

Benton County Commissioner Meeting January 7th, 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 & John Gick, Benton County Auditor Beth Budreau, County Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Others in attendance were Matt Hull, Bryan Berry, Latisha Provo, Audrey Freeland, Evan Puetz, Ron Shoup, Sara Niccum, Representative from Keystone Cooperative, Representative from BF&S, Randy Miller, and Mike Dwenger.

The first order of business was the organization of officers:

President: Phil McGinnis / motion made by John Gick, 2nd by Shawn Leuck

Vice President: Shawn Leuck / motion made by Phil McGinnis, 2nd by John Gick,

Secretary: Beth Budreau / motion made by President, Phil McGinnis, 2nd by Shawn Leuck.

The board of Commissioners then made the following appointments:

Title	Appointee	Motion-Second-Abstained
County Attorney	Jacob Ahler	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Courthouse Custodian	Darren Regnier	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Dept. Homeland Sec/EMA	Director Jason Fisher	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Deputy EMA Director	Jonathan Devers	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
District Planning Council Rep	Jonathan Devers	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
IT Person/Company	Silverback Consulting Group, Inc	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
**N.W. In. Solid Waste Dist. Rep	John Gick	Phil McGinnis/Shawn Leuck / John Gick
**K-IRPC – Comm. Representative	Latisha Provo	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
**Bi-County Drainage Board (2 Comm.)	John Gick	Shawn Leuck/Phil McGinnis / John Gick
Board of Zoning Appeals Attorney	Brooke Scheurich	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Advisory Plan Commission Atty	Brooke Scheurich	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Community Action Board Rep	Audrey Freeland	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Economic Developer Director	Latisha Provo	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Highway Bookkeeper	Michelle Traylor	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
ADA Coordinator	Morgan Stevens	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Highway Supervisor	Mike Budreau	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
**Plan Comm. Council rep	Brent Cox	Appointed by the County Council
**Plan Commission Rep.	Shawn Leuck	John Gick/Phil McGinnis / Shawn Leuck
**Plan Commission Rep	Jon Charlesworth	Is automatically on the board
**Plan Comm. Surveyor rep	David Fisher	Is automatically on the board
Plan Commission Members	OPEN	/ /
Plan Commission Members	Jim Lawinger	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Plan Commission Alternate	Tim Barrett	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Plan Commission Members	Bob Leburg	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Plan Commission Members	Paul Schutter	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Plan Commission Members	Deb Orr-Lane	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Retirement Village Superintendent	Samantha Dalton	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Veterans Officer	Rita Schutter	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Wabash Valley Hospital Rep.	Audrey Freeland	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Recycling Administrator	Michelle Traylor	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Health Commissioner	H.B. Recom. – Kathy Sarault	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Building Comm (Brd apt. Comm Recm.)	Carl “Matt” Hull (Recommended)	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Health Commissioner – Secretary	Kathy Sarault	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Building Commissioner – Secretary	Kathy Sarault	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A
Fair Board President	John Cox	John Gick/Shawn Leuck N/A

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Fair Board Vice President	Brody Fox	John Gick/Shawn Leuck	N/A
Fair Board Secretary	Meredith Cobb	John Gick/Shawn Leuck	N/A
Fair Board Treasurer	Kyle Keffer	John Gick/Shawn Leuck	N/A
Fair Board Public Relations	Niki Harman	John Gick/Shawn Leuck	N/A
Fair Board Sergeant at Arms	David Quear	John Gick/Shawn Leuck	N/A

**** Representative is to be a Member of the Board of Commissioners or by statute requirements**

Evan Puetz – Assistant Highway Superintendent

- Cutting Brush
- Presented roads that will be done through Community Crossing.
- Presented roads that are all blacktop and chip and seal.
- Presented Dairy Road figures from 2022-2024, from the highways to the dairy's the road repairs that need billed out per the RUA. What you used in 2022 subtract from what was used in 2024 and they will pay the difference.

