

# Benton County Council

## January 26, 2023

The Benton County Council met at 8:30 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Council members: Jim Schoen, Angie Glotzbach, Trina Schutter, Mike Conner, Brent Cox, Jack Duncan and Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were – John Cox, Jennifer Greenberg, Bryan Berry, John Fields, Mike Freeland, Angie Taylor, Tonya Robinson, Carole Hoff, and Mark Doud

The first order of business was the organization of offices. Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach motioned to appoint Jim Schoen as the President of the Council, second by Councilman, Mike Conner and motion carried. Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach motioned to appoint Brent Cox as the Vice President of the Council, second by Councilman, Mike Conner and motion carried.

### **John Cox – Sheriff**

- Austin Rennick will be his jail commander and sex offender registry officer. John would like this line to be renamed from captain to the items listed above.
- John would like to take the \$5,000 from the sheriff's part time administrative assistant line and move it to the jail budget so he can use it towards the two shift supervisors who would get an additional \$2,000 each towards their salary for the extra duties. The salary amendments were approved with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.
- John then asked if the salary for jailer/CO #10 (new line) could be moved to the head cook line. The cook was previously being paid out of the matron line. The full amount of \$32,428.00 was approved to be moved with a motion by Councilman, Mike Conner, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.
- Sheriff Cox asked to move \$17,572.00 from the new jailer/CO #11 (new line) to the matron line who by statute is to be paid the same as a merit deputy. Some of the responsibilities for this position include budget, admin work as deemed by sheriff, all female inmates (if there is not a female jailer/CO on duty) and all juveniles. This was approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.
- Councilman Schoen asked to revisit the \$5,000 request and where that money was currently budgeted. Auditor Freeland stated that it is currently in the sheriff's budget and Sheriff Cox is asking to use for the jail which can be done a couple of ways. One they can create a line within the sheriff budget to reflect the correct title, or two they can do a budget amendment and move the funds from the sheriff's budget to the jail budget creating the new line there. Councilman Cox asked which would be easiest, either way was fine with Auditor Freeland. After further discussion it was determined that the funds would be moved from the sheriff into the jail budget for better transparency
- Cox then asked if the remaining funds in the jailer/CO #11 line (\$14,85.00) could be split up between the 9 jailers/COs to attempt to bridge the salaries in surrounding counties. This would bring the 9 jailers from \$32,428.00 to \$34,078.00. He is having extreme difficulty finding and hiring any new recruits. He would like to ask the Council for assistance in finding some extra funding to bring the salary up to match Warren County's jailers/CO's, he would need \$42,660.00 to do this. It would be \$4,740.00 extra towards the jailers pay. He knows that the county will never be able to compete with some of the surrounding counties, but he would like to decrease the gap.

# Benton County Council

## January 26, 2023

- Commitment contract – John has gotten approval and will be having any new hires sign a 3-year commitment contract so if they do decide to separate from employment the employee would be required to repay the county some of the training funds used on a prorated basis.

Councilman Conner spoke about the appropriations/account lines created for two additional jailers/CO's, with this request to move the money are those positions going to be eliminated or will there be a request to refund those also at a later date? Sheriff Cox said that the idea behind those two additional positions was to allow more coverage from 9pm to 9am, but with the pay and lack of pool for new hires he would rather focus on retainment on the current employees and try to get their salary to a more competitive rate. His long-term goal it to hire those jailers/CO's who eventually would apply for a merit deputy position.

Councilman Schoen revisited the request for the additional funding for jailers/CO's and stated that it will be a 2024 budget issue because they are not able at this time especially since there was a revenue loss with the BP issue. He is unsure on where they could be able to find the additional funding. Sheriff Cox understands and stated that down the line he will be looking to hire 3 additional deputies once he can get applications to get the sheriff side fully staffed. There is an officer grant for sworn officers and possibly other grant opportunities. The board of council John to continue to look for other funding opportunities.

Sheriff Cox briefly spoke about the public safety tax and how that could be a salary supplement option but understands that a new tax is not the easiest sell to the community. Councilman Schoen said that he would prefer that rather than a grant, he feels that the community understands the need for public safety. Councilman Commissioner Berry stated that the county has that tax in place already but could look at the relocation of how those funds are being allocated and if there is room to increase it. Councilman Schoen asked the Commissioners if they were in agreement that doing that would be the best option, yes they agreed. Commissioner Berry spoke about how it was handled when it was originally adopted, they lowered the income tax to help save the taxpayers approximately a quarter of percent, if that has not been allocated yet they could use that towards the sheriff's request.

- 3 year jail plan – Sheriff Cox is still working on this but is getting all of that in place. He thanked the Commissioners for their assistance with all of that. He still needs to review the Cumulative rates and what the process is to change those.
- Jail issues – in preparation for the inspection there were a few issues that had to be resolved; The sally port was drained and inside the jail where there was areas that were holding water.
- Jail inspection – the walk through went well and the jail passed its inspection
- Camera system at jail – John is getting quotes to get all of the cameras in working order by either replacement or repairs. It will be approximately \$97,000 needed for this. There are some areas where there is no camera coverage which will also be corrected. When they were originally installed in 2015 it was \$168,000.00
- Old dispatch – they will be installing a wall that will create an interview room and where they will hold juveniles. The remaining area will be used as the office for the jail matron. By doing this it will place someone up front to welcome any visitors coming into the jail.
- Grants awarded – \$13,000.00 for ballistic vests for the officers and stab resistant vests for the COs from the DOJ. Another grant from the ICJI in the amount of \$12,000.00 to replace the body worn video systems
- Inmates' health – Sheriff Cox has made a few changes; one being a dentist coming to the jail and he has mental health facilitator coming in once a month

Auditor Freeland on behalf of the recorder presented the annual ordinance request to allow her to use her recorder perpetuation fund. The 2023 ordinance to use the Recorder Perpetuation fund was approved

# Benton County Council

## January 26, 2023

with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried

### **Jennifer Greenberg – Clerk**

Jennifer came before the board to request moving money from her PT clerical line to increase her deputies line. She stated that she compared with the Auditor's office salaries as she felt they are the most comparable offices. Jennifer is requesting to move \$4900 from the part time line within the 3 full time deputies lines and if approved will provide Auditor Freeland with the breakdown.

Councilwoman Glotzbach asked how much of the money requested via an additional in 2022 was used for the part time that was requested. All of it was used since the previous clerk had a part time employee. Jennifer added that she does not have a part time employee and does not plan on having any part time employees.

The approval to move the funds as presented was made with motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

**The Council temporarily closed the regular meeting and went into their joint meeting with the Commissioners and Treasurer for the Board of Finance meeting. The Council reopened their regular meeting at 9:29 a.m.**

### **Tonya Robinson – County Home**

Tonya came before the board today to request approval to eliminate part time employees at the County Home and place the full time staff on a 2-2-3 schedule. This would allow her employees a break from working 6-7 days in a row and becoming burnt out. They would know what their shifts/days off would be so they could schedule personal appointments accordingly.

If they allow her to do this she would like to take the two part time positions and create a 4<sup>th</sup> full time attendant. The money was approved, and it would just be allocated within the budget. This would put her staff as follows:

1. Superintendent
2. Assistant Admin Superintendent
3. 4 Full time attendants
4. 0 Part time

Councilman Schoen asked what the breakdown would be. Tonya would like the hourly to remain at 11.07 for the 4<sup>th</sup> full time which is the overnight position. From the approved \$31,500.00 she would take \$23,026.00 for the 4<sup>th</sup> full time line and would like to leave the remaining \$8,474.00 where it is for now. After further discussion, a motion to move the funds as requested was a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland also added that Tonya has discussed and would agree to also amend the holiday schedule to follow the same as the other 24/7 departments. What this means is that they would only receive holiday pay for a select few of the holidays approved, which would also save money. The full time staff members who are clocked in and work the holiday would receive compensation for that time at time and a half. If they do not work the holiday they do not receive holiday compensation.

**Benton County Council**  
**January 26, 2023**

**Business:**

The meeting minutes from December 15, 2022 meeting were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry spoke about the investments that were done and now there is nothing being invested and the Treasurer has stated that she will not do anything that has his name on it. Berry asked the Council if they were ok with removing his name and listing deputy, Kate Daily. Councilman Schoen stated that SBOA recommends that as well. Berry replied that there are a few opinions on it with the SBOA department, and there is not statute stating that it cannot be done. Councilwoman Glotzbach asked if two signatures within the same office the best plan. Councilman Schoen said that it has been that way in the past and the county attorney is ok with it. He continued on stating that they will begin to receive quarterly reports that will be received by the bank so they will be able to see if there are any issues. The group discussed the checks and balances and other on-going issues. Councilwoman Glotzbach asked what happens if there is a change within the office, should names be listed.

The changes to the investment ordinance will be to remove Commissioner, Bryan Berry and to add the Treasurer and First Deputy Treasurer with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox and second by Councilwoman, Trina Schutter and motion carried.

The Council appointed Councilman, Brent Cox to be the KIRPC representative for their board with a motion by Councilman, Jack Duncan second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.

The Council appointed the Northwest Solid Waste District will be Mike Conner with Jim Schoen as the alternate was made with a motion by Councilman, Jack Duncan, second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.

**With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m. with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox, motion carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, James "Jim" Schoen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President, Brent Cox

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman, Mike Conner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilman, John "Jack" Duncan

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilwoman, Katrina "Trina" Schutter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilwoman, Jacqueline "Jackie" Steinmetz

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Audrey Freeland, County Auditor