

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

Meeting Minutes for January 14, 2026

Attendees:

Michelle Bright - Benton Township Trustee

Joe Husk - Board Chair

Jake Dodds - Board Secretary

This meeting was broadcast live on the Benton Township Youtube page.

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the meeting notes from December 10th, 2025 and the January 5, 2026 organizational meeting was made (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Reports for December 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). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee's Report

Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Trustee's Report for December of 2025.

- Monroe County received its 2026 Budget order. Benton Township once again has one of the lowest tax rates in the county (1.5038) and the lowest of any Monroe County Township with a staffed fire station.
- Trustee Bright contacted Eric Deckard for consultation regarding the previously discussed N. Tunnel Road property. Trustee Bright has contacted John Bethel

Title Company who will be doing research for this in between higher priority projects. The cost will be \$110 an hour with an agreement of no more than 10 hours to start. It is estimated this work may be done by the end of January. Trustee Bright followed up with MCCSC regarding their own research updates but had not heard back at the time of the meeting.

- Trustee Bright learned a portion of the December 2025 CVET distribution should have gone to the Benton Township Fire Levy which is no longer active. The overall amount will not change, but funds that were directed to assistance and recreation funds will go straight into the township general fund.
- Trustee Bright reviewed HB 1315 and SB 270 with the board. These bills are currently being discussed in the Indiana State Legislature. Both bills contemplate the future of township government. Both bills are still being discussed and nothing is yet final. It is believed that further or final information will be available near the end of the February.
- The next meeting will be Wednesday February 11, 2026 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). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

Township Assistance Report

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Township Assistance Report for December of 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). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Board Business

There was no old board business at this meeting.

New Board Business

- **2026 Benton Township Investment Policy**

The Benton Township Board of Monroe County, Indiana, is authorized to create an investment policy and review the policy each year

A motion was made to approve the 2026 Benton Township Investment Policy (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **2026 Resolution on Void Checks and Warrants**

All warrants or checks drawn upon township funds that are outstanding and unpaid for a period of two (2) or more years as of the last day of December of each year are void.

A motion was made to approve the 2026 Benton Township Investment Policy (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting (Dodds) and seconded (Husk). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Aye, Husk - Aye. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025	2025 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income	Trust
							Tax	Indiana
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 88,500.00	\$ -	\$ 46,394.74	\$ 42,105.26	43,062.52	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 97.79
Township Fund	\$ 245,000.00	3,937.29	235,461.33	9,538.67	109,695.03	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 350.05
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	9,526.95	15,473.05	111,745.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 257.93
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	247.1	4,299.29	700.71	11,058.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18.33
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 279,390.31	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 724.10

DECEMBER 2025	2025 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income	Trust	Property Tax	CVET	License Excise
							Tax	Indiana			
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 88,500.00	\$ -	\$ 46,394.74	\$ 42,105.26	43,160.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 220.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Fund	\$ 245,000.00	9,399.05	244,860.38	139.62	105,801.95	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 848.33	\$ 3,245.60	\$ 223.25	\$ 196.81
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 6.36	9,533.31	15,466.69	123,186.34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 278.04	\$ 9,907.62	\$ 681.50	\$ 600.80
Recreation Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	4,299.29	700.71	13,198.76	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19.81	\$ 1,879.03	\$ 129.25	\$ 113.95
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
TOTALS					\$ 289,176.01	\$ -	\$ 1,491.25	\$ 1,367.09	\$ 15,032.25	\$ 1,034.00	\$ 911.56

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

December 2025 Township Assistance Report

12/17/2025 - Received a FindHelp request for "everything." They are currently unhoused, but last lived in Perry Township. I explained that unless they were planning on living in Benton Township that they needed to call Perry instead (PE, #44).

12/23/2025 - Received a voicemail from a Washington Township resident asking for help. They were referred to the appropriate trustee (MN, #45)

12/30/2025 - Received a call in office regarding help with the water bill. They were on the Township line, and were referred to Bloomington Township (LG, #46)

12/31/2025 - Received a voice mail asking for help with "a bill." A voicemail was left for the person on the three ways to apply (online, paper, mail) (ML, #47)