

Benton County Commissioner Meeting June 17, 2025

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Phil McGinnis, Shawn Leuck and John Gick via phone call and Benton County Auditor Beth Budreau.

Others in attendance were Dave Buck, Denny Sondgerath Josh Gaskill, Aimee Green, Latisha Provo, Austin Rennick, Brayden Ely, Paden Clements, John Cox, Leslie Fisher, Heather Nally, Chrissie McCutcheon, Brent Strickhouser, Nicole Strickhouser, Dave Fisher, Sam Smith, Bryan Berry, Derek Fuehrer.

Mike Budreau – Highway Superintendent

- They have 24 miles done so far of chip & seal. Mike is looking at mid-August for a completion date with rain factored in. Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked Mike if everything was going good, Mike stated yes, we have had a few complaints but nothing major. He stated that the sheriff has been sharing the roads we are working on, on Facebook so that has helped.

Business

County Auditor presented a purchase agreement for the oxford school, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried

Payroll was reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, Motion carried.

Pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Meeting minutes from 06.03.2025 were reviewed and approved by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

John Cox – Sheriff – Fairgrounds

The sheriff presented an idea to the commissioners of a matrix scale; he is interested in switching to a matrix for 2026 budget year. Sheriff Cox presented other counties examples of what they use for reference and to compare them with our county. His reason for doing this is that not all the deputies and CO's are paid the same, because currently most of them are paid the same. He wants to be able to have a pay difference for deputies and CO's that have been with the county longer. Using the matrix scale will also help with the efficiency of being able to do the budget each year. Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked if is he was starting off new CO's at the same rate as currently employed CO's, Sheriff Cox stated yes, because we are one of the lowest paid CO's in the state and it is hard to find good employees for less pay.

Commissioner Shawn Leuck asked the sheriff if there was anyone that oversaw setting up training meetings. The Sheriff stated it is currently just him that sets up the training for his deputies and CO's. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated he would like to see a deputy that helps with that, like a lead training officer, Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated with the sheriff position it could change every 4 years, and if there was a deputy that was in charge of training or at least helped with it, that's something that wouldn't get missed if a new sheriff were to come in.

Sheriff Cox is requesting the purchase of a 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe for the 2026 budget year. Sheriff Cox stated that Lynn couldn't give hard numbers until the 3rd quarter, the estimate is \$55,000 for the Tahoe, then \$23,000 for outfitting the vehicle. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the request to purchase a new vehicle, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried. Commissioner Phil

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McGinnis asked the sheriff to get additional quotes for the outfitting of the new vehicle to see if he can find something cheaper.

Sheriff Cox asked permission to add two new deputies to his budget for 2026. There was some discussion regarding the reasoning for needing two additional deputies. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve 1 additional deputy to his 2026 budget, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

Sheriff Cox stated that he would use the backup vehicle as a deputy vehicle for the additional, that would still leave a pool car for transports.

Sheriff Cox asked permission to purchase a second K9 - \$17,000 total, Sheriff Cox stated he would use opioid monies to purchase the dog. Commissioner Shawn Leuck asked to see statistics from the K9's that we currently have and one that was just retired, before deciding.

- Hired 2 new CO's, one has started and the other one starts on the 25th. There is still one open position that is being held until closer to the end of year.
- Received a \$2,100 grant from the Benton Community Foundation for ankle taser to control inmates when moving them in court or to medical appointments.

Fairgrounds

- Getting the fairgrounds ready for the fair, which is July 15-20 with Auction on July 21st.
- The new building is coming along; the floor is done.
 - Cabinets are being set this weekend.
 - Lyle has gotten the A/C on, bathroom fixtures are being set.
 - Rod Green graded and seeded the lawn for free.
 - Troy pipeline and cross directional boring are new platinum sponsors this year.
 - They received 11 more brick requests; the program will run all year.
 - The fair schedule is coming out this week.
 - BC is looking to use the new building for a prom next year.
 - They received 2 - \$1,500 each to build the announcer stand at the H&P arena.
 - 4h council is paying Lyle and Vic to hang new fire suppression hood in 4H food booth.
 - Warren County REMC donated their time to install 5 new poles. 4 of them will hold the donated lights from the BC football field and light up the H&P arena.

Josh Gaskill - SJCA

Josh stated that he works for a civil engineering company that specializes in transportation services. So, they do everything from bridge work, small structure, culvert inspections etc. Josh presented the commissioners with a general service agreement or an on-call agreement, the company has done work in 89 of the 92 counties. He is interested in helping the county the best way they can. They are very focused on cost containment. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that they will take the agreement under review and advisement.

Dave Buck – BF&S

Dave came before the board to discuss readvertising the bids for the demolition of the Oxford School. Unfortunately, there was an error on the BF&S side with the advertisement, it was not advertised long enough, because of the federal money requirements. Dave is requesting that the commissioners cancel the bids that were received originally and authorize BF&S to advertise and go through the process again. Economic Developer Latisha Provo asked if there were going to be any extra costs because of this error, Dave stated that there will not be extra costs because of this. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to

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redact the bids for the demolition of the Oxford School from the 06.03.2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Leslie Fisher – Chrissie McCutcheon – Heather Nally – SWCD

Leslie came before the board just to update the commissioners on regular business. Leslie stated that NACD Grant is still solid, that what heather's salary is based out of, everything is going good there.

The 319 grant – which is the supplemental grant for Leslie & Chrissie and gives all the education dollars. They received it in March; at the end of 3 years, they will apply again.

- Dwengers prepped the park for gravel; it was a complete donation from them.
- They still don't have any money or grant for gravel, but when they did review for natural gas pipeline they did speak with the companies, if the farmer doesn't take the gravel they pull up from the lanes, then they will donate it to the park.
- The School and Holscher's are working with them for the signage for the park.
- Log jams – Leslie talked to the guy with DNR that is connected to log jam money. The biggest concern is the spot in Pine Village. He will be out Thursday to check it out and see if Big Pine is a candidate for funding.

Chrissie brought up that when the 319 grant was started, there was an MOU. They would like to do an MOU stating that a portion of their salary is from grant funds, and part of it from the county. It is being requested by SBOA so that there is some transparency regarding where the funding is coming from.

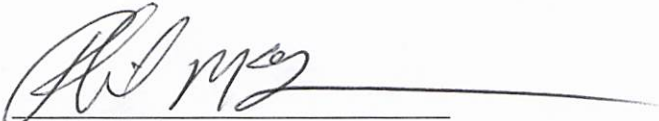
The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:43am, then reopened at 10:13am.

Business Continued

Benton County Auditor, Beth Budreau presented a claim for EMS for annual access to Handtevy Mobile, Access to Medication Management Software, Unlimited Updates included, clinical and technical support. Auditor Beth Budreau stated that it is part of treatment and documentation technology largely for pediatric calls, Jason has the funding he is just requesting approval since it is over the limit. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the claim, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:19a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

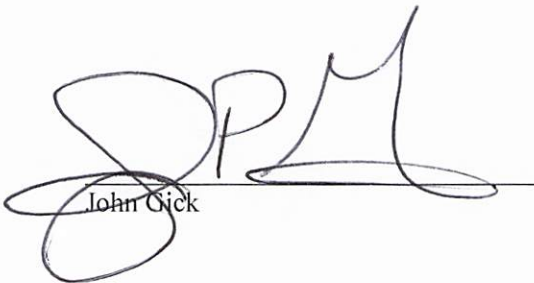
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Phil McGinnis



Shawn Leuck



John Gick



Attest: Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor