

Benton Township Board Meeting

October 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 6:31 PM

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to Table Approval of September Minutes until end of meeting:
Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously
- Motion to approve September Minutes as presented: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Reports

Financial Report

Rainy Day Fund

- YTD Expense: \$214,358.35
- Budget Remaining: \$10,641.65
- Cash Balance: \$11,297.37

Township Fund

- YTD Expense: \$49,054.67
- Budget Remaining: \$23,945.33
- Cash Balance: \$31,739.00

Township Assistance Fund

- Last month's reported YTD Expense in this fund contained a typo in the report that Trustee Bright was reading in the meeting. This month's figures are corrected.
- YTD Expense: \$5,815.47
- Budget Remaining: \$34,184.53
- Cash Balance: \$96,996.82

Firefighting Fund

- YTD Expense: \$407,876.04
- Budget Remaining: \$167,959.96
- Cash Balance: \$131,553.69

Cumulative Fire Fund

- YTD Expense: \$165,000.00
- Budget Remaining: \$34,069.00
- Cash Balance: \$34,069.22

Recreation Fund

- YTD Expense: \$4,572.92
- Budget Remaining: \$30,427.08
- Cash Balance: \$43,682.55

COVID Donation Fund (Restricted)

The State Board of Accounts has advised that donation funds be separated into restricted (donor-specified purposes) and unrestricted (general) funds.

- Deposits: \$0
- Cash Balance: \$510.68

COVID Reimbursement Fund

- Deposits: \$0
- Cash Balance: \$0

Township Donation Fund (Unrestricted)

- Deposits: \$0
- Cash Balance: \$420.00

Deposits

- Local Income Tax: \$12,557.41
- Trust Indiana: \$9.63

Approval

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

Trustee's Report

2022 Budget

- This is our Budget Adoption meeting, so we will reiterate the information behind our salary changes.
- Per Indiana Law, an elected official cannot approve a salary that is lower than the salary at the beginning of the previous term of office. (January 2015 - December 2018)
- Trustee Bright has reduced the salaries of the Trustee and Board Members to 2015 levels for the 2022 budget.

Division of Assets Discussion

- The eastern and western borders of the Township's parcels are all shifted 50' east from where they should be. Eric Deckard has suggested that, instead of a Type E Administrative Line Shift, we use a Quitclaim Deed or Quiet Title where the sole purpose is to correct the legal description of the property, while leaving the adjacent parcels alone.
- The board reviewed an annotated GIS map of proposed property lines.
- We will have a driveway easement, rather than building a separate driveway for the Township.
- The Township will find a way to continue allowing the Veterans Affairs staff person to park his car on our property, as agreed to at a past meeting.
- Trustee Bright proposes that:
 - The Fire District will provide mowing, weeding service, and snow removal. We will pay for our portion of salt and sand.
 - The Township and the Fire District will split the cost of maintaining the septic system.
 - Trustee Bright would like the Township to retain access to the security cameras installed on the Fire Department building.
 - The Fire District will raise and lower the flag on our flagpole.
 - If the Fire District ever stops using this property to provide fire service, the property will revert to the Township.

Senior Center

- The drainage work discussed at our last meeting should be completed before our October meeting.
- The new Heating/Air Conditioning unit was installed in the Trustee's Office. It works very well.
- The 4-H group which has done various projects with the Township will be meeting in the senior center.

Danny Smith Park

- We have no lighting updates from Danny Smith Park at this time.
- There will be a Halloween event from 2:00 to 5:00 on October 31st.

Fire Department

- The concrete in front of the fire department building will be re-poured to stop water from pooling against the building, and improve accessibility.
- The Fire District will be taking care of snow removal this winter. We do not need to find a contract for snow removal between now and December 31st.
- Trustee Bright has purchased a snowplow for the firefighters to use. It will be delivered sometime in January.
- We will be installing commercial ceiling fans to improve air circulation in the front bay of the fire department.
- ISO should be releasing their updated ratings soon.
- Trustee Bright is working on a letter to send to taxpayers reminding them of the changes coming next year due to the merger with the fire district.
- We are planning a Halloween event at the fire station from 6:00 to 8:00 on October 31st.

Cemeteries

- Stepp Cemetery:
 - “No Trespassing After Dark” and “Security Cameras In Use” signs are now installed at Stepp Cemetery.
 - The Stepp Cemetery sign was not installed on schedule, due to the fact that the old stone was set in wet concrete. This made it more difficult to remove and will add a few hundred dollars to the cost of getting it replaced. Trustee Bright expected this to be completed the week before this meeting, and was surprised to see that it had not been done.

Next Meeting

- Our next meeting is on October 13th.
- At that meeting, we will conduct our Budget Adoption.

Approval

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

Township Assistance Report

- We were contacted regarding the need for help with death benefits. While the person owned a home in Benton Township, their residence had been transferred to the nursing home in Perry Township where they passed away. We helped the sister contact the Perry Township Trustee for assistance.
- We received a telephone contact from a woman worried about her relative living in Bloomington. Everyone in the household had Covid-19 and were too sick to leave home to get food. Pam and Mary researched food resources and delivery services, providing 16 resources. Helping Hands and CivicChamps provide emergency deliveries.
- Received a call from a landlord seeking help with rental assistance for his renter. He was referred to the correct Township for the rental address.

Approval

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

Fire Reports

- Monroe Fire Protection District provided two reports for us for runs in Benton Township or that Station 24 responded to.
- This month, there were 16 runs in Benton Township:
 - EMS: 12
 - Fire: 1
 - Hazardous Condition, no fire: 1
 - Good Intent Calls: 1
 - False Alarm: 1

Approval

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

Old Business

New Business

2022 Budget Adoption

Our budget for 2022 is as follows:

- Township Fund: \$63,000.00
- Recreation Fund: \$5,000.00
- Township Assistance Fund: \$20,000.00

From now on, we will only have a Civil Property Tax Levy. The total amount for 2022 is \$33,547.00, allocated as follows:

- Township General: \$30,547.00
- Recreation: \$3,000.00

Approval

- Motion to Approve 2022 Budget: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Resolution Establishing Salaries of Township Officers and Employees

- Township Trustee: \$15,575.00/yr
- Township Clerk: \$15.91/hr
 - This position is paid \$15.91 per hour, split equally between the Township Fund and the Township Assistance Fund.
- Members of the Township Board: \$944.00/yr
- Deputy Trustee (paid when the Trustee is on vacation): \$50.00/day
 - The Deputy Trustee/Township Clerk can choose to either be paid \$50.00 per day or be paid their hourly rate for work done in the Trustee's absence.

Approval

- Motion to Approve Resolution Establishing Salaries of Township Officers and Employees: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Approved Unanimously

Public Comment

- There was no public comment at this meeting.

Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson
Second: Stevens
Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM.