Village of Benton
September 28, 2026
Special Meeting Minutes

Members present: Ken Farrey, John Perkins, Bill Mowry, Steve Brink, Jill Knight, Joe Slater
Absent: Scott Cruse
Village employees present: Sonya Silvers, Jared Roling
Others Present:

The special 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 28, 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.

Jared Roling shared concerns regarding the engineering plans prepared by Town & Country Engineering for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade that were submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The plans were submitted to the DNR before Jared or the Village Board had an opportunity to review them. The plans do not include the backup clarifier Jared had requested. A backup clarifier is important to provide additional treatment capacity and operational reliability, particularly during maintenance or equipment failures. It can help ensure wastewater solids are properly settled and reduce the risk of inadequately treated wastewater being discharged into the creek.

Jared also expressed concerns regarding the lack of communication from the engineer and the speed at which the plans are being advanced without adequate input from him or the Board. Given the significant cost of the project, Jared emphasized the importance of taking the time to review the plans, address operational needs, and ensure the project is completed correctly. The plans also include electrical upgrades that the Board had previously decided against.

John Perkins has a general understanding of the WWTP and its operations and agrees with Jared's concerns. John agreed to meet with Jared Roling to gain a better understanding of the items Jared would like included in the WWTP upgrade that are not currently in the plans, as well as the items Jared believes should be removed. After meeting with Jared, John will meet with Greg Droessler from Town & Country Engineering to discuss the proposed changes, obtain Greg's perspective and recommendations, and report back to the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.
Motion (Mowry, Brink) to adjourn. Voice-all ayes. Carried.