Attorney Ahler spoke and said that he received an email from BioTown regarding having issues with multiple county roads where the roads are causing damage to their trucks. BioTown was asking if they go to the highway directing. Attorney Ahler told the commissioners that he could respond and ask for locations of the roads and let the commissioners look at them and if BioTown needs to come to a meeting then they can get on the agenda. Commissioner McGinnis stated that they only have 3 routes that they are allowed to run off the state highway.

Evan presented a quote for a new pickup from Alsop. Evan stated with the business changes on Alsop, Lynn Emerson advised him to make a decision on whether he would like to purchase it or not. Evan stated that the highway would get rid of their 2009 Crew cab after receiving the new pickup. The quote Evan received is \$55,255. Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the purchase of a new pickup for the highway department, Commissioner, John Gick second, and motion carried.

Business

Attorney Ahler had a question about the \$10,000 fines with BP. Commissioner McGinnis said that BP has still yet to follow through. The last email Attorney Ahler saw the payment would be in after the holidays and it is past that point. Commissioner McGinnis stated that he thinks that we should move forward with the way things were set in motion to begin with. The study was due in August, and Commissioner McGinnis said they've had plenty of time to get it done. Commissioner McGinnis said the permits are still shut down. Attorney Ahler said that he would put together a letter to send to BP.

Minutes were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried

Bryan Berry recommended that the commissioners save the recorded special meeting from 12.20.2024 onto a flash drive. County Auditor Beth Budreau stated that she still had the recording and would save it to a flash drive.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to move forward with the current Capital Improvement Plan, as there are no changes at this time, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis tabled the contractual service agreement for Purdue Extension until Purdue explains what they are going to do with the educator position.

The sharing contracts that were received were reviewed and signed by the commissioners.

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The commissioners tabled the appointment for Otterbein Library for further review until the next meeting.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that Audrey Freeland has agreed to stay on as our Cybersecurity liaison with silverback. They will work together with anything to do with our firewalls and the backbone for the IT department.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis also stated that the commissioners have come to an agreement for a new position for an in-house IT person, Commissioner, John Gick motioned to have Mattheiu Hoaks to take on the in house IT position, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motion carried.

Commissioner Shawn Leuck asked about the gas line at the fairgrounds. He stated that somewhere lines got crossed and it got dropped. Commissioner Leuck stated it sounds like it didn't get scheduled, so they need to call them again and get it scheduled. Commissioner Leuck stated that he would give NIPSCO a call.

Seal bids for bituminous, fuel, hot mix, stone, oil etc... The highway received bids from the following:

Fuel –

- Newton Oil Co Inc.
- Keystone Cooperative
- Petroleum Traders Corporation

Bituminous Bids

- Bit Mat Products
- Milestone
- Asphalt Materials Inc

Stone

- Rogers Group Inc

Asphalt (Surface & binder)

- Reith-Riley Construction
- Milestone Contractors, L.P.

All bids were accepted, and the final decision was given to the Highway Assistant Superintendent with a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and the motion passed. A complete breakdown of bids will be available in the Benton County Auditor's office once received from the Benton County Highway department.

Business Continued:

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

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented a claim from extension that was turned in for reimbursement for mileage to Warren Co., Commissioner McGinnis stated that we will not be paying mileage for business regarding another county and that it has already been addressed before.

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The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:25 am, then reopened at 10:10 am

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

The holiday schedule was presented for the EMS/Dispatch departments – Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the holiday schedule, seconded by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis motion carried.

Jason asked for the approval of the annual fee for their Electronic Patient Care System in the amount of \$5,242.00 – Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve, second by Commissioner Shawn Leuck motion carried.

Jason gave an annex update. He said it cleared out and mentioned the window needs to be looked at and possibly replaced on the west wall, he also recommended the room have better lighting. Jason asked permission to reach out to Goose to see if he would be able to put up new lights. The Commissioners agreed that was fine.

The county is switching from CodeRed to Rave and is currently in the middle of the transition. Jason said this new company is through Motorola and asked about it being paid out of highway since they already are paying for it. Commissioner, Phil McGinnis motioned for it to be paid out of County Highway, second by Commissioner, John Gick.

Jason spoke about the vehicle purchase. He is looking at a SSV Tahoe, in the amount of \$55,842. He will give the suburban to the supervisors so that way they have more space for their equipment. The old Tahoe will go to EMA and the explorer will go to the County Highway to be sold.

Jason wanted to let the commissioners know that he has 1 employee retiring in March.

Jason briefly talked about an ambulance purchase, there are two different options to go with one would hold up better than the other. The Commissioners asked to see numbers on both options before any decisions were made.

Jason spoke about his part time Morgan Stevens; she has agreed to take on the Safe Place program. Jason came before the commissioners to ask if he paid \$4,000 out of EMS for her rate if the commissioners would match that. The Commissioners wanted more information on the job and duties that she would be doing. It is tabled until the next meeting.

John Cox – Sheriff

Sheriff Cox requested an increase on their VISA card. It was brought to his attention while his correction officers have been rotating shifts at the hospital supervising an inmate that they have no way of getting food. He asked the commissioners if it would be okay to increase his current VISA for the sheriff's office by \$500 and get an additional card. Commissioner, Phil McGinnis motioned to approve, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motion carried. – The commissioners also approved for him to use the travel visa in the auditor's office if it's needed until he can get an additional card.

Sheriff Cox asked the commissioners if they knew of any storage options for the books and other memorabilia that is over at the old jail. He wants to move it to a more climate-controlled storage place until he can go through it. Commissioner, Phil McGinnis recommended reaching out to Pat Doyle about the shipping containers that he sells. Commissioner McGinnis stated it won't be climate controlled, but it will at least be out of the weather.

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- Sheriff Cox stated that he has 10 candidates for the 3 correction officer positions that he has open. He will start interviews on Wednesday.
- Sheriff Cox that Bliss McKnight is going to be bringing in a firearm simulator for training.
- The new Mossberg shotguns are being issued to patrol vehicles and the old shotguns will be retrofitted to be used as a less lethal option – Bean bag & C/S gas rounds – they should arrive in 60 days.
- The new Chevrolet trucks are burning a quart of oil every 2500 miles or so. According to the Chevrolet bulletins, this is an acceptable rate of oil consumption for Silverado's that run hard or idle for long times. The sheriff stated he will look at changing the oil between 2500-3000 miles instead of 3000-4000 miles.
- The new engine for the 2021 Dodge will be installed by the county highway when it arrives. 2019 is back in service and running fine.
- The jail inspection by the state department of corrections is January 16th. The last 2 years have gone smoothly. John has no reason to believe that this year won't go the same way.
- The county highway will finish digging out the dirt and bushes on the west side of the jail when they have time. \
- Sheriff Cox stated that he is going to set up a meeting with Fowler water utilities to discuss what type of sewage grinder the jail would need.

John Cox – Fairgrounds

John & Brody Fox attended last weekend's fair and festival convention down in Indianapolis. They have found some vendor options to explore with the fair board.

- Goals for 2025
 - New roof for boy scout barn.
 - Grandstand food stand needs a new metal roof and additional repairs on the inside.
 - Finish around the racetrack and Sheriff Cox wanted to discuss naming the building after Bill Dimmick – who donated \$25,000 so far and is funding the fencing which is \$36,000. Commissioner, John Gick motioned to approve naming the building after Billy second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck motion carried.
- John Cox discussed having a rental agreement drawn up for the new building before it is finished. It is planned to be open in April or May and John would like to have something in place.

Business continued:

The monthly claims were approved with no amendments with a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck and motion carried

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

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

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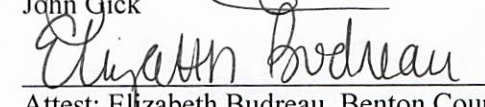
Phil McGinnis



Shawn Leuck



John Gick



Attest: Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor