

**Benton Township Board**  
Unionville Senior Center  
7616 East State Road 45 Unionville, IN 47468

**Meeting Minutes for July 9, 2025**

**Attendees:**

Michelle Bright - Benton Township Trustee  
Joe Husk - Board Chair  
Jake Dodds - Board Secretary  
Sean McInerney - Board Member

This meeting was broadcast via zoom. The video had no attendees.

**Meeting called to order at 6:34pm**

**Approval of Minutes**

During the meeting the minutes were mistakenly referred to as the June 6th, 2025 minutes however the meeting was held on Wednesday June 4th, 2025 which was out of cycle for the board's normal schedule.

A motion to approve the meeting notes from June 4th, 2025 was made (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Reports for June 2025. (A summary of these reports is attached to this document.)

Trustee Bright noted that a deposit error of \$17.06 was made and LIT (local income tax) was wrong on the financial report. The trustee corrected this report and sent a new copy to the board (attached to this document)

The board had no questions regarding the Financial Reports. A Motion was made to approve the financial reports (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Trustee's Report**

- The Trustee received a preliminary report from Coonrod & Company CPA regarding the impact SB1 and HB 1461 will have on the township's income and expenses.

Property tax revenue is expected to drop dramatically for 2026 and 2027, with no property tax collected in 2028. Local income tax will also dip in 2026 before rising in 2027 and then double starting in 2028 and likely rising in 2029. The Monroe County Council will control LIT rates. Tax revenue will be distributed to units on a per capita basis or by population rather than assessed valuation or budget numbers.

These figures are based on the maximum amount of LIT that the Monroe County Council could set. Furthermore with the impact of these bills on schools and other services this funding calculation could be revisited next year and figures may change.

- The trustee feels with the financial impact of these bills the future of township government may not be as dire as once anticipated. With this in mind the board needs to prepare capital improvement plan by Sept. 30, 2025
- The trustee has a budget workshop on August 22, 2025.
- The trustee presented a salary comparison of townships in Monroe County for trustees and board members for the board's consideration.
- In April 2024, the Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a rule adopting a new technical standard for government websites and mobile applications under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As government services increasingly move online, this rule provides uniform web standards to increase accessibility to online government services for all.

The rule requires state and local government websites and mobile applications to comply with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA standards. Public entities with a population of 50,000 or more must ensure their websites and application content meets these standards by April 26, 2026.

Public entities with populations under 50,000 and special purpose districts must comply by April 26, 2027. Public entities that contract with third parties to provide public services must ensure their contractors also meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards by these dates.

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday August 13th, 2025 at the Unionville Senior Center located at 7616 East State Road 45 Unionville, IN 47468 at 6:30pm EST. This meeting will also be available to watch via Zoom.

The board had no questions regarding the Trustees' Report. A motion was made to approve the Trustees' report (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Township Assistance Report**

The board received copies of and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Township Assistance Report for June 2025. (A summary of these reports is attached to this document.)

The board had no questions regarding the Township Assistance Reports. A motion was made to approve the Township Assistance reports (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Old Board Business**

- **2025 Community Grant - Danny Smith Park**
  - The trustee has reached out multiple times to park leadership, but has received no response for information the board had requested regarding projects.
- **2025 Travel Policy**
  - The Trustee presented a draft of the 2025 travel policy using changes and comments the board had previously submitted. Chair Husk had some concerns about the clarity of wording and wanted more time to submit revisions. A motion was made to table the 2025 Travel Policy (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - The 2025 travel policy was tabled and will be presented at the August 2025 meeting.
- **2025 Internal Control Policies**
  - The Trustee presented a draft of the 2025 internal control policies. The Trustee presented workflows for each procedure.
  - A motion was made to table the 2025 Travel Policy (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as

follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

- **2025 Capital Improvement Plan**

- Indiana Township Associations policy states that 30% of unrestricted fund balances that exceed the previous year's budget must be transferred annually to a new township roads and infrastructure fund.
- There is still some uncertainty which funds are affected.
- Secretary Dodds asked whether the board's allocations would be subject to approval or denial by the state. Trustee Bright said in the past the planned allocations just needed to be submitted. The trustee felt it best that we have some level of contract with any recipients of township funds.
- Chair Husk asked who was responsible for establishing the township roads fund. Trustee Bright stated the board would be responsible for this.
- The board feels it has a general understanding of how to set up the capital improvement plan, but wanted to allow more time for Danny Smith Park to respond to our request for information.

