

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

**Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2026**

**Attendees:**

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

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:32pm**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 11th, 2026 Benton Township Board meeting was made (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, Husk - Yes, McInerney - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Report for March 2026. (A summary of these reports is attached to this document.)

The board had no questions regarding the Financial Report. A Motion was made to approve the financial report (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, Husk - Yes, McInerney - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Trustee's Report**

Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Trustee's Report for March of 2026.

- The state provided township website has been released in test form, however Trustee Bright is currently unable to login. The person responsible for servicing the website is currently on PTO.

- A package was found at a township cemetery and is currently being held for the trustee to pick up. The package contained some money and large black crystals. The trustee plans to contact former colleagues in the department of folklore and ethnomusicology to see how best to handle said gift.
- The 2026 mowing contract has been awarded to Otter Bend LLC. This will be the 4th season working with Otter Bend.
- Work is to be done on the senior center building after water damaged the building from the snow storm in February. Work was scheduled to begin, but has been rescheduled for illness.
- Trustee Bright has received invoices from Danny Smith Park for projects previously approved by the board. However due to the timing of the receipts the Trustee was unable to prepare the additional appropriations paperwork for this meeting. The park also noted that it came in under budget on the lighting project thanks to a contractor donation and used these funds to help better insulate the concession stand. The park is asking that this expense would still be covered. The board agreed to issue payment now with an additional appropriation to be brought at the next meeting.
- The monitors for the Monroe County Fire District should arrive any day now. They will be distributed to stations and hope to be in service by the end of the month. The district has offered to demo the machines at the next township meeting.
- Trustee Bright met with the President of the Unionville Senior Center, Mike Tarter and treasurer Delouris to discuss possible improvements to the building as allocated in our capital improvements plan. It was agreed the first priority was to
  1. Upgrade toilets and faucets in restrooms for a better experience.
  2. Replace an aging refrigerator.
  3. Quote to replace old carpet in the senior center.

Depending on these cost potential phase two projects would include, changing out the lighting, repainting the walls and trim, gutter repair on the front of the building and to fix uneven concrete.

- On March 31 Monroe County Trustees Association appeared before the Monroe County Council's long-term finance committee to ask that Monroe County Townships would receive their current funding levels with a slight increase to cover rising costs.

- For the Property on North Tunnel Road Trustee Bright received the 100 year report from the John Bethel Title company showing the property is owned by the township. The trustee has contacted an appraiser to get a fair market value for the property and the interested party has been notified of these updates.
- The next meeting will be Wednesday May 13, 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' and Township Assistance reports (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, Husk - Yes, McInerney - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### **Township Assistance Report**

The board received copies of and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Township Assistance Report for March 2026. (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. Dodds - Yes, Husk - Yes, McInerney - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### **Old Board Business**

- **Township Consolidation Discussion**

The Trustee noted that if the Monroe County Council does not grant any local income tax to the townships this would account for 28% of the townships revenue.

The trustee encouraged the board to be thinking about pros and cons for township consolidation.

### **New Board Business**

- **2026 Township Assistance Guidelines**

- The Township Assistance Guidelines were reviewed and minor changes discussed. Trustee Bright will prepare a final version for the next meeting in May.

**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. Dodds - Yes, Husk - Yes, McInerney - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2026	2026 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income	Trust
							Tax	Indiana
Township Roads and Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	43,340.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85.47
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	3,268.03	6,545.92	\$ 108,454.08	104,160.13	\$ -	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 305.87
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 324.40	\$ 19,675.60	123,038.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225.37
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	330.71	710.53	\$ 5,789.47	12,800.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15.98
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$ 287,168.36</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,382.83</b>	<b>\$ 632.69</b>

MARCH 2026	2026 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income	Trust
							Tax	Indiana
Township Roads and Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rainy Day Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	43,434.91	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94.59
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	7,238.40	13,784.32	\$ 101,215.68	98,643.15	\$ -	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 338.59
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 324.40	\$ 19,675.60	123,288.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249.46
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	869.79	1,580.32	\$ 4,919.68	11,948.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.71
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$ 281,143.35</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,382.83</b>	<b>\$ 700.35</b>

**2026 Additional Appropriations**

None to date

**2026 Transfer to Rainy Day (10% of Jan 1 budget)**

None to date

**MARCH TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE REPORT**  
**(For April 2026 Board Meeting)**

03/03/2026 - A person (JG) requested more information about Township Assistance through the FindHelp web portal. A v follow up email was sent, but no further contact has been made. It is not known if this person is a township resident. (#3 total, unknown if resident)

03/16/2026 - A Benton Township resident (JT) called asking for transportation resources or township services for transportation for medical appointments and to get groceries. Referred to Rural Transit, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Be Loved Classic Medicab, SafeMed Transport, Southeast Trans. (#4 total, #2 resident)

03/31/2026 - A Clear Creek Township resident (KM) called asking for assistance for rent. They were referred to the Clear Creek Township trustee (#5 total).