

**Benton County Commissioner Meeting**  
**November 6th, 2024**

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Bryan Berry, Mike Freeland, Shawn Leuck (via conference bridge), County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

**Others in attendance were:** Phil McGinnis, John Gick, Evan Puetz, Amy Wilkinson, Latisha Provo, Penny Titus, Matt Hull, Jon Charlesworth, Sara Niccum, John Cox, Ron Shoup, Aimee Green, Nick Vitalone, Mike Dwenger, Beth Budreau, Samantha Dalton and Abby Bruner

**Evan Puetz – Assistant Highway Supervisor**

- Roads – they are wrapping up with crack sealing due to weather. Working on the brush and cutting ditches
- Bridge – they are putting end markers on all of the bridges per BF&S
- Multiplate – it was delivered for 300 S 940 W. Evan has received 2 quotes
  1. Bryan Excavating – \$40,000 (remove old and install new)
  2. Leuck Dirt Works - \$19,600 (remove old and install new)Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the bid from Leuck Dirt Works, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.  
Let the record show that Commissioner, Shawn Leuck abstained from voting
- Assembly of the bridge – Evan has talked with Debco and Nick Leuck about this. The topic was tabled until Evan could get more information.
- Drag – they are in process of assembly drags but he does not have a delivery date
- Dairy route – Attorney Ahler asked Evan if there has been any discussion about a reroute since STRD 18 is under construction. Commissioner Berry said that they have a RUA (Road Use Agreement) so this should not be any issues. Attorney Ahler stated that they can file a civil suit but wanted to have the discussion first. Commissioner Berry said that the complaints were not about STRD 18, it is because they are not following the agreed upon route.
- Christmas party – everything should be covered

**Business:**

Minutes were presented and approved with corrections to page two with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried. Commissioner, Mike Freeland did not vote.

The previously approved executive session minutes were signed.

The special meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

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On the monthly claims, Commissioner Berry asked about the Cintas claims. Auditor Freeland said they finally received the final claims and paid those minus the small credits they gave them. He then asked about two payments to the school corporation and if that was legit or an error. Auditor Freeland replied that there are two separate claims. The bright speed claim was paid by EMS instead of dispatch due to them not having enough funds. Commissioner Berry then said that he would like to hold the claim to Rod Green in the amount of \$6900 until he can talk with Rod. With that, Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the monthly claims, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

**Jason Fisher – EMA / EMS Director**

- Burn Ban – he needed signatures for lifting the ban
- Out of rescue truck – he has not had any interest in the vehicle the county received from Carroll County they are trying to sell. The Tippecanoe EMA Hazmat team did reach out and ask if the county would be willing to trade the vehicle for the two drash tents that the county has on loan which is used for the Earl Park festival and other events. The value of the tents is around \$20,000 each new. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the trade, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and the motion approved.
- Electric quotes – he is still trying to get anyone to submit a bid
- Hiring – He asked the board if they would be ok with him extending an offer of employment and allowing someone to start for training purposes for dispatch. Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Their pay will be covered out of the capital improvement funds for those two pay periods.
- Dispatch budget – He would like to request 1 extra position for extra coverage. He wants to pursue these positions as Benton County is 1 of 3 counties who does not have 2 at all times. Commissioner Freeland said that he is ok with him moving forward and looking for ways to fund the position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> position was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.
- Tower – the tower and amplifier is in and done. It has been tested and seems to be working better. Commissioner Berry asked if it was tested in Ambia or if he is just going off of what they did in Oxford. Jason said that it is improved in Oxford and Otterbein, but Jim will keep him up to date.
- Antenna replacement – Jason asked if the board was ok with paying \$2995.00, if he covers the \$6,000.00. Yes, the board will cover the difference.

**John Cox – Sheriff**

- Training – year end training is going on now
- Thank you – he wanted to thank BC for them letting them use some of their mats. He also wanted to thank Commissioner Leuck for digging holes around the jail. Commissioner Leuck added that the reason for all of the water is because they never waterproofed it. He also does not feel that grating it is the best option. It needs to be

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excavated and then cleaned up. Once that is done it would need to be tuck pointed, waterproofed and then tile and gravel placed back in. He said they will need to talk with the Town to see where the water can be sent.

- Roof – Once the waterproofing is completed then they can look at the roof repairs
- Fairground building – it is moving along
- Staff – will be losing one at the end of the month but he has four applicants
- Body worn cameras / cars & trucks – the Sheriff will be using some of the opioid grant funds to secure body worn cameras for the department. He is very excited as this will be the first time ever. He will send the contract over to Attorney Ahler for review.
- Coverage during PTO – Sheriff Cox plans to discuss with the staff on PTO requests and the quantity of time starting in 2025.
- Vehicle – still trying to work with Alsop's on the demo vehicle. They are willing to sell that at the same price they have given them prior.
- Budget – feels it is going to end well since things have slowed down.
- Roads – they have been watching trucks on 100 N. Commissioner Berry said that there is an RUA in place and the county can send invoices for violations as listed within the document. He feels that they are not all closing their covers and it has spilled onto the roads, and it is making it slick. He was directed to reach out to the state chemist. Attorney Ahler advised that they generate a report to show the violations that way there is documentation for breach of contract if things need to move forward.

