

Benton County Council November 21st, 2024

The Benton County Council were set to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Council members: Trina Schutter, Brent Cox, Jack Duncan, Angie Glotzbach, Jackie Steinmetz, Robert Sloniger, Chief Deputy, Beth Budreau and Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were – Latisha Provo, Lori Cyr, John Cox, Mike Freeland, Ron Shoup and Bryan Berry

Business:

The meeting minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Councilman, Robert Sloniger second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.

The board reviewed and approved the request to fund the approved Recorders petty cash ordinance. The funds will be taken from the Recorders perpetuation fund. This was approved with a motion by Councilman, Robert Sloniger, seconded by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

The department head transfers were approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilman, Robert Sloniger and motion carried.

The 2025 meeting schedule for the Council was shared and the topic was tabled for changes.

The first order of business was to discuss whether the scheduled extra meeting is needed or not. After a brief discussion it was approved to cancel the meeting with a motion by Councilman, Robert Sloniger, seconded by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

The SB 1's and the ERA plan were shared for review for the special meeting that is being held tomorrow.

The group talked about the 1782 notice and the 2025 budget. The motion to accept the proposed changes for the 1782 response was approved with a motion by Councilman, Robert Sloniger, seconded by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried

John Cox – Sheriff

- Recap – he will bring a brief power point to the December mtg to recap the year
- Jail study – met with RQAW and small working group and are putting together a plan for 2025. Has had the trustees' inmates helping to get things done as well. They will work on the excavation and level off the ground before looking to put on a new roof.
- Opioids – has found out that these funds can be utilized to get the department outfitted with body worn cameras
- Annual certification – the staff is wrapping up those requirements

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- PTO – Cox will be implementing a new PTO policy for 2025. He has discussed this with the commissioners, and he is going to put a max on the number of days that can be used at one time, he said 2-week window max
- Vehicles – has been working with Alsop's on getting a vehicle and thanked the board for approving a 2025 vehicle for the department

Commissioner Berry talked about the EDA for the Templeton Wind Project and stated that within their document it talks about ownership (which will be NIPSCO) and he wants that changed within the documents before anything is approved. He went through and made comments and sent them to Attorney Ahler and asked the board if they had any problems with that. Councilman Cox said that he has no problem with it and feels it should be done before the meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Berry said that mainstream would like something in the minutes, they have some investors who are putting money towards projects. Well, they are considered a utility, and their concern is that we do not tax any other fiber companies, and we have not been taxing them, but they would like it in the minutes that the county does not plan on taxing them unless the laws change and state otherwise. Bryan asked if they would like him to reach out and see if they can join at the next meeting. Councilman Sloniger said that would be good if they could attend.

The group closed out the meeting at 8:53 a.m. with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Robert Sloniger, motion carried.

Angie Glotzbach

Katrina M. Schutte

Robert Sloniger

Jim Schutte

Regulini Steinmetz

Jack Ganser

Attest: *Audrey Freeland*
Audrey Freeland, County Auditor