

**Benton County Commissioner Meeting**  
**November 15th, 2022**

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, Steve Cox, Mike Freeland, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

**Others in attendance were:** Mike Budreau, Gail Lange, Walt Wilson, Angie Taylor, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Derrek Fuerher, John Cox, Matt Hull, Tonya Robinson, Sammy Dalton, Edwin Buswell, Dave Fisher, Jason Fisher, Maureen Hayden, Larry Barnard, John Nurago, Chris Walker, Ginny Albert, Kyle Handy, Mike Wortham, Gabriel Stomober, Robert Bellucci, .

**Others in attendance via phone Conference Bridge: N/A**

**Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor**

- Pay loader – has been received. The plow does not fit properly so they are looking for a pattern
- Skid steer – Commissioner Cox asked how it was working. Mike said that they don't like the controls but Mike is going to look into it some
- Mack(s) – they still only have the one
- Fairgrounds – The building is tore down, there is some concrete that needs to be broke up. Mike asked Muller Excavating to do it
- Town of Fowler – Mike asked if there was an update on the town gifting the property to the highway. Mike will put a storage shed on it. Auditor Freeland stated that she has not heard anything yet. Bryan asked how much, Mike said around an acre. If it is more than ½ acre they will need to let Randy know so he can set the correct description
- Brush – they are still cutting
- Dirt – will be pick some up
- Hitch – the front hitch is going on the trucks
- Railroad – York Township (700N/between 6 & 7) needs to be pushed back on the south side of the road. Then also go up to 7 (the angled part of 41).
- Damage – Cox asked if they found out who caused the damage, no not yet. Mike is making a few more calls today to see if he can get any answers

**Business:**

The November 1st, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were approved with corrections, with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

The pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Bryan Berry abstained from voting.

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Auditor Freeland said that Prosecutor Kepner is wanting to set up a new non reverting fund as a drug fund which can be used for buy money and available to multiple agencies. Commissioner Freeland asked who would have access. Auditor Freeland stated it would be him and the judge if deemed necessary. Commissioner Berry asked where the money came and if it would affect the Drug Coalition. Auditor Freeland said that the Drug Coalition funds are received from the alcohol and tobacco measures. She will reach out to Mr. Kepner for more information regarding the Coalition funds, but the judge is on board. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the request as long as the funding does not interfere with the Coalition, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner Cox asked Derrek if he is still having issues with his Tahoe, yes it is currently still at Budreau's. Commissioner Cox asked if he preferred an SUV or pickup. Derrek said he could work with whatever but prefers the ground clearance. Commissioner Freeland asked if a truck would work with his K9, yes it will. Deputy Rennick was just at the academy and they had a truck down there that was outfitted for a K9.

### **John Cox – Fair board & Sheriff Elect**

- Fair board – currently seeking new members to join them and will provide the board with a list as soon as they are received
- Building – lots of compliments on the removal of the old building. Lots of people are asking about what will be built there. Will there be rental area available and if the board is willing to have a Q&A with people to see what they would like to see.
- Weather proof – the fairgrounds are ready for winter
- Hall family – there have been several requests to honor the Hall family in some way such as renaming the goat barn or establishing a scholarship of some kind. They will be holding a meeting in December and will invite the board to that meeting.
- Track – Thank you for the allowing the highway to come help with the cleanup. It has been disked. The go-kart company is very excited. The board asked that no more gravel be placed on the track.
- Sheriff transition – the process is going smoothly
- Jail – he cannot find a footprint of the jail to determine the location of each camera and so forth. The video server at the jail was running very sluggish but it was determined that it held almost a years' worth of video and they are only required to keep 6 months.
- Email & keycard access – John has his BCG email up and running. He would like to have a keycard for the building if the board is ok with that. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the keycard access, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.
- New vehicle – Sheriff Munson is going to check into when that will be ready. Commissioner Cox suggests that it be outfitted for Derrek and get the second vehicle ordered and then they will work on replacing the Tahoe.
- Meds – John would like to utilize Glotzbach for any med needs for the jail
- Jail/Sheriff/Control area – heater problems, floor problems – the two shift supervisors will be doing a full walk through of the entire jail and put together a list of items that needs to be addressed. He does have a quote from Deno's for carpet and flooring issues.

