now
- We will be upgrading the compressed air system in the back building to be up to code, that will start very soon
- Solicitations for snow removal bids were sent out this week, the deadline for response is Nov. 1

### **Danny Smith Park**

- Received an email from Ryan Steele, but it did not contain any new information.
- Advised Ryan of the extension of the contract deadline. He proposed a meeting towards the end of October to discuss further plans.

### **Senior Center**

- After a year, the AA group that was meeting here has decided to disband.

### **Cemeteries**

- Received detailed binders of information from the Richardson-Fleener cemetery restoration from Stonehugger Restorations
- Contacted a neighbor who has 4 generations of family in that cemetery, she will be doing some geanealogy research

### **New Fire Department Volunteers**

- It has been confirmed that we do in fact have a new volunteer, he is a firefighter only.
- Additionally, a previous volunteer has moved back into the area and is now going on runs with the department.
- This brings us to three EMTs, one Medical First Responder, and two volunteers with no medical certification.
- Thanks to NMFT for sharing properly sized turnout gear for our new volunteer

### **Fire Department Mechanic's Report**

- Replaced air controller
- Replaced both box lights
- Discovered that the brakes need to be repaired
- Created a master list of tires to be replaced, some had tires that should have been replaced 3-5 years ago
  - Couldn't check all trucks, some were off-station at the time

## **Building issues**

- Still looking for a second opinion about the structural problems

## **Engine Update**

- Engine 14-1 has returned to Benton, no other details thus far.

## **Fire District Updates**

- On Sept. 18th, the Monroe County Commissioners approved the resolution to add Bloomington and Van Buren Township Fire Departments to the Monroe Fire District.
- Currently trying to find out where we fit into this plan.

## **Volunteer Contract**

- Would like to add a provision to make it clear that the department is responsible for the day-to-day upkeep of the equipment. At the moment, they seem to rely on NMFT to do a lot of this.
- No response yet from Zach.

## **Next Meeting**

- Our next meeting will be on November 13th.
- We will probably not need to have a meeting in December.

## **Township Assistance Report**

- One application for Medical. Called and left a message explaining our procedure, and they never replied.
- Pam used money which had been donated by various groups to replenish our food pantry.
  - Pam also sent thank you notes to these organizations.
- Food Pantry donations:
  - 24 rolls of toilet paper
  - 8 rolls of paper towels
  - A regular donor brought in Cereal, Tea, Coffee, Soap, Cleaning supplies, Peanut Butter, etc.
- Food pantry was used four times, two of the people had been referred by some of our regulars
- Pam was excited to learn that people do in fact use the resources we provide, particularly that some folks had started using the Area 10 Food Delivery Program.

## **Approval**

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

## Vegetation Complaint Policy

- It has become clear that a better definition of “Residential Area” is required. To that end, “defined in IC 15-16-8-1” has been removed from the third paragraph of the policy, and a new paragraph has been added, stating:
  - “Residential area” shall apply to a parcel of real estate, used or intended to be used for residential purposes. In an area that is not zoned as Residential by the Monroe County Planning Department, the “residential” portion shall only include the curtilage. Overall, township residents must respect the rights of neighbors to enjoy property without reasonable interference (including value and marketability of the neighbor’s property) and protection from a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of neighborhood residents.
- Additionally, the third paragraph has been edited for better readability.

## Approval

- Motion to Approve Amended Vegetation Policy: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## Fire Reports

### NMFT

- NMFT Only: 8
- BTVFD Only: 0
- Both Agencies: 10
- Only one BTVFD on scene: 8
- One run had no data collected

## Approval

- Motion to Approve NMFT Report: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## Maintenance reports

- Issues reported for the last month:
  - Box lights dead
  - Flat tire on Utility 14
  - Brakes out on Utility 14
- In the future, we will have a list of all currently outstanding issues.
- Zach does not appear to be logging the hours that we had hoped he would.

## **BTVFD**

### **August**

- Received Report.

### **September**

- Received Report.

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve BTVFD Reports for August and September: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## **New Business**

### **2020 NMFT Contract**

- No changes from 2019.
- Motion to Approve 2020 NMFT Contract: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

### **2020 BTVFD Contract**

- Some changes have been made from the 2019 contract:
  - Language has been added to clarify expectations regarding the daily upkeep of equipment
  - If a vehicle is going to be taken home by a volunteer, that must now be approved by the Trustee
  - Added a provision in the contract which clarifies the role of the part-time maintenance staff member
  - Contract amount has been changed from \$24,000 to \$16,000 in order to offset the cost of that staff member
  - Clarified that volunteers cannot be paid for the same run by multiple entities
  - Clarified that the fire department, not the Township, is responsible for all state and federal tax requirements
  - Volunteer training money must now be approved by both the fire chief and the Township Trustee

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve 2020 BTVFD Contract: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **Adjournment**

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Meeting adjourned at 7:05.