

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

**Meeting Minutes for May 14, 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  
Daniel Killion - David's son  
Ashley Kehrberg - Danny Smith Park Board Member

**Special Note**

Board member McInerney had a previous obligation and needed to leave before the meeting was adjourned.

**Meeting called to order at 6:35pm**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the meeting notes from April 9th, 2025 was made (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). Motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business**

David Killion and Ashlie Kehrberg from Danny Smith Park gave a presentation of the ballpark's current status and on future projects the park needs or desires in the coming years. Mr. Killion stated the park has over 240 participants for the 2025 season in baseball and softball and all requested scholarships were granted for players.

Some of the improvements the park hopes to make in coming years include.

- Park safety projects - lighting, security cameras
- Replace field lighting - updating fields 1 and 3 to LED lighting.
- Concession building electrical work and improvements.
- Continuing accessibility projects

The board discussed our past involvement with projects at Danny Smith Park and the board's views on what we might consider funding in the future. Mr. Killion and Mrs. Kehrberg answered questions the board had about operations and potential projects.

## **Financial Report**

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Reports for April 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 (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Trustee's Report**

The Trustee's Report for April 2025 was read aloud by Trustee Bright. A brief summary is listed below.

## **TOWNSHIP**

- Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1461 were both signed by the Governor. The Indiana Township Association (ITA) has concerns over funding cuts to township operations and limited access to surplus funds.
  - The (ITA) is concerned these bills could lead to the decline of township government. Signed bills and legal analysis is being awaited.
  - The (ITA) has recommended townships begin discussions of merger or dissolution before future mandates may be passed down.
  - Trustee Bright has considered creating a workgroup potentially consisting of a board member, the trustee and residents to consider potential future options.
  - Monroe County officials are awaiting further information before consulting with local leaders.
  - The board needs to develop a capital improvement plan not later than September 30, 2025. The trustee discussed with board options we might have for funding projects needed or desired in the township; using our surplus budget that would otherwise be subject to forfeit to the County Highway Dept. for road projects in the township.

## **SENIOR CENTER**

- No current updates regarding the Senior Center.

## **DANNY SMITH PARK**

- No current updates regarding Danny Smith Park.

## **CEMETERIES**

- Trustee Bright received a call regarding a missing cemetery sign in Morgan Monroe State forest. The Trustee Bright does not recall this sign existing and a forest official also did not believe this was a recent issue.

- Trustee Bright received the binder for the history and restoration of Brock Cemetery from Stone Hugger Restoration.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Trustee Bright noted that on May 24, 2025 Washington Township would be hosting an open house for the new fire station.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- The next meeting will be held out of cycle on Wednesday June 4th, 2025 at the Unionville Senior Center located at 7616 East State Road 45 Unionville, IN 47468 at 6:30pm EST.

The board had no questions regarding the Trustees' Report. A motion was made to approve the Trustees' report (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). 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 April 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 (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

- **2025 Policy Approvals**
  - The board had previously discussed the 2025 policies of the township and had reviewed the changes made. A motion (Dodds) was made to approve in mass the following policies.
    - 2025 Electronic Meeting Policy
    - 2025 Vegetation Policy
    - 2025 Credit Card Policy
    - 2025 Nepotism in Contracting Policy
    - 2025 Nepotism in Employment Policy

The motion was seconded (Husk). The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Additional New Business**

- **Transfer of Appropriations - Township General**
  - An appropriation is needed to cover the expense of Brock Cemetery that had been budgeted in 2024, but completed in 2025. This will hopefully prevent a later budget approbation.
  
- **Transfer of Appropriations - Welfare Administration**

There was some confusion on the wording of the appropriations so a motion was made to table the Transfer of Appropriations for Township General and Welfare Administration to the June 4, 2025 meeting (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). The motion was passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>MARCH 2025</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>Month to date Expense</b>	<b>Year to date Expense</b>	<b>Remaining Approved Budget</b>	<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Local Income Tax</b>	<b>Trust Indiana</b>
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	87,516.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 272.76
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	13,356.03	\$ 18,088.78	\$ 36,911.22	297,236.67	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,097.88
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	1,128.21	\$ 3,151.81	\$ 21,848.19	100,185.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 283.83
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	773.00	\$ 1,952.83	\$ 3,047.17	10,266.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.18
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$ 499,149.07</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,491.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,674.65</b>

<b>FEBRUARY 2025</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>Month to date Expense</b>	<b>Year to date Expense</b>	<b>Remaining Approved Budget</b>	<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Local Income Tax</b>	<b>Trust Indiana</b>
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	87,780.49	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 264.30
Township Fund	\$ 55,000.00	3,728.38	\$ 21,817.16	\$ 33,182.84	296,036.37	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,036.83
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	3,093.89	\$ 6,245.70	\$ 18,754.30	97,366.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 275.03
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	46.70	\$ 1,999.53	\$ 3,000.47	10,239.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19.52
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$ 495,367.03</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,491.25</b>	<b>\$ 1,595.68</b>

**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

## **April 2025 Township Assistance Report**

04/8/2024 - I was contacted by Monroe County Solid Waste on behalf of a township resident who inquired if we are able assist with a dumpster rental. I informed the MCSW employee that the resident was welcome to apply for assistance so we can get more information about their situation. (ZK, #12).

*04/30/2025 Update - An application for assistance was received via the Centerstone Mobile Outreach Social Worker but no supplemental materials were submitted. The applicant does not have a cell phone and there is a fourth party who has volunteered to be point of contact. As of 05/07/2025 I have not been able to reach this applicant for next steps moving forward.*

04/9/2025 – I met with an ongoing application to apply for assistance (a third time). Assistance was granted and further referrals were made.

04/15/2025 - I was contacted from someone near Fowler, Indiana in Benton County about applying for assistance. When I looked up her township contact information she said that the number was disconnected. I looked up this unit's annual report in Gateway and gave her the listed number to contact her Township Trustee (MF, #13).

04/15/2025 – I helped to facilitate the delivery of a weather radio and a small cooler with ice pack between Monroe County Emergency Management Agency and a local resident.

04/21/2025 – I received a phone call asking for utility assistance as their electric has been disconnected. Referred caller to Van Buren Township where they live. (unk, #14)