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- K9 – The K9's are not currently insured and Commissioner Cox would like to see that done. John added that it will not cover the dog if it is injured or killed while not working

**Tonya Robinson & Sammy Dalton – Retirement Village**

Tonya and Sammy would like to get a contract/agreement with Cintas approved so they get the products at a better rate. They are looking to get disinfectant, wipes, floor mops, and other cleaning items. Commissioner Freeland asked where they are currently getting them. Tonya stated that they get them from either Sam's or Dollar General. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the request, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Tonya said that the outside camera is still not working. Commissioner Berry asked her to reach out to Jason and let him know.

**Business continued:**

Gail Lange wanted to add that since the Boswell school is no longer, there is a need for rental space and maybe it could be part of the rebuild at the fairgrounds. The board agreed.

Commissioner Berry spoke about the Purdue Extension agreement. He would like the following items added to it before approving; purchasing limit of \$1,000 anything over that must have approval of board, comp time must have approval prior to awarding, part time employees cannot work over 28 hours a week, and all employees must take breaks/lunch periods per the federal labor laws. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve adding the items above, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motioned to approve both payrolls for 11.04.2022 and 11.18.2022, seconded by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

The promissory note for the Town of Oxford was tabled because no capital improvement plan has been received.

The county home room and board report was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

**Jason Fisher – DHS, EMA and EMA Supervisor**

- Truck – after ordering last week the cost did change and it is now \$56,577.00. Commissioner Freeland asked if he was able to give Jason a delivery date, no he was not but will keep him updated. Commissioner Berry asked if he will be allowed to change the amount for vehicle within the grant. Jason believes so
- Grant items – Jason would like approval to start the process of ordering items (Yodok trailer and camera tower) since the delivery times are so long. Commissioner Berry asked if he will have the money. Jason said not up front but it is a reimbursable grant.
- EMT class - He has 4 part time and maybe 1 full time who are interested in taking the advanced EMT class. Commissioner Freeland asked how much it would cost. The cost

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would be around \$3,000 per employee for on-site training. The total class is a 160 hour course. Commissioner Berry feels that at some point they all should be.

- Fire alarm – Mulhaulpts quote
  - 1 – 2,964.00
  - 2 – 7,596.00

The difference between the two quotes is moving full remote center to dispatch from the jail and monitoring system. The lower of the two is for a monitoring system over IP with monthly cost. Commissioner Berry would like #2 because it is IPEP based instead of cell service which is not always reliable, and would be monitored 24/7 by dispatch.

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the quote in the amount of \$7,596.00, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

- Key updates – they will start once they receive the product
- Grants – The Code Red feature (\$4,500 is the annual cost) Jason will pay for out of grant funds. The technology enhancement grant will cover the add on for the Spillman server but not the E-Dispatch cost which will be \$3,800.00. The board will cover the E-Dispatch expense.
- County Home – Commissioner Freeland asked Jason to get with Tonya because they are having issues with their cameras.
- Generator – who services the courthouse generator – Curt Metzinger and/or the County Highway

**John Nurago (Geophysics), Chris Walker (Geologist), Ginny Albert (Advocacy Lead for CCUS), Kyle Handy (Land Negotiator), Mike Wrotham (Lead rep BP) & Gabriel Sotomber (In house Counsel) – BP**

Commissioner Berry thanked everyone for coming so they could get some questions answered regarding their request to do carbon sequestration within the county.

Mike said that they are here today to listen and then respond to any questions. Commissioner Berry asked them to provide an overview for minutes.

Mike said that they are here to discuss HB1209 – they are wanting to start a CCS (Carbon Capture Storage) Team which requires them to outline a number of elements to determine if Benton County is even feasible. They are looking to develop a process internally (3 steps) for Indiana. Commissioner Berry asked if most of it will come out of the Whiting facility. Mike said Whiting and other surrounding areas (NW region). Will any of those be facilities other than BP's? Mike responded that it is still early and they're still evaluating but maybe other feeder sites, and they are still in the research phase.