**Nick Vitalone – 4H Educator**

Nick said that he has hit his 1<sup>st</sup> year with the county and has been doing some programs and training. Commissioner Berry asked how the fair went this year. Nick said that he felt that it went well and told the board that it was his first fair.

Commissioner Berry asked him about the mileage claims and some of the miles being charged to the county, he wondered if they should have been billed to Warren & Lake County. Nick replied that he does not do any work for Warren & Lake County, and it was for training purposes for all the educators.

Commissioner Berry said it was good to finally meet him and congratulated him on his first year.

**Business continued:**

Pay at once Claims were reviewed and tabled approval.

Two payrolls were presented and then approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

The 2025 Holiday and Commissioners schedule was tabled for amendments per the board.

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Auditor Freeland presented the unsold property list from the recent tax sale and asked if the board would like to hold a commissioner's sale for those 8 properties. The discussion was tabled until the list can be reviewed by the building inspector.

The WTH agreement was reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Bio-Town documents were reviewed and signed by the board. Commissioner Berry asked Auditor Freeland to print the map in color before recording. The document was approved prior but was not signed until it could be updated to reflect Commissioner Leuck.

Auditor Freeland asked if there was any updates on Gross. Commissioner Berry replied that they will not be doing that, and Mainstream will be doing it themselves.

Auditor Freeland presented a petty cash ordinance for the Recorder in the amount of \$200.00. The request to move forward was given with a motion by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Auditor Freeland will let the Recorder know that it will go before the Council for final approval.

The monthly claim discussed to the school corporation was discussed and approved to pay.

Auditor Freeland asked the board about a request for her signature for the CASA grant for the 2025 budget. Attorney Ahler reviewed and advised that she would be attesting the amounts for the 2025 budget, so he is ok with her signing per the boards approval. The board gave her permission to verify the amounts and sign.











The review appraisal for the Oxford school project was reviewed by the board and signed. Auditor Freeland will send the signed document to Emily at KIRPC.

Commissioner Berry talked about the decommissioning bond for Pattern, they are working on getting that finished.

Commissioner Berry said that BP and their 5 years were up in August, and they were supposed to present to the county by September which they have not yet done and was told they are doing some things internally. He asked if they want to wait until the next meeting and if they don't have it by the next meeting then he would like to move forward with the stipulations of the agreement to impose the daily fine in the amount of \$1,000. This was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

**Samantha Dalton & Abby Bruner – County Home**

They came today to provide an update on the home. Sammy asked about getting approval to adjust the schedule a bit and eliminate the overnight position. They will have some overlap in hours which will help with the overtime budget. They have discussed this with the current staff, and they are on board with the proposed changes.

-   
Home
-   
Call Center
-   
Users
-   
Conferences
-   
Auto Attendants
-   
Call Queues
-   
Time Frames
-   
Music On Hold
-   
Inventory
-   
Call History

## Call History



Filters 11/06/2024 12:00 am — 11/06/2024 11:59 pm User: 8000 Site: Benton Co Mam

Export

From Name	From	Dialed	To	Date	Duration	
WIRELESS CALLER	(765) 202-3797	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Nov 6th 1:36 pm	0:15	
Benton County	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Nov 6th 8:15 am	90:06	
LEUCK SHAWN	(765) 366-7368	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Nov 6th 8:14 am	91:36	
LEUCK SHAWN	(765) 366-7368	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Nov 6th 8:13 am	0:48	

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Sammy then asked about the van and how they go about getting it looked at because it is dead. Commissioner Freeland said that they would reach out to Joe at the highway and see if he can take a look at it.

Commissioner Berry asked if they were successful in getting North Mechanical out there to check the broiler. Sammy said that it is on and working. The board asked her to make sure they come out and check it out.

Sammy then discussed the home and some other concerns and the biggest is the windows and the front door. Commissioner Berry asked them to compile a list and present it to them at another meeting.

Sammy stated that they still have items from a previous resident and will be working on getting those items returned.

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland , second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, motion carried.**

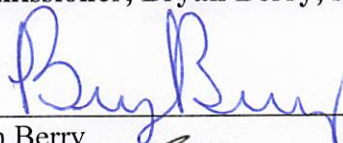
**Following the Drainage Board meeting the Commissioners briefly reopened at 9:50 a.m.**

The board reviewed a PTO request and approved it with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

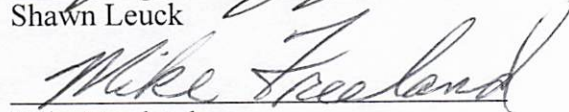
Commissioner Berry asked if Mike Budreau's laptop issues were resolved. Auditor Freeland was unsure.

Auditor Elect, Beth Budreau asked the board for approval to move a current employee laterally into the Auditor's office so training could begin before the new year. Auditor Freeland stated that they have crunched the numbers and there is sufficient funds available within the pay line of the PT clerical. The request was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, motion carried.**

  
Bryan Berry

  
Shawn Leuck

  
Mike Freeland

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Audrey Freeland

Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor