

# Benton Township Board Meeting

May 19th, 2021  
7616 E State Road 45, Bloomington, IN, 47468

## Attendance

- Joe Husk, Chair
- Hans Kelson, Secretary
- Lynn Stevens, Board Member
- Michelle Bright, Township Trustee
- Matt Bright
- Clint Lazell
- Mary McInerney

**Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM**

## Approval of Minutes

- An error was found in the April minutes. Secretary Kelson will correct it, and an amendment will be made at the next meeting.
- Motion to approve April Minutes as presented: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

# Reports

## Financial Report

### Rainy Day Fund

- YTD Expense: \$58,906.27
- Budget Remaining: \$166,093.73
- Cash Balance: \$166,740.65

### Township Fund

- YTD Expense: \$21,440.32
- Budget Remaining: \$41,559.68
- Cash Balance: \$111,840.37

### Township Assistance Fund

- YTD Expense: \$3,333.74
- Budget Remaining: \$36,666.26
- Cash Balance: \$93,504.75

### Firefighting Fund

- YTD Expense: \$251,892.02
- Budget Remaining: \$303,107.98
- Cash Balance: \$43,990.20

### Cumulative Fire Fund

- YTD Expense: \$110,545.00
- Budget Remaining: \$88,524.00
- Cash Balance: \$2,218.65

### Recreation Fund

- YTD Expense: \$3,724.60
- Budget Remaining: \$1,275.40
- Cash Balance: \$3,582.56

### Shelter Insurance COVID Fund/Donation Fund

This is a combination of anonymous donations and money donated by Jenny Burton of Shelter Insurance for COVID-19 relief food boxes.

- Deposits: \$20.00
- Cash Balance: \$1,130.68

## **Deposits**

- Local Income Tax: \$12,557.41
- Trust Indiana: \$23.96
- Reimbursement from Trustee Bright for late fees: \$136.00
- Refund from Comcast after discontinuing service at the Fire Station: \$81.35
- Fire Station Garage Doors and Openers purchased by the person who installed and maintained them: \$850.00

## **Approval**

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

## **Trustee's Report**

### **Office Opening**

- Trustee Bright and Deputy Trustee Pam Mitchell have decided to reopen the Township office, in light of the County Government offices opening in the week leading up to this meeting. Masks will be requested.

### **Fire Department**

- Trustee Bright has hired Rachel Oser to do research on the Township's parcels of land.
- Trustee Bright has attempted multiple times to get the January, February, and March BTVFD Reports from Charley Powers, and has received no response.

### **Deputy Trustee Changes**

- Deputy Trustee Pam Mitchell will be moving to another job at the end of the year.
- Trustee Bright has hired Mary McInerney to train alongside Pam and take over when Pam leaves.
- We will need to establish a second Deputy Trustee position in order to pay Mary for her services.

### **Senior Center**

- Mike Tarter has informed Trustee Bright that the Senior Center will likely be starting activities soon.

### **Fire Station Remodel**

- Trustee Bright met with Building and Associates earlier on the day of this meeting. The owner was not present.
- Phase One should be mostly wrapped up by the end of next week.
- Phase Two is scheduled to be completed by June 4th.
- The Foreman informed Trustee Bright that he has had to shut down other jobs due to supply difficulties, and the company has stopped bidding on future projects.
- Trustee Bright reiterated that we need to have final sign-off by June 30th for our Plymovent grant.

### **Cemeteries**

- The Mowing contractors visited Stepp cemetery and discovered that some stones have been knocked over.
- Trustee Bright filed a report with the Indiana Conservation Officer in charge of this area. The DNR has seen an uptick in vandalism over the last year, and it seems to be more violent than it was before. He offered to put up trail cameras and increase patrols in the area.

### **Next Meeting**

- Our next meeting is on June 9th.

## Approval

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

## Township Assistance Report

- No requests for assistance this month.

## Approval

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

## Fire Reports

- Deputy Chief Bright at the Fire District pulled two reports for us. We reviewed them during the meeting.
- The average response times in Benton Township were:
  - EMS: 11 minutes, 24 seconds.
  - Fire: 14 minutes, 30 seconds.
    - \* Currently, the fire trucks are still housed in the back building. We expect this figure to decrease once the remodel is finished and trucks are moved back into the main building.
- Due to the Fire District consolidation, it is now possible for many more trucks and personnel to respond to a fire. This is immediately obvious upon looking at what trucks were able to respond to each call.
- Our Brush Truck has been out of service all year with an engine issue. The Fire District is providing the mechanic who is working on it, while we pay for parts.

## Approval

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

## Old Business

### Frye Cemetery Burial Request

- Trustee Bright spoke with Jeannie Regan-Dinius at the Indiana DNR, who confirmed Trustee Bright's position that the cemetery should remain inactive.
- Trustee Bright re-stated the board's position on the matter as recorded in the minutes from the April meeting.
- Due to lack of records, the board affirms the Trustee's decision on the matter.

## **Public Comment**

- Clint Lazell was present at this meeting, and gave public comment. The following is a summary of his words, without commentary:
  - According to state law, townships are allowed to give plots to people to be buried in township cemeteries.
  - There is plenty of space.
  - Other Township Trustees say that it should be fine if there is enough space.
  - The Township could benefit from money raised through the selling of plots in cemeteries.
  - He first visited the cemetery many years ago and found it to be a very serene, secluded, and tranquil place.
  - When the cemetery was turned over to the township, there should have been records turned over with it.
    - \* Trustee Bright responded to this, saying that the cemetery was deeded to the township by the property owners, whose family was never involved with the cemetery.
    - \* Secretary Kelson also responded, saying that in an ideal world, documentation would be kept and passed on by whoever owned the property, but that didn't happen. He noted that the chance of something going wrong with a burial is low, but as long as it exists, he is not comfortable moving forward.
  - Clint disagrees with our decision, but is willing to abide by it. He left the meeting after completing his comments.

## **2021 Township Assistance Guidelines**

- Trustee Bright made a minor grammatical correction, but the document is otherwise unchanged since the last meeting's review.

## **Approval**

- Motion to Approve 2021 Township Assistance Guidelines: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **New Business**

### **Agenda Amendment**

- Motion to Amend Agenda, moving further New Business to after Fire Reports: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

### **July Meeting Rescheduling**

- Motion to Amend the Meeting Schedule to change the date of our July meeting from the 14th to the 21st of July: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Approved Unanimously

## **2021 Township Form 17 Amended**

- This is an amendment to add a second Township Clerk position and a second Township Investigator position for Mary McInerney.
- Each person is allowed 12 hours per week, split between the Township Clerk and Township Investigator positions.

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Township form 17 Amended: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## **Additional Appropriation and Reduction to the Township Assistance Fund**

- This is to fund the second Township Investigator position which we established in the previous resolution.
- This is, in effect, a transfer, but we write it out as an additional appropriation and then a reduction.
- Adds an Additional Appropriation of \$2,000.00 to the Township Assistance Fund, detailed by budget line below:
  - Personal Services: \$2,000.00
- Reduces the appropriated budget of the Township Assistance Fund by \$2,000.00, detailed by budget line below:
  - Direct Assistance: \$2,000.00

## **Additional Appropriation and Reduction to the Township Fund**

- This is to fund the second Township Clerk position which we established in a previous resolution.
- This is, in effect, a transfer, but we write it out as an additional appropriation and then a reduction.
- Adds an Additional Appropriation of \$2,000.00 to the Township Fund, detailed by budget line below:
  - Personal Services: \$1,000.00
- Reduces the appropriated budget of the Township Fund by \$2,000.00, detailed by budget line below:
  - Other Services and Charges: \$2,000.00

### **Approval**

- Motion to Approve Additional Appropriations and Reductions as presented: Stevens  
Second: Kelson  
Approved Unanimously

## **Division of Assets Discussion**

- The board has begun discussing the division of assets with the Fire District.
- The District would like us to transfer the land for the Fire Station buildings as has happened in Bloomington and Indian Creek townships.
- Division of the township's parcels of land is difficult, due to the size of the parcels involved.

## **Public Comment**

- Mary McInerney recommends signing a 100-year lease and leaving the division of land for others to figure out in the future.

## **Adjournment**

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson  
Second: Stevens  
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.