### **New Board Business**

- **2025 Budget Introduction**

- The Trustee presented figures for the township budget as they stand half way through the fiscal year as we begin to look at next year's budget proposal.
- The comparison of townships salaries was discussed in further detail.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yea, McInerney - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 2025	2025 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	88,051.23	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 270.74
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	3,196.20	\$ 25,013.36	\$ 29,986.64	301,262.34	\$ 17.06	\$ 7,351.50	\$ 1,053.61
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	2.93	\$ 6,248.63	\$ 18,751.37	97,645.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 281.74
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	219.90	\$ 2,219.43	\$ 2,780.57	10,039.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.00
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 114.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 500,942.65	\$ 17.06	\$ 7,351.50	\$ 1,626.09

JUNE 2025	2025 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana	Property Tax	License Excise Tax	Comm Veh Excise Tax
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	88,316.55	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 265.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 4,392.78	\$ 29,406.14	\$ 25,593.86	\$ 303,048.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,032.40	\$ 4,745.69	\$ 177.79	\$ 223.25
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 1,630.63	\$ 7,879.26	\$ 17,120.74	\$ 112,001.92	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276.06	\$ 14,486.83	\$ 542.71	\$ 681.50
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 560.10	\$ 2,779.53	\$ 2,220.47	\$ 12,479.05	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19.60	\$ 2,747.50	\$ 102.93	\$ 129.25
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 114.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
TOTALS					\$ 519,789.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,593.38	\$ 21,980.02	\$ 823.43	\$ 1,034.00

2025 Additional Appropriations

If Brock Cemetery work is done this year this will need to be done

2025 Transfer to Rainy Day (10% of Jan 1 budget)

None to date

## **June 2025 Township Assistance Report**

06/03/2025 - Call from a Benton Township Resident needing their furnace installed in their house. A prior company did part of the work but did not finish it. I informed the resident that Township Assistance is usually for things like paying an electric bill or rent, and informed him of the Rural Repair Housing program that is now administered by the Monroe County Community Foundation. (TH, #18)

Note: I followed up with him July 2 and he is in the process of getting a second quote.

06/04/2025 - Received referrals from FindHelp.com for assistance. I followed up with both email and left a message on the phone (DF, #19) No further response.

06/06/2025 - A previous applicant wanted to apply for rent assistance (MM, #20). Deputy Trustee Husk met with the applicant

06/11/2025 - A previous applicant asked if he could attend TeleHealth appointments at the Township Trustee's office. We declined this request as we do not have the staff capacity or felt equipped to address HIPAA etc. (ZK, #12)

06/11/2025 - A previous requestor contacted us again after their attempts to contact the Bloomington Township Trustee were unsuccessful. Deputy Trustee Husk assisted this person in finding updating contact information (YW, #17)

06/11/2025 - A new request was made via FindHelp. An email about our programs was sent (CB, #21)

06/11/2025 - A call was received from Jackson Township Trustee (Brown County) regarding advice on if Township Trustees can assist with property damage after storms.

06/19/2025 - A new requestor called asking for assistance (#22, ?G). Was referred to Bloomington Township.

06/20/2025 - A previous applicant called asking for legal help resources relating to preventing an eviction (CR, #23). Various legal resources was provided via email as discussed.

06/30/2025 - Received a continuing application for someone on medical disability. (#8, #16, KF). Met July 1 for the interview.

06/30/2025 - Received a phone call from a previous applicant. (#10, JT). Returned call at least 5 times on separate times and throughout the day – I was able to leave a message each time but no return call.