Chris then spoke to the room to explain why this area is one of interest. Indiana dips gently and Benton County rocks are located within the right region. He then spoke about the different rock layers, the depth and how they stop the CO2 from coming back up. They are researching and collecting data to make sure that the reservoir and top seal exists to identify if Benton County is a place to safely and securely store the CO2 in the ground.

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Commissioner Berry said that from the research he has done on his own to become more educated is that they feel Lake, Jasper, Newton and Benton are the most favorable, why is that. Chris said that they are looking at all of them but they like the initial finds of the rock layers within Benton County.

John added that due to the existing data but wanted to reassure them that they are still at the research stage. They use acoustic waves and inform the team of the nature and continuity. They are looking to identify any structural features. Commissioner Berry asked if they find any what do they do then, avoid the area. John responded that it depends, what can they see, what how much what it does. Does it move it far enough and is that good or bad and will be evaluated and determine the outcome. Because there is very little seismic data in this part of the country. This is the first time they have had this scale of seismic imaging in this part to share. It will allow them to know which areas are the most appropriate and which ones to avoid. Commissioner Berry said but you are seismic testing in Benton County first. Yes we will, they want to make sure they are completed before the frost law is in effect.

Commissioner Berry asked Chris about the sandstone, if a piece of sandstone was placed in a glass of water would it absorb the water, yes it will rocks are like sponges. The sponge space absorbs the water. Shallow is the fresh water and as you go deep the water will get more salty, when you get to the mount seimeon level (4,000 to 5,000 feet) depth the saltiness is 3X the level of sea water. Commissioner Berry asked if that helps absorbs it, no fresh water absorbs better but that level is too salty for even agriculture. It is the goldie lock zone to inject carbon into. Commissioner Berry asked how thick that level is. Chris stated that he believes for this area it would have a 4000 feet depth for injection zone.

John then spoke about the camera process, it will take a picture up to 6,000 feet on either side. The cameras/nodes will be placed and then removed 4-5 days later. Commissioner Freeland asked if once it has been used if the information is stored on there and if they are able to be reused. John answered that after they are placed they begin functioning. As soon as that it is done it goes back to a central location, they are recharged and then are able to be reused. On a daily basis they will be working on a 12 mile stretch.

As they have been laying out the permit lines they are able to adjust them as needed. Commissioner Berry said that the only issue he saw was the lines through town, he stated that the county cannot approve anything within the Town limits. John believes they moved to the north so that it was all within county limits. Commissioner Berry then asked if they were still looking at doing approximately 126 miles within Benton County, yes that is the plan.

Commissioner Berry wanted to discuss the liquid process. Chris said that most efficient way to transport is through a pipeline it is compressed with temperature and pressure to a liquid state. Commissioner Berry so nothing is added it is just compressed down that is correct. It then also takes up less space. Commissioner Freeland asked if the pipelines would be above or below ground. Chris said that they will typically be 6feet below ground but do have to come up so often for safety shut off valves. Matt Hull asked if pipeline would be within the right of way or on landowners. Mike replied that they are still in the developmental stage and so they are not sure. There are couple of existing pipeline right of ways that run through Benton County and

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without a map they cannot say for certain where they are located exactly but for best practices they will follow those lines. Chris believes that the two run along the state line and the freeway.

Commissioner Berry asked, if you chose Benton County how many areas will you be piping this into the sandstone. Chris said that it would be multiple spots. Mike added that a lot of what they are attempting to do will be determined once they are able to collect and review the data. Commissioner Freeland said so typically one of these wells could disburse this carbon below ground and cover several miles. Chris replied, yes that is correct. The surface foot print is very small and then the CO2 spreads out underground. This is all regulated by the Environment Protection Agency and the Indiana DNR. They are look at 9 square miles. Commissioner Freeland asked if the landowner is compensated, yes all land owners are compensated. Commissioner Freeland asked if it is at the same rate. There is a standard contract they have and then each will be paid fairly. Commissioner Berry asked how big the pipeline is. The truck pipeline is close to 20 inches and then a smaller one to the individual well that is about 6 inches. Commissioner Freeland asked how big the casing going down to the "goldie locks" area were. That is still to be determined, but elsewhere it is kind of a telescope starting larger and gradually getting smaller so around 24 inches and 6 feet high. Commissioner Freeland asked how long does it take. It will take approximately 30 days at each site total. The cores will go to the Indiana geologist storage at Purdue's core storage.

