

Benton Township Board Meeting

April 13th, 2022
7616 E State Road 45, Bloomington, IN, 47468

Attendance

- Joe Husk, Chair
- Hans Kelson, Secretary
- Michelle Bright, Township Trustee
- Mary McInerney
- Sean McInerney
- Sara Farmer
- Ashlie Kehrberg
- Jessica Parry
- Autumn Harff

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to Approve March 9th Minutes: Kelson
Second: Husk
Approved Unanimously

Reports

Financial Report

- The board reviewed Trustee Bright's Financial Report. A summary of that report is attached to this document.

Approval

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

Trustee's Report

- Trustee Bright presented her Trustee's Report.

Township

- There are no general Township updates at this time.

Senior Center

- There are no Senior Center updates at this time.

Danny Smith Park

- As of April 13th, Danny Smith Park had not filled out the State Board of Accounts Entity Report, as required by law and requested by the Township.

Cemeteries

- Trustee Bright will be meeting with descendents of several people buried in Stepp Cemetery to discuss family history and stories.

Fire Department

- One person has reported saving \$322 in insurance this year due to having a fully staffed fire station nearby.
- The Fire District did not have time at their last meeting to sign the agreements with Benton Township. It is on their agenda for April.
- Building Updates:
 - According to the contractor, snow and ice breakers have been installed on the roof. However, at the the of this meeting, Trustee Bright states she has only seen the snow breakers. Trustee Bright will be investigating this.
 - We are still waiting on one package of AED pads.
 - We will be working on a new sign for the front of the building.
- Trustee Bright will be working with the Volunteers to have some kind of community event Saturday, May 7.

Approval

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

Township Assistance Report

- Trustee Bright presented Mary McInerney's Township Assistance Report. A written copy of that report is attached to this document.

Approval

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

Old Business

- There was no Old Business at this meeting.

New Business

May Meeting Cancellation

- Trustee Bright has a conflict on May 11th, and the board was unable to find a workable day to reschedule the May meeting.
- Motion to Cancel the previously scheduled meeting on May 11th: Kelson
Second: Husk
Approved Unanimously

Cash Flow

- The Board reviewed a cash flow prediction spreadsheet prepared by Trustee Bright.
 - It appears that our income and expenses going forward will be nearly the same.
 - We have approximately \$250,000 in a savings account, but if we spend it, we have no predictable way to replenish it.
 - This is an estimate, and we do not yet know how big our LIT distributions will be in the years to come. This can vary quite a bit year to year.
 - We will find out next year's actual LIT figure sometime in August, and the board would like to wait on major financial decisions until we get that amount from the State.

Funding Requests

Danny Smith Park

- Danny Smith Park has requested Township support for a few projects.
 - Fence Repair (\$1,000)
 - Scoreboard Installation (\$1,200)
 - Field Conditioner (\$2,500)
 - Updated Field Lighting (\$10,000)
- The board is considering putting \$2,200 toward Fence Repair and Scoreboard Installation, but is unlikely to consider anything more than that at this time.

Monroe Fire District

- Monroe Fire District has requested Township support for a few projects.
 - Thermal Imaging Camera (\$2,100)
 - * This is used to locate people and animals inside a burning building. We were promised that if we fund this purchase, the camera will stay at our fire station.
 - Safe Haven Baby Box (\$15,000)
 - * This would be installed at the Fire Station, and provides a facility for someone to relinquish a baby who would otherwise be in a bad situation.
 - * The Fire District aims to have one of these installed at every station. Trustee Bright feels that this would be a disproportionate number to have installed in the area, compared to other cities (Spencer, Martinsville) who each have only one.
 - * The Volunteer Organization has already promised to raise \$15,000 to go towards one of these boxes.
 - * The Board would like to see more research on where this service would really be needed before spending this much money on the project.

Public Comment

- To be filled out

Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Kelson
Second: Husk
Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022	2022 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 16,805.00	\$ 16,805.00	\$ 3,195.00	\$ 59,060.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.41
Township Fund	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 2,911.50	\$ 8,905.46	\$ 54,094.54	\$ 158,355.74	\$ -	\$ 11,642.33	\$ 2.70
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 379.49	\$ 811.54	\$ 19,188.46	\$ 95,642.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8.37
Firefighting Fund	\$ 80,794.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 70,232.16	\$ 10,561.84	\$ 10,562.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cumulative Fire Fund	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	\$ 17.93	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.01
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 303.13	\$ 778.54	\$ 4,221.46	\$ 15,989.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1.10
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 510.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COVID Reimbursement Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 194.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FEMA Grant Fund	N/A	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				TOTALS	\$ 340,332.98	\$ -	\$ 11,642.33	\$ 13.59
MARCH 2022								
MARCH 2022	2022 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,850.00	\$ 18,655.00	\$ 1,345.00	\$ 57,213.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.79
Township Fund	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 3,456.98	\$ 12,362.44	\$ 50,637.56	\$ 166,546.41	\$ -	\$ 11,642.33	\$ 5.32
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 683.22	\$ 1,494.76	\$ 18,505.24	\$ 94,975.63	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16.40
Firefighting Fund	\$ 80,794.00	\$ 8,193.26	\$ 78,425.42	\$ 2,368.58	\$ 2,418.81	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Cumulative Fire Fund	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	\$ 17.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.03
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 204.24	\$ 982.78	\$ 4,017.22	\$ 15,787.31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2.18
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 510.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COVID Reimbursement Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 194.33	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FEMA Grant Fund	N/A	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
				TOTALS	\$ 337,664.33	\$ 50.00	\$ 11,642.33	\$ 26.72

Township Assistance Report

March 2022

Benton Township, Monroe County, IN

1. A returning client came in seeking assistance with an electric bill scheduled for disconnection. However, the bill was not in the applicant's name. The client could not prove township residence, had no ID, no income and no bank account. When questioned about other adults living in the household, the client did not want to disclose the information, stating that they alone were asking for the help. The living arrangement was such that instead of rent (no lease) this person was to pay the electric bill.

We were unable to fulfill the Township Guideline documentation requirements and could not help this client.

2. A new client from the same household as above came in for help with the electric bill. The client is a senior citizen with a spouse that passed away earlier in 2022. The client's electric bill, used as the household heating source, went unpaid and was scheduled for disconnection. The Township was able to help and paid \$1,475.00 toward the electric bill. The client expressed earnest gratitude.
3. A person for whom the Township Assistance Clerk helped qualify for the receipt of food stamps, (SNAP benefits) through the Indiana department of FSSA, in 2021 was recertified for the next 12 months.
4. One covid food box and household non-food items were obtained by an anonymous client searching for the 4-H little food pantry. Health issues as a result of Covid-19 left this person with serious health disabilities.

Households (1), Individuals (2), phone contacts (26), utility help (2) \$1475.70 approved, \$1475.70 vouchered

Covid Food Donation box (1) value \$75.00, non-perishable items \$25.00

MM/mbm 4/7/2022

5. We received a complaint about a property with a lot of yard trash. We referred the caller to the Monroe County Solid Waste department.

Submitted, in service, Mary McInerney

Households (1), Individuals (2), phone contacts (26), utility help (2) \$1475.70 approved, \$1475.70 vouchered

Covid Food Donation box (1) value \$75.00, non-perishable items \$25.00

MM/mbm 4/7/2022