

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

Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2024

Attendees:

Michelle Bright - Benton Township Trustee

Joe Husk - Board Chair

Jake Dodds - Board Secretary

Sean McInerney - Board Member

This meeting had no public attendance.

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting notes from September 11th, 2024 was made (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). Motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Reports for September 2024. (A summary of this report is attached to this document.)

The board had no further questions regarding the Financial Report. A Motion was made to approve the financial report (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee's Report

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

TOWNSHIP

- No updates on the resident who had applied for the Monroe County Rural Housing Repair Project
- No one has contact the township regarding the septic replacement opportunity
- Trustee Bright and Mary both attend the Indiana Township Association conference. Mary attended the full conference and Trustee Bright attended the educational seminar day. The trustee attended sessions on case management, internal controls, maintaining a food pantry, and state board of accounts FAQ session.

- The Trustee noted her main takeaway is the need to update our township policies yearly

SENIOR CENTER

- No current updates regarding the Senior Center

DANNY SMITH PARK

- No current updates regarding Danny Smith Park

CEMETERIES

- Stone Hugger cemetery restoration reached out regarding help accessing one of our cemeteries, due to the time of the call we were unable to assist.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Bean Blossom Township did not meet the required threshold of landowners needed to join the fire district.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Trustee Bright has been researching the availability of a Smokey the Bear costume for the halloween trick or treat event.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday November 13th, 2024 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 (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). The motion was passed unanimously.

Township Assistance Report

The board received copies of and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Township Assistance Reports for September 2024. (A summary of this report is attached to this document.)

- Board Member McInerney inquired as to if anyone had been helped via the Rural Repairs Assistance Program. Trustee Bright stated the fund had been used successfully. The original fund was used in its entirety and the grant was extended. Going forward the community foundation will administer the funds.

The board had no further questions regarding the Township Assistance Reports. A motion was made to approve the Township Assistance reports (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). The motion was passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- 2025 Budget; signing of budget form 4 and township Form 17
 - A motion was made to approve the 2025 Benton Township Budget (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). The motion was passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made to approve township form 17 (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). The motion was passed unanimously.
- The trustee spoke with Baker Tilly, regarding information on increasing our property tax revenue cap in the future. This is something we could focus on before the 2026 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at 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). The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:57pm

FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2024	2024 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	85,523.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 327.93
Township Fund	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 3,208.38	\$ 27,128.20	\$ 52,871.80	313,823.12	\$ 873.00	\$ 2,116.25	\$ 1,320.05
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 193.39	\$ 1,860.64	\$ 28,139.36	95,428.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 341.25
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 111.00	\$ 1,869.79	\$ 3,130.21	10,617.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.23
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 81.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 509,303.67	\$ 873.00	\$ 2,116.25	\$ 2,013.46

SEPTEMBER 2024	2024 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income Tax	Trust Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	85,834.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 310.52
Township Fund	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 3,997.21	\$ 31,125.91	\$ 48,874.09	313,191.51	\$ -	\$ 2,116.25	\$ 1,249.85
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 429.96	\$ 2,290.60	\$ 27,709.40	95,321.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323.10
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 457.34	\$ 2,327.13	\$ 2,672.87	10,182.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22.97
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 81.83	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 508,441.35	\$ -	\$ 2,116.25	\$ 1,906.44

2024 Additional Appropriations

None yet

2024 Transfer to Rainy Day (15% of Jan 1 budget)

\$17,250.00 done 2/14/2024

Township Assistance Report - September 2024

Benton Township, Monroe County, IN

- 1) An ongoing application to the Rural Housing Repair program was denied because the repairs cost more than \$20,000. The second set of quotes did not differentiate between the grant program obligations and the homeowner obligations. The homeowner is seeking a third set of quotes limiting the project to under \$20,000 with the project able to come to completion within the allotted budget. (JK-108.01.2024.1)
- 2) A client sought rental assistance while seeking self-employment as a contractor. We were able to pay 1.5 months past rent. (KL-109-03-2024.2)
- 3) A resident submitted an online application but provided no follow-up documentation. (MS-108.28.2024.1)
- 4) An application was requested in person but not returned by a resident who lost their job after 15 years. (J-109.05.2024.2)
- 5) A request for help was received by a resident of Richland Township. Correct contact information was given. (KB-109.16.2024.1)
- 6) An ongoing client came into the office seeking help operating their cell phone. (LH-109.03.2024.1)
- 7) A request for help with an electric bill was left in a voice mail message. The call was returned with application instructions. (109.05.2024.1)
- 8) Mary and Michelle attended the Indiana Township Association Educational Conference September 15-18,2024. The theme included leaving a community legacy. Topics included food pantries and cyber security.