

Benton County Commissioner Meeting June 3, 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.

Others in attendance were Derek Fuehrer, Mike Budreau, John & Brian – BF&S Reps, Josh Gaskill, Mike Dwenger, Latisha Provo, Colin Sullivan, Dave Buck, Rep from Ray's Demolition, Rep from Denney's Company, Audrey Freeland, Aimee Green, Ron Shoup, Rod Green, Harold Halderman, Matt Hull, Kelly Balensiefer, Jim Hardebeck, Dana Clute, Shawn Kain – KIRPC, Glenda Wallpe, Dave Fisher, Sam Smith, Jon Charlesworth, Bryan Berry and Jon Lawyer.

Mike Budreau – Highway Superintendent

- Started Chip & Sealing.
- Nipsco wants to bore under their substation on 100 W – Mike asked for the commissioner's approval.
- Mike stated that he reached out about the fog seal, Dave told him that it was really a waste of money, it's just for an appearance and one of the only reasons the state uses it is to paint the lines.

Colin Sullivan, Dave Buck, Brian & John – BF&S

Brian started out by explaining the bridge plans for bridge 125. He stated that they ran preliminary Hydraulic for the replacement that they had scoped, DNR came back and said we were using a flow that was too low, so they would have to significantly increase that. Instead of putting 2 piers in and going 3 span and increasing the length of the end spans they are going to go simple span and just take the piers out having nothing in the channel to obstruct it and keep the water flowing. This will also eliminate 100 feet of road work as well. The bridge will be lengthened, and the load rate can be what we want, just have to make sure we have the correct beam size and the right strands to go in it to make it as strong as we need it to be. Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked what lifespan and deterioration is and Brian stated it is 75 years.

The commissioners opened the sealed bids for the Oxford Elementary School Demolition Project, the bids are listed as follows:

- Denney Companies - \$566,140
- Gentry Demolition - \$386,000
- Green Demolition - \$398,000
- Rays Demolition - \$329,400

Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to take the bids under advisement, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Kelly Balensiefer – Assessor

Kelly came before the board because she needed to replace a PTABOA board member. Kelly stated that she found someone, Charlotte Burton, for their 5th board member. Commissioners Phil McGinnis made a motion to accept Charlotte Burton as the 5th board member for PTABOA, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, Motion carried.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis made a motion to change the requirements to be a board member for PTABOA, you will no longer have to be apart of a specific political party to be a board member, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Jim Hardebeck – Fowler Senior Center

Jim came before the board to ask for money or ways of funding the Fowler Senior Center, he presented the monthly schedule to the commissioners. He stated he realizes that the commissioners give money

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each year to the fowler senior center, but he is requesting that the commissioners increase that percentage that they give. The commissioners stated that the center will not be closing, and they do want to help, but the commissioners asked that they present their financials for the year so they can take a look to see what amount of funding is needed. The commissioners also recommended that they reach out to the windfarms to see if they would be willing to donate money.

Audrey Freeland – Tower Asset Manager

Audrey came before the board because she is having issues with the tower outside of the jail. She stated that mainstream had plugged into out tower without permission and Bryan had unplugged it yesterday morning and it was plugged back in this morning. Audrey stated that she had Nora going back through the camera to see for sure who it is and when it was done. Audrey stated they are working to rechaining the fence and they will also be doing the one at Freeland Park. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated to go ahead and get both locations secured.

Jason Fisher – EMS – EMA – 911

Jason came before the board requesting an additional dispatcher position. He is requesting to put an 8th dispatcher position to their crew. Jason wants to do this so there are always 2 dispatchers on duty. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve of the 8th dispatcher position, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

Jason discussed the siren replacement project. He stated he thought that he would be able to rely on the utilities companies to remove the existing siren poles, they are willing to help, but he doesn't think they have the appropriate equipment to do it. When the company was here doing the Ambia siren, they said when they come back through, they can remove all the poles, the cost is \$1,300 per pole. Jason stated ideally if they can pull one down and keep it intact as a secondary siren and replace the one that doesn't work by Otterbein School. Jason stated he has money in his 4108 fund to work on this project. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motion to approve spending the money to take down the poles, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Jason, as the emergency management director, it is his job to look at contingencies and backups, the state 800 system is reliable, but the usage and them getting busier the state only provides so many voice paths. Several counties are going to add their own 800-megahertz radio systems. Because of the high cost of adding another voice path on the state 800 system. When there is weather or hazmat incidents, if other counties are busy, we can rely on our tower, but when Indiana State Police, INDOT use it etc., it gets busy. Jason is requesting their own license 800-megahertz frequency and system to manage it on their tower. What they would be paying for is the licensing fees with J&K and for someone to climb the tower. The cost is \$9,128.07 and Jason said he would pay out of 4108 funds. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

Glenda Wallpe – Recorder

Glenda came before the board to request the purchase of 3 new computers in her office. She has the funds, but it is wanting the commissioner's approval. The new computers would be for the 2 public search station and the 3rd workstation, when they were down during the server issues, they realized that the computers couldn't do any updates. Commissioner John Gick suggested having Matt Hoaks look at the computers from the county home to see if they would be able to replace at least 2 in her office. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that they will reach out to Matt to see if the computers will work, if the computers do not work, Commissioner Phil McGinnis made a motion to approve the purchase of the computers, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

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The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:37am, then reopened at 9:50am.

Jon Charlesworth – Extension

Jon came before the board to request comp time for his employee Kelly Wallpe, with the fair coming up they will be working more hours. Jon stated they will track the comp time like they did last year. They will start setting up on July 8th, and the fair starts on July 16th. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the comp time, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Jon also wanted to let the commissioners know that Purdue is still in limbo on the other two educator positions.

Business

There were 3 sealed bids that were opened by the commissioners for the 1998 Ford Van that was listed for sale, they are as follows:

- Chase Stacy - \$1805.00
- Dana Clute - \$2100.00
- Brenda Sheets – 1,737.00

The highest bidder was Dana Clute, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the bid by Dana Clute in the amount of \$2100.00, seconded by John Gick, motion carried.

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

Meeting minutes from 05.06.2025 were approved by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, Seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

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

Monthly Claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.


Auditor Beth Budreau presented an invoice for the rental agreement from Castongia's for the equipment used to dig on the south side of the jail in the amount of \$2,438.00. Commissioner John Gick made a motion to pay it, seconded by Shawn Leuck, motion carried. Let the record show Commissioner Phil McGinnis abstained from voting.

Jon Lawyer – Metro Communications Co.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked Metro Comm to come to the commissioners' meeting to discuss their next project and their route they are wanting to use going through Earl Park to the Verizon tower. There are some discrepancies as far as right of ways / easements and it was never approved by the commissioners. Jon stated that what they are trying to figure out is how they are going to do their route to the tower. Jon stated that if the route needs adjusted because of a right of way or easement, that can be done, when they drew up the route they just went based off aerial footage and plat books. They will stay within the county right of way / easement and have no issue adjusting the route if needed. Jon stated they will redo the prints and resubmit them.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43a.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