

**Benton County Commissioner Meeting**  
**October 15th, 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, Shawn Leuck (via conference bridge), County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

**Others in attendance were:** Phil McGinnis, Latisha Provo, John Gick, Colin Sullivan, David Buck, Gail Lange, Ron Shoup, Evan Puetz, Penny Titus, Sara Niccum, Amy Wilkinson, Samantha Smith, John Cox, Abby Bruner and Samantha Dalton

**Evan Puetz – Assistant Highway Supervisor**

- Multiplate – will be in at the end of the month. He is working on bids for installation. This is by 300 S 940 W (just W of the Dunnington cemetery).
- Truck – should be here around mid-November and then will go to Rowe Trucking
- They are getting salt today to get mixed into the sand before the bad weather comes
- Bridges – still working on getting everything cleaned up around them
- Sign truck – should be fixed this week (fuel pump issues)
- Staff – new hire is working on hopefully getting his CDL this week, but will still be down 1 position
- Drag – no update

**Colin Sullivan & David Buck – BF&S**

They came today to discuss the 2024 small structure agreement. They will start in Bolivar and Pine Townships first, which will be completed by the end of the year. They will complete them all within 6 months. The amount for this agreement is in the amount of \$257,699.00 for the entire county and within the agreement is broken down by structure. They just need to get the route to see which structure needs to be done according to the route. The price also includes an export of their GIS file. The inspections are typically done every 10 years and/or when a new wind project comes to the county. The agreement was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

The group then discussed an agreement regarding the Oxford school project and demolition. Once the building is demolished the property must sit for 5 years before it can be put to use. After that time the county will own it until a decision is to be made on what will be done with the property. The total cost is \$52,000. The agreement was accepted as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

**Business:**

Minutes were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

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**Samantha Smith – Drainage Board Secretary**

Sam came before the board with 2 application requests to petition for zoning changes.

1. 50 ft off of the county easement instead of 100 ft because it cannot be moved back any further due to a septic line. This is in Gilboa Township
2. Horses – a taxpayer has 3 horses which is to have 5 acres, but he is requesting it to be reduced to 3 acres. This is the Town of Oxford

The requests were approved with the statement that it is a special exception for the easement, and that it will be noted that the max number of horses will be 3. This was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

**Business continued:**

Pay at once Claims were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Payroll was presented and then approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

A request for a 2<sup>nd</sup> donation to the BC Food Co-op and Earl Park Food Pantry was discussed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

The 2024 Holiday and Commissioners schedule was amended to change the 1<sup>st</sup> Commissioners meeting in December to Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> due to the Commissioners conference. This was approved with a motion by Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

The county home room and board report was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

The previously approved ordinances were approved prior but needed to be in a different format. Those were signed. One was for the culvert set back zoning (WECS) and the new insurance payment fund ordinance.

Auditor Freeland shared that a new business in Oxford would like to invite the board to attend their grand opening on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**John Cox – Sheriff**

John asked about the upcoming sale of the Boswell school and if that was all taken care of. Attorney Ahler replied that yes, the county has received their money so the county will not pursue the case further at this time.

John said that Reith Riley gave a donation of materials for the emergency road at the fairgrounds between the track and horse and pony arena. He wanted to thank them and the highway who came over and spread it out.

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John from Earl Park has agreed to install the horse and pony fence at little cost as a donation to the 4H kids, that is great.

The new building is coming along.

RQAW/Jail study met and reviewed the material and will be meeting again soon to put a plan together and then will be presented to the board.

John is down 2 staff members in the jail but is looking for candidates.

John wrapped up talking about working with ADM elevators and the traffic, they have placed sign boards out of the roads and that has helped as well.

**Business continued:**

Auditor Freeland presented the unsold property list from the recent tax sale and asked if the board would like to hold a commissioners sale for those 8 properties. After a brief discussion the topic was tabled.

Attorney Ahler spoke about the mainstream documents and gave an update on the small claim's hearings. Commissioner Berry said by signing the documents the project can start going up.

Commissioner Berry said that Pattern and Next ERA are working on their decommissioning plans.

Commissioner Berry asked if all invoices had been received from Mr. Lucy for 2024 mowing season, yes, we have. He will recommend him doing it for 2025 as well to the new board for consideration.

Gail asked about the mainstream wireless contracts. Commissioner Berry replied that Mainstream, Ameri-crew and the county have partnered to cover those who were not covered by a hard-wired line(s). They are going to put up 120. There are towers going in Fowler, Boswell Elevator, Otterbein water tower, Oxford water tower, Cyr grain, Freeland Park and Wadena.

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

They came today to discuss the county home and residents. They are currently down 2 staff members and the lack of applicants.

The county home van has been fixed.

They are working on getting their food safety certification and all employees CPR certified or renew their certificates. The current food safety cert is under Tonya, and she will be taking that with her.

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Sammy asked about the computers and Auditor Freeland stated that she has reached out to IT and they are working on getting things set up. There is only one printer which is attached to the superintendents PC, and the other printer is not working at all.

Commissioner Berry asked if they were still using Murphy's for their food, yes they are. She would like to use Sam's for some of the items they go through more often.

The discussion then moved to talking about getting in touch with RCAP and the bank to get things changed.

Commissioner Berry asked that at least one of them attend meetings to provide updates and concerns. He said that they meet on the first and third Tuesday unless it follows a holiday.

Sammy asked about the boiler and needing to get to get it checked before winter. Commissioner Berry advised her to call now to get something scheduled.

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck, motion carried.**

  
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Bryan Berry

  
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Shawn Leuck

Mike Freeland  
  
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Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor

# Call History



Filters







10/15/2024 12:00 am — 10/30/2024 11:59 pm

Inbound Calls ✕

User: 8000 ✕

Site: Benton Co Man

Export

From Name	From	Dialed	To	Date	Duration	
LEUCK SHAWN	(765) 366-7368	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Oct 15th 9:27 am	4:21	  
LEUCK SHAWN	(765) 366-7368	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Oct 15th 8:13 am	56:05	  
Benton County	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	Oct 15th 8:11 am	80:39	