

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

Meeting Minutes for August 12 , 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 6:33pm

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 10th, 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 for June and July of 2026 and Trustee Bright read aloud for review, the Financial Report for July 2026. (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 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 May of 2026.

- After the June 18th tornado Trustee Bright was contacted by several affected residents. The trustee sent information regarding the Township Assistance Program and connected residents with Jaime Neibel (Director of Monroe County Emergency Management). Trustee Bright also sent along information from the

Red Cross and State of Indiana for underinsured or uninsured issues. Trustee Bright also delivered several cases of water and gatorade to residents.

- Sobramesa Farm reached out about donating fresh produce to the township, however because the food is fresh the farm would like a donation statement for tax purposes. Using the Lil' Pantry wouldn't be a great use for this program as the fresh produce may spoil.
- The Lynn Stevens family is interested in doing something with his property for the good of the community. Trustee Bright returned the call, but has not heard back.
- Thrasher landscaping installed a drain in front of the township office door in early July to prevent water from entering the building.
- Trustee Bright filed a request with surveyor Eric Deckard to provide professional expertise regarding the N. Tunnel Rd. property as recommended by the Monroe County Auditors office.
- The maximum growth quotient for the 2027 township budget is 6%
- Governor Braun signed into law HEA 1200 which amends previous Indiana code 36-6-9-12 moving the annual adoption rate of the CIP to January 1, 2028. Townships with capital improvement funds exceeding 150% of the annual budget are still required to adopt a CIP (capital improvement plan) by Sep. 30.
- Trustee Bright has worked with the state board of accounts auditor to complete our routine audit. Benton Township passed with a 100% score.
- Vinyl flooring work in the Unionville Senior Center was completed by Bounds Flooring and the lighting was also updated. The Trustee is in the process of hiring someone to repaint the ceiling after work is completed.
- Morgan Monroe State Forest representatives contacted the trustee with a recommendation for the placement of the new Stepp Cemetery sign. The trustee ok'd this and asked that they proceed.
- The Trustee was contacted by a resident about information pertaining to the Shilo Cemetery and was able to provide them with the correct contact information.
- Trustee Bright was contacted by the Adkins family regarding information about family members buried in Stepp Cemetery. She provided several resource links and also provided a news article regarding the Adkins family.
- Trustee Bright reached out to Ashlie Kehrberg and Danny Smith Park president David Killion regarding the outstanding items from the 2025 community grant. As of our meeting the trustee had not received a response. This is the 5th request for information this year.
- The Monroe Fire District has requested two different CPR devices. Training and trials will begin upon delivery and more information will be provided at that time.

- The next meeting will be Wednesday October 14, 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 June and July of 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

There was no old business for this meeting.

New Board Business

- **2027 Budget Review**

Trustee Bright provided to the board in advance and read aloud for review a proposed 2027 Budget.

- **Capital Improvement Plan**

The Trustee provided a report on our Capital Improvement Plan. However because Benton Township was not required to complete the process at this time it was decided that the threshold was not met and not necessary.

- **Reduction of Appropriation**

WHEREAS, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have unobligated balances that will not be needed for the purposes for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced in the following amounts. Township General Fund (0101) Classification; (3000) Other Services and Charges by the amount of \$5,000.00 and (4000) Capital Outlays by \$35,000.00 for a total of \$40,000.00.

The board had no questions regarding the Appropriations Reduction. A motion was made to approve the Appropriations Reduction (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.

- **Transfer of Appropriation**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to transfer appropriation within the Township General Fund than what was previously appropriated; increasing the budget for (1000) Personal Services and decreasing the budget \$2,000.00 in (3000) Other Services and charges by this same amount.

The board had no questions regarding the Transfer of Appropriations. A motion was made to approve the Transfer of Appropriations (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.

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 7:18pm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 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	\$ 40,000.00		24,986.00	\$ 15,014.00	18,635.71	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94.75
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	3,890.61	19,909.36	\$ 95,090.64	98,970.90	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 285.67
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 324.40	\$ 19,675.60	123,780.79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249.79
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 54.90	1,806.02	\$ 4,693.98	11,757.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.66
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					\$ 256,973.67	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 647.87

JUNE 2026	2026 Budget	Month to date Expense	Year to date Expense	Remaining Approved Budget	Cash Balance	Deposits	Local Income	Trust	CVET	License Excise	Property Tax
							Tax	Indiana			
Township Roads and Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rainy Day Fund	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	24,986.00	\$ 15,014.00	18,728.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 92.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	12,875.35	32,784.71	\$ 82,215.29	93,857.63	\$ -	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 271.50	\$ 1,004.00	\$ 177.69	\$ 4,926.06
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 324.40	\$ 19,675.60	139,822.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 244.30	\$ -	\$ 549.98	\$ 15,247.34
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 364.15	2,170.17	\$ 4,329.83	14,327.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.39	\$ -	\$ 101.53	\$ 2,814.89
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 450.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0		
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0		
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0		
TOTALS					\$ 270,564.32	\$ -	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 625.83	\$ 1,004.00	\$ 829.20	\$ 22,988.29

JULY 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	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	24,986.00	\$ 15,014.00	18,823.84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95.49
Township Fund	\$ 115,000.00	10,254.03	43,038.74	\$ 71,961.26	85,291.66	\$ 25.32	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 279.91
Welfare Admin/Direct Asst	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 952.98	\$ 1,261.53	\$ 18,738.47	139,121.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 251.85
Recreation Fund	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 143.77	2,313.94	\$ 4,186.06	14,201.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17.93
COVID Donation Fund	N/A	\$ 35.56	\$ -	N/A	414.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Township Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Volunteer Fire Dept Donation Fund	N/A	\$ -	\$ -	N/A	\$ 3,378.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTALS					\$ 261,231.31	\$ 25.32	\$ 1,382.83	\$ 645.18

2026 Additional Appropriations

\$40,000 Rainy Day for Danny Smith Park projects

JUNE/JULY TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE REPORT

06/12/2026 - Our previous applicant from earlier this year called and left a message. I tried to call them back but their voicemail was full and I wasn't able to leave a message (HH). I have tried at least 8 times to return call. I ended up buying a new Tracfone flip phone with 1 year of service for \$25.00 for the year. This enables me to have our phone forwarded to that device and I can pick up if I'm available. (HH - #8 request for the year, #3 confirmed township resident, 2nd application)

06/17/2026 - A family impacted by the tornado contacted me to ask about financial assistance or resources available. After a lengthy conversation about their situation and needs, options were given on how the township could assist them if they felt they qualified. Ongoing material and resource support has been offered for weeks afterwards. (see photos below)

06/29/2026 - Online application for assistance for rent and electricity. (JY - #9 request for the year, #5 confirmed resident, 3rd application)

July - Bloomington Township had so many applicants that they were backed up 2-3 weeks for appointments that included evening appointments. Since we had only had one applicant this year, I asked their office if they would be willing to allow the Deputy Trustee to shadow them for several appointments. They generously agreed.

07/15/2026 - Request for assistance for car repair. Referred to Bloomington Township (Unknown, #10 request, not resident)

07/15/2026 - Someone else called for information about Center Township in Benton County. (Unknown, #11 request, not resident)

07/28/2026 - Received a FindHelp email from someone asking about assistance through FindHelp. (JR, #12 request, unknown if resident)

07/29/2026 - IU Health social worker referred someone to us, but they were in Bloomington Township. (S?, #13 request, not resident)

07/30/2026 - Funeral home called looking for caretakers of Young Family Cemetery. They were referred to Herman and Diana Young.

(Tornado photos below)

|
|
|
|
|
V

TORNADO IMPACTING NORTHERN BENTON TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS





