

Benton Township Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 14th, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 7616 E State Rd 45, Unionville, IN 47468

Attendance:

Michelle Bright-Trustee

Jake Dodds-Board Member

Joe Husk-Chair

Mary McInerney

Sean McInerney-Board Member

Call to Order at 6:37 p.m.

Sean made a motion to approve the May minutes and Jake Dodds seconded the motion.

The motion was passed.

Reports

Financial Report- See Attachment. Sean McInerney made a motion to approve the report and Jake Dodds seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Trustee Report-The Townships Budget Workshop will be on Monday, July 31st. Monroe County Trustee Get Together will be on Friday July 23rd from 5 to 8 p.m. at Karst Farm Park. Please RSVP if attending.

We received a Special LIT distribution in May (\$4,826.00) as a surplus of funds received by the state in the 2021 year. This was to be deposited to the same funds that our 2021 LIT funds were deposited, which is 100% to the Township General Fund.

The Monroe County Trustee Association has worked with the County Commissioners to extend our COVID grant for reimbursement of specific Township Assistance requests.

We have had two vegetation complaints in May. The first was resolved by the owner. The second one was for a house whose owner passed away in December 2022 and no one seems to be receiving mail at that address. No one took action on our notice of complaint, and the property will have this expense added to their property tax bill.

This Saturday at 10:00 a.m. the Brown County Regional Sewer District (BCRSD) will be having a presentation at Riddle Point at Lake Lemon regarding their upcoming project to bring sewers to residents along the northeast corner of Lake Lemon (Lake Lemon Marina, the trailer court, and the Point Idalawn / Reed Point areas in Monroe County). I was contacted by Sandy Higgins, Jackson Township Trustee in Brown County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

1. State Board of Accounts Advisement – Has not been issued yet.
2. DLGF will hold a webinar Wednesday June 21 to discuss how recent legislation will affect Townships and our process.
3. Michelle met with other Township Trustees at the Indiana Township Association today, 6/14. The new legislation for live streaming will start in 2025. How do we want to do this? Michelle asked the Board what they thought about how to broadcast meetings. Should we record the meeting or do we put the meeting on Facebook live? Do we place a cell phone at the meeting.? The Board took this issue under advisement.

SENIOR CENTER

At the Annual State Board of Accounts meeting, Michelle was reminded that contracts can only be extended up to the end of the term of the Township Trustee and Board. Michelle reached out to Mike Tarter about any changes he would like to make from our original 2013 contract. No response as of this morning.

FIRE DEPT

Mother's Day Chili Supper was held on Saturday, May 13. Although our attendance was low, the folks that came out had a great time. Special thanks to those that volunteered including Michelle and Matthew Bright and Mary and Sean McInerney, and the Fire District for promotion and funding. Michelle and Mary and Sean McInerney are already thinking of how to improve next year such as food trucks, family games, and a "Make your own bouquet" flower truck.

Transfer of property to the District – As of yesterday this has been processed by the Auditor's office and is now waiting to be Recorded. This is just to update the legal description of these parcels. The next step will be transferring them to the District.

Legal fees for our neighbors. The recording fee is 400 dollars. Michelle asked the Board who should pay this fee and Joe said we should pay since we asked for this request from our neighbors, the Youngs and the Stevens.

Stepp Cemetery work was complete. Sean motioned to approve the Trustee Report. Jake Dodds seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Township Assistance Report - The Township Assistance Report was tabled to the July meeting. Sean made a motion to table the Township Assistance Report to the July meeting. Jake seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Old Board Business

2024 Budget (continued) - Michelle proposed to the board that the recreation fund be increased by \$5,000 to \$10,000. After discussion the board concluded that the current system of Danny Smith Park approaching the board with a funding request be followed by board approval or disapproval and if needed an additional appropriation can be made at that time. The Board indicated that they were comfortable with the current funding of \$5,000 for the recreation fund.

New Board Business

Additional Appropriations-The Township Assistance Fund was increased by \$20,000. For an increase in Direct Assistance. Sean made a motion to approve the increase in the direct assistance fund and Jake seconded. The motion passed.

Additional Appropriations-The Township General Fund was increased by \$20,000 For the repairs to headstones at Stepp Cemetery. Sean made a motion to approve the increase for cemetery repairs in the Township General Fund and Jake seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was no public comment.

Mary McInerney was in attendance.

Adjournment

Sean made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jake seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The next meeting will be on July 12th, 2023.