

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

**Meeting Minutes for May 13 , 2026**

**Attendees:**

Michelle Bright - Benton Township Trustee  
Jake Dodds - Board Secretary  
Joe Husk - Board Chair  
Sean McInerney- Board Member  
Toby Liff - Monroe Fire District Representative

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:33pm**

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 8th, 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, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

The board received copies and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Report for April 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, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

**Trustee's Report**

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

- Trustee Bright received a call from a resident regarding Canada thistle on adjacent property, asking us to intervene regarding a noxious weed complaint on a neighboring property. The trustee noted if not addressed this does carry a penalty and a daily fine. The property owner called Trustee Bright and discussed

options and timeline, and stated he did try to do this on his own but could not do all of it. The township's mowing contractor was dispatched to chemically treat the area.

- The Monroe County Health Department reached out asking if the township would be able to be a mobile health site for a clinic on an occasional basis. Mike Tarter - Unionville Senior Center President approved the use of the Senior Center. The township will be informed if this project moves forward.
- The Monroe Fire District performed an inspection of the senior center and township office. Both passed with no issues.
- In April Trustee Bright attended the DLGF webinar on budget 2.0, ITA training on USDA Rural Repair, Monroe County Trustee meeting with two local agencies (Maternal and Child Health and Fire District CERT program)
- Trustee Bright also attended the State Board of Accounts Annual Meeting in Fishers. Topics discussed included SBOA Updates and Compliance; Planning for Audit; Conflict of Interest, Nepotism, and Contracting with a Unit; and Corrective Action Plan Writing Tips.
  - Additionally, there was a definite discouragement of Board members being Deputy Trustee as a “dual lucrative office holder” since Deputy Trustee serves as Trustee when the Trustee is unavailable regardless of payment status. They recommended units consult with an attorney. However, Trustee Bright would like to propose that the board reinstate a Deputy Trustee position to cover duties when the trustee is away.
- Other Monroe County entities have reported that the State Board of Accounts examiners are working with them for the routine every-4-year audit. Benton Township's last audit was in the spring of 2023. At the annual meeting, they announced that there was going to be more of a separation of duties between Board comments and Trustee comments.
- Trustee Bright has reviewed the new test website for the township and things looked good. Trustee Bright will take training for the website later this month.
- Trustee Bright received the package that was left last month in Stepp Cemetery and was shown pictures of the new signage that will be placed at the cemetery.
- Final repair work for the water dam damage should be completed later this month
- Three companies have been asked to submit bids for the replacement of the senior center carpet. Two have been returned and the trustee is awaiting the third before choosing a contractor.

- The next meeting will be Wednesday June 10, 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, McInerney - Yes, Husk - 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 April 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, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### **Old Board Business**

- **Monroe Fire District Presentation**

A motion was made to add the presentation of equipment purchased by Benton Township for the Monroe Fire District (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

- Toby Liff demonstrated the new ZOLL Medical X Series heart monitors.
- Benton Township ordered three heart monitors and they have been stationed at Station 26 on Chambers Pike serving the northern portion of Benton Township, Station 25 off of Old State Road 37, and here in Benton Township at Station 24.
- The township purchased three ZOLL Medical X Series monitors for the fire district. Toby demonstrated the capabilities of the machine and answered questions the board and trustee had regarding the devices.

- **2026 Township Assistance Guidelines**

A motion was made to approve the 2026 township assistance guidelines (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

- **2026 Danny Smith Park Request**

Trustee Bright gave an update on the status of ongoing projects at Danny Smith Park and asked the park about any additional needs they may have. The park is looking at the replacement of some playground equipment however no decisions have been made. Trustee Bright noted playground equipment was not in the original request last year and would be considered a new request. The park has a completion date of Dec 31, 2026 for past approved projects to be completed.

- **North Tunnel Road Property**

The trustee received the appraisal for the township's property on N. Tunnel Road by Jeff Goldin at \$3,300, and the township's attorney confirmed that we would need to do a publication/notice to adjacent property owners. The resident who initially inquired about the parcel has informed the trustee that this was getting too pricey and that as long as the township retained the property that he would like to pause on the process.

The appraisal cost the township around \$250.00 and attorney fees were \$675.00 which would need to be added to the appraised value.

## **New Board Business**

- **Rainy Day Fund Additional Appropriations**

The township had previously approved up to \$40,000.00 for projects at Danny Smith Park, but did not receive any receipts for completed projects in 2025. This resolution allows the moving of funds to cover these costs now that documentation was submitted.

A motion was made to approve the additional appropriation resolution (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

- **2026 Vegetation Policy**

Benton Township adopted a vegetation policy in 2019 that requires homeowners to control noxious plant types or the township will be required to address the plants at a cost to the homeowner. The township can also make a designation about what is considered rank vegetation for our area.

- The trustee has received an ongoing complaint from a resident about a neighboring property they feel is endangering their health and lowering their property value.
- Trustee Bright drove a mile or so area nearby to investigate other nearby properties and presented them to the board.
- The home being complained about does look to be in violation of the vegetation policy as currently written and adopted and action by the township will likely need to be taken.
- Updates to the vegetation policy were discussed at length during the meeting with several different ideas and viewpoints being expressed.
- The township only acts on complaints and does not actively look for properties in violation of the vegetation policy.

- **2026 Benton Township Policies**

The board has received the 2026 policies to review for the next meeting.

- **2026 Deputy Trustee Discussion**

Trustee Bright would like to propose that we reopen the Deputy Trustee position to cover for the Trustee when she is gone from the township only and not as a part time office position. This would ensure an additional level of coverage for the township and avoid any conflicts of dual officer holders for gain conflicts. Trustee Bright recommended a \$60 day rate. The board held a discussion on the amount of pay and agreed to move forward with the proposal.

A motion was made to approve township form #17 to approve hiring a deputy trustee at \$60.00 a day when activated. (McInerney) and seconded (Dodds). A roll call vote was held and the results were as follows. Dodds - Yes, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously.

### **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, McInerney - Yes, Husk - Yes. The Motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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>

APRIL 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	\$ -	\$ 24,986.00	24,986.00	\$ (24,986.00)	18,540.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92.05
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 2,234.43	16,018.75	\$ 98,981.25	98,357.01	\$ 236.00	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 329.46
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 324.40	\$ 19,675.60	123,531.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242.74
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 170.80	1,751.12	\$ 4,748.88	11,794.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.28
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>\$ 256,052.48</b>	<b>\$ 236.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,382.83</b>	<b>\$ 681.53</b>

**2026 Additional Appropriations**

Pending Rainy Day

**APRIL TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE REPORT  
(For May 2026 Board Meeting)**

4/13 - Received a call from concerned citizen SM regarding a township resident (MH). A second person reached out a few weeks later. Both persons were advised to have the potential client call the office to start the process at 812-339-6593.

4/14 - Received a call from a possible previous client DS about help with electricity. tried to call back to answer no ability to leave message x 3, returned call x 2. Called twice another day, no call no answer. They called on the third day, this time I returned their call as soon as I got the notification and they picked up. They are now in Brown County - referred to Jackson Township, Brown County trustee. (request #6 overall, #2 from confirmed township resident)