Mike wanted to add that Purdue was part of the Coalition that worked to pass HB1209 during the general assembly. Commissioner Freeland asked what HB1209 granted them what. Mike said that it tells them who owns the pore space, provides regulatory clarity and long term liability. Commissioner Freeland asked what the liability is. Mike replied that after the injection period has been proven or a course of long number of years the liability goes over to the state. There is a fee per ton (\$0.08) that goes to the state for long term storage.

Commissioner Berry asked what the time length is (40-50 years). Mike said once it is proven which is provided by EPA agencies, BP will then hand over the wells. Commissioner Freeland asked if the counties will see any of this \$0.08 fee. Mike said that is not how it was set up. Commissioner Berry asked if the federal government is getting any type of subsidies. Mike said the IRA bill basically provides funding for these types of projects. Commissioner Berry asked if this is BP's first project. While it is not their first project it is for the Midwest, currently there is some in gulf coast right now. They have been involved in some projects globally in the UK, Australia, Africa, Indonesia, Algerian Dessert and Abu Dhabi.

Commissioner Berry asked what happens if they decide not to complete the project, does it go to the state. He asked what assurances they can give the counties. Mike replied by saying that is why they are taking the necessary steps right now to make sure they want to do this. So far it looks promising. Chris said that the details of process do talk about this. There is the pre-appraisal during the injection and post injection site care. If BP gets into it and then after a year they are still held to the terms of the EPA class experiment. They will still have to go through whether or not they inject 1 ton or 1 million tons of CO2. That is when stewardship would transfer to the state after the post injection site care portion.

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Commissioner Berry asked how long BP plans to hold the CO2. The project life is 20 years with a 12 year tax credit, it is very difficult to make any type of project payout within 12 years. Commissioner Freeland asked if and when the wells reach capacity if they will then take down the wells or are they left there. Chris does not feel that after 20 years they will reach the capacity, but when the project ends that is when they would go through the EPA site closure process. The wells are plugged and abandoned. They will set concrete plugs in the well to stop any fluid movement, they remove the well head and they cut the well head at a certain depth below ground level which in the state of Indiana is below plow depth (6 or 10 feet). They will restore the surface to as close as initial conditions as possible. This is all listed in the contracts they are using with landowners. They are not anticipating injection for about 5 years so then the 20 year window starts. Commissioner Freeland so within the 9 square miles, say you have some that are not in favor of this is that location abandoned that area. Not necessarily, they are just starting these efforts and they will make sure that all are compensated fairly and it they will follow what HB1209 lists on how to proceed if there are those who are not interested. Commissioner Freeland said that there are a lot of those who are skeptic of the entire process.

Kyle then added that the liability is on BP and they are held to state standards. They have reached out to over 100 landowners to date and offers are being negotiated, it is mostly in the easements. The landowners will receive a bonus at initial injection and then a payment price per ton each time there is an injection (in landowner contracts). There is a Farm Bureau is also involved and working with BP on this project. They are also working very closely with the state representatives.

Commissioner Berry asked if the EPA is this state or federal. It is in Region 5 which is federal and the main office is in Chicago. Ginny will forward the program video which will be placed on the county's website.

Matt Hull asked how often would the wells be purged or is each well different. Chris said that it will continually have pressure and inject. The wells are active during construction, but are very limited while process and will have a constant pressure.

Gail Lange asked how this is being covered as people are talking now and have a lot of questions. Ginny will send press release once she is able to and Mike will share a link with her to their press office. Josh Hicks will be the contact that he will be giving her.

Commissioner Berry asked about earthquake possibilities. Chris said that it is one of the concerns they address. There are lessons that were learned after their project in Decatur, IL. where they injected to close to the basement, it is caused small micro sized events were detected. They will make any necessary adjustments at the base to avoid this with this project.

Commissioner Berry said so after the 20 years or life project will the pressure remain there. Chris said that the pressure decreases over time. It will dissipate and the carbon will dissolve into the salty water and be absorbed by the rocks and form new minerals.

Commissioner Berry said that BP will be required to obtain permits from the county highway at \$25 per mile and they are willing to do a blanket bond for the roads. The permits fees will be paid at the highway and the highway superintendent will determine the route they are to following. Matt Hull and Commissioner Berry stated that the county is ok with the initial

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research to start but they will have to get the Plan Commission involved before moving on or requesting a special exception.

**Edwin Buswell, Robert Bellucci, Maureen Hayden & Larry Barnard – Town of Oxford project**

They came today to provide a water project update, they are now at the design stage. They will then apply for permits.

The Town looked at a rate change but it was determined that it was not feasible for the taxpayers. They applied and were looking for Economic Development ARPA funds to cover 80% of the project but the Town did not win. They will reapply in the category that will allow 50% and will use funds from other agencies for the match. ARPA will only cover Drug Plastics portion of the project overall. They are working with KIRPC and will be also applying for USDA funding.

The funds that were previously committed by the county (while numbers are not changing) they will probably have a summer repayment rather than March. Larry asked what the status was for the county's payment to the Town. Commissioner Berry stated that the county is waiting on the Towns capital improvement plan (to be revised/updated every 2 year minimum) and it must document where/how the money will be spent. Jacob will work with their counsel on a template for the plan. The requirements for the county to pay out LIT funds to the Town per statute the Town must have a capital improvement plan. The plan will be put into place and an invoice will be sent to Auditor Freeland by November 22<sup>nd</sup> so payments can be made out of this year's budget. It was asked if they invoice directly or should the invoice come from the Town. Commissioner Cox said that it should come from the Town of Oxford. Commissioner Berry said that the council said it should be invoiced by the Town for payment. The payment will be made out of the wind funds.

Robert asked if the county had any issues with the project completion being pushed back, no they do not. Edwin spoke about the county being the co-applicant on the grant which needs to be signed. Commissioner Berry said that it would need to be updated to show that he is the president and with the corrected amount (this will be lowered).

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the revised commitment letter and other grant documents pending Jacob's approval, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Edwin asked if INDOT had spoken with them much about the Area IV for public transit, they are now going to start working on that in 2023 and finalize by 2025. There are currently no buses.

Commissioner Berry asked Attorney Ahler to review the promissory note because he does not remember agreeing to 10 year repayment, yes he will. Commissioner Cox said that they were never to be expected to pay that, and no it was not 10 years. Auditor Freeland said that the Town also asked for ARPA funds which the board stated they had already allocated their award funds and there were none available. Commissioner Berry is just concerned because of the length it is taking and all of the changes they present each time they come before them.



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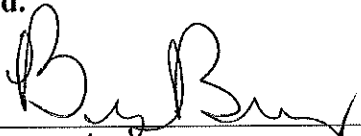
**Business Continued:**

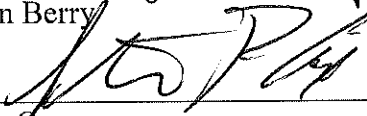
Auditor Freeland asked if she could purchase new computers for her office, she has the funding. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the purchase, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained from voting.


Commissioner Berry said that when they met with the SBOA earlier this year the Annual Financial report was discussed and all of the upcoming changes. Due to these changes that have to be in place for the whole county by the end of 2023 he feels that the Auditor's office could use some part time help with this project. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the part time position which is to be paid out of the Economic Development capital improvement plan, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motioned carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained from voting.


Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the advertisement of the part time position, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained from voting.

**With no further business the Commissioners closed their meeting at 10:37 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.**

  
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Bryan Berry

  
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Steve Cox

  
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Mike Freeland

  
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Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor