Village of Benton
October 21, 2026
Board Meeting Minutes

Members present: Ken Farrey, John Perkins, Jill Knight, Bill Mowry, Joseph Slater, Steve Brink, Scott Cruse
Absent:
Village employees present: Sonya Silvers, Brian Hammill, Jared Roling
Others Present: Michelle Savatski, Cody Wiederholt

The regular board meeting of the Benton Village Board was called to order by village president Ken Farrey at 6:30 p.m. in the community room of the Benton Community Center at 31 W. Main Street on Wednesday, October 21, 2026. In compliance with the open meeting law, proper notice of the meeting had been posted in four public places: the Community Center, Benton State Bank, Benton Post Office, and the Benton Business Incubator Building.

The minutes from the village board meeting on September 16, 2026, were presented. The minutes from the special board on September 28, 2026, were presented.

Motion (Cruse, Brink) to approve the minutes from the regular village board meeting held on September 16, 2026, as presented. **Voice-all ayes.** ***Carried***

Motion (Perkins, Brink) to approve the minutes from the special village board meeting held on September 28, 2026, as presented. **Voice-all ayes.** ***Carried***

Michelle Savatski updated the Board on the punch list for the Community Center. The exterior light cover has been ordered and will be installed by J Squared. McNett Electric has a few remaining items to address. The fire alarm antenna needs to be relocated to prevent it from activating, and Michelle will contact the company again. The clock parts have arrived and installation is scheduled for the first week of December. Solar installation has been delayed due to incorrect parts, with completion expected next week. The Village will advertise for a cleaning position for the Community Center. Library patronage has increased, and the Library will begin marketing the rental space. John Perkins noted rust on the exterior light, and Michelle will contact J Squared regarding the issue.

Jared Roling presented two pay requests for the interceptor project. The first was submitted by the engineer, recommending payment based on 33% completion after reviewing quantities, project scope, and the work completed and remaining. The second was submitted by Owen's Excavating, reflecting the amount they believed was owed for the completed work and punch list items. The punch list includes pipe televising, installation of manhole chimney seals, spot restoration and rut repairs in various areas, and removal of rock and debris from several manholes.
Jared proposed retaining 5% in the amount of $10,809.47, with a total payout not to exceed $216,189.37 and an initial payment of $205,379.90. Jared will meet with the engineer on Friday, October 23, to review the punch list. Bill Mowry requested that Steve Rosseter sign off on the condition of his land.

Motion (Perkins, Mowry) to approve the pay request submitted by Owen's Excavating, with a total payout not to exceed $216,189.37 and an initial payment of $205,379.90, retaining $10,809.47 to cover the remaining punch list items. Roll call vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Jill Knight recapped notes from the auditor, Shawn Roelli from Johnson who recommends doing a loan for the project and not expending the sewer cash. The Village has several large sewer projects in the future and will possibly need some cash on hand. A ten year loan was referenced and can always be paid off early if funds are not used on other projects.

Motion (Knight, Slater) to approve a ten year loan from Conservation First Bank not to exceed $216,189.37 to fund the interceptor project. **Roll-all ayes.** ***Carried***

Brian Hammill has had 280 calls for service for the year. E-Bikes are still a concern and Brian has been speaking with parents. AI software will be installed November 10 in the squad car. This will allow scheduling, timesheets, inventory, and reporting from the squad car. Sonya will look at getting Brian back on the police department Facebook page.

The auditor, Shawn Roelli from Johnson recommends a sewer rate increase of 5%-20%. With all the large sewer projects planned, a 20% increase would provide operating income. Sonya presented rate comparisons for the impact of rates at different percentage increases. The base and usage sewer increase will be 8% effective January 1st, 2027.

Motion (Cruse, Perkins) to approve a sewer rate increase to base and usage charges of 8% effective January 1, 2027. Roll-*all ayes. *Carried

A contract with Bruce Gardiner Appraisal Service for an interim market update revaluation was presented for the amount of $9,900.00 for 2027.

Motion (Knight, Cruse) to approve the interim market update revaluation contract with Bruce Gardiner Appraisal Service for $9,900.00 for 2027. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Scott Cruse stated the police committee met and recommends the purchase of a new squad car in 2027. Rates from Conservation First Bank were presented in the packet. Bill Mowry and Ken Farrey do not agree to the purchase of a new squad car at this time. Jill Knight announced budget concerns since the finance committee will meet until November. It was recommended the purchase of a new squad car be tabled until the finance committee has more information on the 2027 budget numbers.

Motion (Slater, Cruse) to approve tabling the purchase of a new squad car until more information is received from the finance committee in November. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

Bill Mowry would like to see the storm sewer issue on Eric Mowry's property addressed when the highway project is done. All the water from Main Street runs down onto his property and then to Bill's property and at times it is an excessive amount of water that pools and washes out the gravel in the driveway. Ken Farrey would like Bill and Eric to establish a plan of action and table the agenda item for the next board meeting.

Motion (Knight, Perkins) to approve tabling the storm sewer issue on Eric Mowry's property until a plan of action is established. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

A Museum committee was appointed by Ken Farrey consisting of Jill Knight, Michelle Savatski, Steve Brink, Sherri Timmerman, and co-chairs Scott Cruse and Myrna Sysko.

Pursuant with Chapter 19.85 Sub (1) par (c) of WIS. STATS, adjourn to closed session at 7:47 p.m. (Cruse, Slater) to discuss employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Reconvene to open session at 8:04 p.m. (Cruse, Slater)

Wage increases presented in closed session are approved as presented.
Wages are as follows:
The cleaning position will be $18.00 for the community center
Lawn mowing will be $17.00
Weed trimming will be $16.00
Summer helpers will be $14.00
Poll workers will be $15.00
Chief election inspector will be $17.00 starting for the November 3rd, 2026 General Election

Motion (Perkins, Cruse) to approve the employee wage increases as presented in closed session and as presented above: Roll- John Perkins- Yes, Jill Knight- Yes, Steve Brink- Yes, Joe Slater- Yes, Bill Mowry- Abstained, Ken Farrey- Yes, Scott Cruse- Yes. Carried

Jim Goffinet, Eric Mowry, and Brian Hammill will have a 3.4% increase in wages
Sonya Silvers will have a 5% increase in wages
Jared Roling will have a 7% increase in wages

Motion (Cruse, Brink) to approve the employee wage increases as presented in closed session and as presented above: Roll- Jill Knight- Yes, Steve Brink- Yes, Joe Slater- Yes, Bill Mowry- Abstained, Ken Farrey- Yes, Scott Cruse- Yes, John Perkins- Yes. Carried

Emily Rath will have a 5% increase in wages and the deputy clerk position will remain at 24 hours a week.

Motion (Knight, Slater) to approve the employee wage increases of 5% and the deputy clerk position will remain at 24 hours a week:* Roll-all ayes. *Carried

Payment of Bills

Motion (Knight, Slater) to pay the bills. Voice-all ayes. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Motion (Mowry, Perkins) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried.