

Benton County Commissioner Meeting July 10, 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, Benton County Auditor Beth Budreau and County Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Others in attendance were Mike Budreau, Colin Sullivan, Derek Fuehrer, Matt Hoaks, Jim Hardebeck, Latisha Provo, Mike Freeland, Jason Fisher, Harold Halderman, Shawn Cain, Bob Bice, Bill Burton, Steve Sturgeon, Dave Fisher and Sam Smith.

Mike Budreau – Highway Superintendent

- As of today, the chip and seal is halfway done.
- They cleaned the trees up at the fairgrounds from the storm.

Jason Fisher – EMS – EMA – 911

Jason came before the board to request an amendment to his holiday schedule, he noticed that he missed Independence for one of their holidays for EMS, EMA and 911. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the holiday pay, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

Business

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

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

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

John Cox – Sheriff – Fairgrounds

There will be a lot of training going on over the next 2 months.

- Deputies Clements & Fuehrer have active threats training at BC next week. Sheriff Cox stated he tries to rotate at least 2 deputies through the training each year, so the deputies get to have training on it every 3 years.
- Annual EVO training in the BC parking lot July 29-30.
- The annual firearms training course is in August. Commissioner McGinnis asked where the training was taking place, Sheriff Cox stated it will be at the wastewater treatment plant.
- 3 new c/o's are in training with 40-hour jail course coming up in August and September.

The Sheriff stated that they took possession of new/used van from Newton County. Earl Park Sign Shop will change out the lettering on the side of it.

Sheriff Cox stated that for the month of July & August they are focusing their patrols on construction zones, county, state and US.

Brian finished painting around the jail, it looked great. We are just waiting for Matt Hull to do the tile so we can backfill.

The k-9 Durango got hot, and the fuse box melted on it, they are hoping to have it back by the end of the week.

- It is 2 weeks until the fair starts.

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- The new building is in good shape – There is still some work to do but will be ready to use for the fair. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that mainstream will be hooking the internet into that building.
- The cabinets are in, they are waiting on the corner cabinet, John is unsure if the countertop will be on time.
- John stated that the carport is missing, he is assuming that it's at the bottom of the pond from the last storm.
- 4H was in and cleaned their buildings on Sunday.

Jim Hardebeck & Harold Halderman – Fowler Senior Center

Jim & Harold came before the board and presented the expenses for the year for the Fowler Senior Center. When Jim & Harold attended a meeting in June they came before the board to request help with finances to keep the Senior Center open. Harold stated today that they are wanting to bring Karen Phillips back to manage the events for the Center. But Harold stated that Karen will not do it for free. Harold stated they are wanting to hire Karen for additional help. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated he would like them to go with the Town of Fowler to see what they can do; the commissioners can make some phone calls and then meet with the Town of Fowler to see what can be done.

Shawn Cain - KIRPC

Shawn came before the board to get approval for the Blight Clearance Agreement – Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Commissioner John Gick asked Shawn how many bidders have resubmitted their bids for the Oxford school demolition, Colin Sullivan stated 3 out of 4 have resubmitted and there is one more week of advertisement. Commissioner John Gick asked if they have verified the SAMS numbered, Colin stated that he is not sure of them if they have them or not. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that it states in the advertisement that they do not have to have a SAMS number to bid on it as long as you're actively working on it. Shawn stated that they must give the bidders an opportunity to achieve getting a SAMS number. Latisha stated that she did get verification from Jerry White that the commissioners have the authority to say that the bidders have to have their SAMS number prior to submitting a bid.

Justin Bice – Oxford Volunteer Fire Department

Justin came before the board to request the commissioners purchase a FCL-X powdered product and emergency plug to disable EV fires for all the volunteer fire departments in the county. Justin presented to the commissioners how the powder product works and the benefits of having the product on hand in the event there is an EV fire call. Justin explained that he has noticed that one of the Vestas wind farm company vehicles are now going towards Electrical trucks. Justin stated the cost for 6 emergency plugs which are \$900.00 per plug and then \$5,394.00 for 6 - (2) 2.5 gal containers of the powder product. Justin stated the plug disables the drive system; it fools it to not be active. The FCL-X powder is poured into the tank and recirculated through and once sprayed on an EV fire it will put it out. Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked Justin to reach out to the rest of the fire departments in the county to see if they are interested in having this equipment on hand and come back to discuss it with the commissioners.

The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:45am, then reopened at 10:07am.

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Business Continued


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

Auditor Beth Budreau presented a certificate of appointment for the Grant Township Library, for Teresa Clawson, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the certificate of appointment, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Auditor Beth Budreau presented an amended ordinance of Right of ways, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:11a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck, motion carried.



Phil McGinnis

Shawn Leuck

John Gick

Attest: Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor