

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

Meeting Minutes for August 13, 2025

Attendees:

Michelle Bright - Benton Township Trustee
Joe Husk - Board Chair
Jake Dodds - Board Secretary
Sean McInerney - Board Member
David Killion - Danny Smith Park President

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting notes from July 9th, 2025 was made (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 approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Reports for July 2025. (A summary of these reports is 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. McInerney - Yea, Dodds - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee's Report

- The trustee received guidance about guidelines and maintaining of the Townships websites. Local government agencies qualify for a free website.
- The budget workshop for the 2026 budget will be on August 22, 2025.
- The Department of Local Government and Finance released its capital improvement template. The trustee noted it interesting that most townships were taking the approach of spending down existing reserves this year via additional appropriations.

- The trustee spoke to Monroe County highway director Lisa Ridge about examples of potential road projects inside of Benton Township. Director Ridge provided several project options.
- The trustee spoke shortly about the purpose of the township's recreation fund. Stating that its purpose is for the funding of a community center or recreational land area.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday September 10th, 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. McInerney - Yea, Dodds - 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 July 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. McInerney - Yea, Dodds - Yea, Husk - Yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

Old Board Business

- **2025 Benton Township Travel Policy**
 - Wording for the lodging and Per Diem paragraphs was updated per previous comments and review. The board agreed to add a references section to state statutes for context.

A motion was made to approve the 2025 Travel Policy (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.

- **2025 Community Grant - Danny Smith Park**
 - Danny Smith Park President David Killion presented updates from Danny Smith Park and a lengthy conversation was held regarding Danny Smith Park and ways the township might be able to help with future projects. As

stated before the board's general interest is in helping to fund projects that are beneficial to the community in whole and not strictly baseball operations. The board heard a presentation for President Killion regarding the park's needs and "wish list" and the board offered up several ideas of their own. President Killion stated the Danny Smith Park boards focus is primarily baseball operations or being a baseball park and while the park is open to the community year around the park board has concerns about the ability to provide or staff for a more community driven park.

- Park lighting updates for fields 1 and 3 have been completed. President Killion noted while finished the project hasn't been paid for yet and that if the Township was willing to contribute for lighting updates as previously stated the funds dedicated on this project could be used elsewhere.
 - Electrical improvements to the concession stand have been completed via an outside donation.
 - Danny Smith Park "wants" include security cameras, regrading of fields, replacing broken lighting on field 2, Adding lights to the batting cage, Installing HVAC to the concession stand.
 - The board is in general agreement in funding projects that help the park and the community in whole that are generally one time projects that can't be funded by other outside means.
 - The board was in agreement when it came to allocations for Field Lighting on fields 1 and 3, Road and field regrading, Replacing and fixing field lighting on field 2, Adding lighting for the area around the batting cages, Installation of an HVAC system for the concessions and bathrooms.
- **2025 Capital Improvement Plan**
 - The trustee provided a cash flow estimate for the board and discussed projections going forward through 2029. It is worth noting a number of factors are unclear about the impact they may have on township funding going forward.
 - A lengthy discussion was held on the Capital Improvement Plan and what that will look like. The Capital Improvement plan is a 3 year plan. Trustee Bright noted anything outside of the township fund in general any money not spent by the end of the year would require a contract and MOU in place by September 30th, 2025. Highlights of the discussion included...
 - Projects that could be funded including; Senior Center Improvements , Cemetery work, Fire District Funding, A township storage shed and Danny Smith Park improvements.

- Dissolving the recreation fund and moving these expenses back into the township fund.
 - The rainy day fund will be spent down and likely be non-existent under the new SB1 framework.
 - Deputy Chief Matthew Bright for the Monroe County Fire District provided an update from our past discussion stating the fire district felt CPR devices and cardiac monitors would be a better use of any township funds than the purchase of an additional ambulance as they would be more easily deployed to cover a greater area and likely have a greater impact on the district's response and patient outcomes.
 - The estimated cost would be for (4) Mechanical CPR devices per unit \$24,746 (total of \$98,984) and (3) Cardiac Monitors at \$45,803.53 per unit (total of \$137,410.74) for grand total of \$236,394.74. These prices are based on an August 2025 quote.
 - Secretary Dodds asked what the lifespan of these devices might be.
- **2026 Budget Discussion**
 - Trustee Bright provided a salary comparison spreadsheet for the board to review salaries of the board and trustee. Benton Township has not raised salaries for a number of years.
 - The trustee asked the board for their opinion on the reallocation of the salary that was designated for the deputy trustee position which is no longer filled part time.
 - Chair Husk noted he feels keeping the board member pay equal for each member is ideal as the duties are spread out and that those duties are often accepted by choice and could always change.

New Board Business

There was no New Board Business for this meeting.

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 9:02pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

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

July 2025 Township Assistance Report

07/02/2025 - Received a call from someone requesting cremation assistance for a spouse. This request was granted (DL, #26)

07/08/2025 - Someone called asking about local rental properties in Benton Township. As this is outside the scope of the Township, this caller was referred to online resources such as Zillow (LH, #27)

07/22/2025 - A Centerstone social worker called asking about specific details on bridging the gap for services for an ongoing client. Needs such as food and utilities were detailed. (ZK) Ongoing conversations and updates with multiple agencies continue to evolve.

07/25/2025 - The person from 07/08/2025 called again and asked for information. I returned the call to the number she gave me and that family member would prefer not to be involved. They gave me the individual's phone number and I tried to contact them multiple times and there was no answer and no ability to leave a voice mail (LH, #28)

07/28/2025 - Received a request for more information from FindHelp. Emails to both addresses were sent with more information. (KG, #29)

07/30/2025 - Updated settings and program description in FindHelp to be specific to Benton Township residents. When doing so found 4 additional requests for help that I don't recall getting (FindHelp has our contact information so folks could have contacted me) (MB, BP, SC, CS, #30-#33).

07/31/2025 - Someone called (J?, #34) and left a message that they needed "help." I referred them to Van Buren township where they live.