

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

Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2025

Attendees:

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

This meeting was broadcast via Youtube Livestream.

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting notes from August 13th, 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 August 2025. (A summary of these reports is attached to this document.)

There was an error with the township assistance number on the initial report. This was corrected at the meeting and a new sheet was provided and attached to this report.

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 board's meeting was held via a Youtube live stream, a service that is free and will work with the townships future website for required archiving purposes.
- The trustee was contacted about a vegetation complaint in Danny Smith subdivision. The trustee referred the caller to Monroe County planning for vehicles on the property and Monroe solid waste department for the rubbish. The homeowner resolved the remaining vegetation complaints on his own.

- The Benton Township trustee and board were invited to a townhall meeting on Tuesday Oct 21, 2025 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington regarding how Monroe County plans to respond to lowering budgets
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 8th, 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

Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Township Assistance Report for August 2025.

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.

New Board Business

- **Roads and other Infrastructure fund establishment**

The township set up a new fund for Roads and other Infrastructure funds per Indiana code 36-6-10 which directs townships to create a fund for the improvement and maintenance for roads and other infrastructure in a township and describes the funds and the purposes they must be expended.

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.

- **2025 Capital Improvement Plan**

A brief overview of the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan was presented by Trustee Bright. Projects have been discussed at length over the last several meetings on the Capital Improvement Plan and what that will look like. The Capital Improvement plan is a 3 year plan. Any funds not spent by the end of the year require a contract and MOU in place by September 30th, 2025. Highlights of these discussions included...

- Projects that could be funded including; Senior Center Improvements , Cemetery work, Fire District Funding, A township storage shed and Danny Smith Park improvements.

The board had no further questions regarding the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan.

A motion was made to approve the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (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.

- **Rainy Day Fund Appropriation**

An additional appropriation of \$88,500.00 was made to cover the Danny Smith Park Community grant and the funding of emergency medical services equipment for the Monroe Fire District.

A motion was made to approve the additional appropriation of \$88,500.00 to the Rainy Day Fund. (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 Fund Additional Appropriation**

An additional appropriation of \$190,000.00 was made to cover the emergency medical services equipment for the Monroe Fire District.

A motion was made to approve the additional appropriation of \$190,000.00 to the Township General Fund. (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 Danny Smith Park Community Grant**

A grant for Danny Smith Park was presented to the board. Goals of this grant include, but are not limited to.

- Field Lighting Replacement \$7,000
- Field 2 leveling \$4,000
- Regrade road and parking area east of Field 1 \$3,500
- Replace pole and repair lighting on Field 2 \$4,000

- Install lighting in the batting cage area of the park. \$8,400
- Install concession stand HVAC \$5,000

The board has intentionally left some vagueness to the numbers to allow for unplanned cost or overages.

A motion was made to approve the Danny Smith Park Community Grant. (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 MOU Funding for EMS Equipment**

A MOU was presented for the funding of EMS equipment for the Monroe Fire District. This MOU will provide funding for (4) Mechanical CPR devices and (3) Cardiac Monitors.

A motion was made to approve the Monroe Fire District MOU. (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.

- **2026 Budget Public Hearing**

- Trustee Bright presented a review of the 2026 Benton Township Budget and gave a line by line review of proposed budgets.
 - A brief conversation on salaries for both the trustee and board members was continued from the previous meeting. The trustee had previously provided a comparison to other township salaries.
 - Benton Township Salaries have stayed flat since 2021 and were reduced to the allowable minimum at that time.

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. McInerney - Yea, Dodds - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	88,592.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 276.24
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	2,474.67	\$ 31,880.81	\$ 23,119.19	303,140.34	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,075.07
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	1,647.69	\$ 9,526.95	\$ 15,473.05	110,641.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 287.47
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	164.91	\$ 2,944.44	\$ 2,055.56	12,334.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.45
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	\$ 518,653.18	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,659.23

AUGUST 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 88,871.37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 278.58
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 2,598.67	\$ 34,479.48	\$ 20,520.52	\$ 303,116.93	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,084.01
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 9,526.95	\$ 15,473.05	\$ 110,931.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 289.87
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 101.14	\$ 3,045.58	\$ 1,954.42	\$ 12,254.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.57
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	\$ 519,117.65	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,673.03

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