

Benton Township Board Meeting

January 13th, 2021
7616 E State Road 45, Bloomington, IN, 47468

Attendance

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

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve Minutes from December 9th and January 5th: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Reports

Financial Report

Rainy Day Fund

- YTD Expense: \$83,442.63
- Budget Remaining: \$156,557.37
- Cash Balance: \$157,311.12

Township Fund

- YTD Expense: \$76,586.09
- Budget Remaining: \$6,413.91
- Cash Balance: \$148,876.66

Township Assistance Fund

- YTD Expense: \$13,668.83
- Budget Remaining: \$46,331.17
- Cash Balance: \$96,818.55

Firefighting Fund

- YTD Expense: \$337,271.95
- Budget Remaining: \$36,928.05
- Cash Balance: \$284,969.88

Cumulative Fire Fund

- YTD Expense: \$398,276.85
- Budget Remaining: \$31,723.15
- Cash Balance: \$117,619.16

Recreation Fund

- YTD Expense: \$8,681.91
- Budget Remaining: \$318.09
- Cash Balance: \$7,304.57

Shelter Insurance COVID Fund

This is from money donated by Jenny Burton of Shelter Insurance for COVID-19 relief food boxes.

- YTD Expense: \$489.32
- Cash Balance: \$510.68

Deposits

- Local Income Tax: \$11,440.17
- Trust Indiana: \$52.04
- COVID-related reimbursements: 2,459.88
- Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax: \$972.00
- General Property Tax: 151,639.57
- License Excise Tax: 16,536.42

Approval

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

Trustee's Report

Donation

- We received a donation of \$600 from two residents who just want to help the township. They would like it to go wherever it is needed.

Danny Smith Park

- The new President of Danny Smith Park, Sara Farmer, reached out to say that she is now in a position to catch up on missed reports to us regarding our financial contributions.
- We had offered them a \$25,000 grant to upgrade lighting and install a shed. They spent around \$11,000 of that.
- The park had a very bad year last year, and is having trouble meeting basic needs to get the season started.
- Due to the fire station remodel, we need to watch our spending very closely. The Trustee is comfortable with giving Danny Smith Park the remaining \$14,000 that they didn't spend before. The board generally agrees, provided that they give us the reports we required.

Fire Department

- NMFT will no longer be able to provide personnel tracking for BTVFD responses, as their reporting system has changed due to their merger with the Monroe Fire District.
- NMFT would like to thank Chief Powers for responding on Christmas Eve to a structure fire on Bethel Lane.
- We no longer have access to the Aladtec system, again due to NMFT's merger with the Monroe Fire District.
- Weekly Truck Checks have resumed.
- Phase one of the fire station remodel was going to be completed on Friday, January 29th. However, it has been delayed due to a COVID outbreak among the construction workers.

Other

- The Additional Appropriations module is not available in Gateway until February, so our Additional Appropriations will have to wait until then.
- The Trustee has asked for an update on guidelines for a temporary transfer of funds, but has not received anything yet.

Township Assistance Report

- One call on Christmas Eve from someone who wanted help repairing her water heater. This ended up being a Section 8 issue.
- One request from someone who had applied before, looking for more wood for his wood stove. We were finally able to reach the SCCAP office, and he was granted assistance through them.
- One of our regulars called to thank us for helping her apply for a grant to pay off her mortgage through the Hardest Hit Fund.
- Another person called asking for assistance with getting wood to burn. Pam helped him apply through SCCAP.
- The 4-H holiday baskets were a success, and were distributed to 2 families.

Approval

- Motion to Approve Trustee Report and Township Assistance Report: Stevens
Second: Kelson
Approved Unanimously

Fire Reports

BTVFD Reports

- Chief Powers was unable to log in to the Dispatch system to get an official record of runs, due to the Fire Department's internet connection being disconnected. This report is based solely on BTVFD's run reports.
- Motion to Approve BTVFD Reports for November and December: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

NMFT Report

Monthly Report

- NMFT Only: 10
- BTVFD Only: 1
- Both Units Respond: 4
- Disregarded by Dispatch: 0
- No Data: 0

Approval

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

New Business

Transfer to Rainy Day Fund

- In anticipation of construction expenses, we need to transfer money from the Township Fund to the Rainy Day Fund. The Township Fund will be replenished, as we expect to receive our full Local Income Tax distribution in this fund, rather than split between the Township Fund and the Fire Fund as has happened in the past.
- We can transfer up to 10% of the total annual budget to the Rainy Day Fund, which means that this transfer is for \$68,300.00.

Approval

- Motion to Approve Transfer to Rainy Day: Stevens
Second: Kelson
Approved Unanimously

2021 Investment Policy

Policy Review

- Indiana Code states that we must create an investment policy and review it every year. We have made no changes from last year.

Annual Investment Report

- We have 7 active funds and 1 inactive fund that accrue daily compounding interest.
- Active funds:
 - General Fund
 - Township Assistance Fund
 - Fire Fund
 - Cumulative Fire Fund
 - Recreation Fund
 - Rainy Day Fund
- Inactive Fund:
 - Emergency Fire Loan Fund
- The annual rate of investment for all funds as of December 31, 2020 (year to date yield) is 0.5270%.
- The December 31, 2020, balance of all funds is \$710,244.75.

Approval

- Motion to Approve 2021 Investment Policy: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Affirm Resolution against policy to clear encampments from Seminary Park

- This process started just after our December meeting.
- The Trustee gave her agreement, and got verbal agreement from Board Members Kelson and Husk.
- Board Member Husk is very strongly opposed to the actions taken by the City and Mayor Hamilton in evicting people from Seminary Park, and appreciates the Trustee taking time to reach out.
- Motion to Reaffirm that we stand against the policy to clear encampments in Seminary Park:
Kelson
Second: Kelson
Approved Unanimously

Nepotism Policy

Each year, we are required to sign documents saying that we did not violate the state's Nepotism laws or have any conflicts of interest. We did this at this meeting.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment at this meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.