

Benton County Council

May 25th April 27th, 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, Mike Conner, Brent Cox, Jack Duncan, Jackie Steinmetz, Katrina Schutter and Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were – Mark Doud, John Cox, Bryan Berry, Angie Taylor and Lisa Jefvert

John Cox – Sheriff

- Budget – John started off by discussing the Commissary fund and listed what he had spent those funds on. He stated that \$17,000 spent so far was spent covering invoices that were not paid by the previous administration some dating back to 2021. He told them that the Commissioners have also paid for some other invoices found so that his total budget was not depleted. He then spoke to the board and requested them to approve a salary transfer from one CO line into his overtime budget to help cover those deficits. He wanted to assure the Council that he is doing what he can to stay within the approved budget but wants them to know that he could possibly have to request an additional appropriation.
- New hire – John informed the board that he is pleased to announce they have hired a 6th deputy and that the Commissioners have agreed to cover the outfitting as his uniform budget has also been depleted if he is unable to cover the expenses out of the Commissary funds.
- Parking lot – this project has been completed and is ADA compliant.
- Jail – He updated them that through ARPA grant funds they will begin replacing units. They are hoping to replace 5 (if possible) of the 9 this year.
- Grants – \$20,000 from the foundation if awarded will finish off some much-needed items for jail staff as well as deputies

Councilman Schoen asked about the overtime status if he is already negative and how the rest of the year will go. Sheriff Cox said that he has one more vacant CO salary line to cover the negative and have a balance to help offset those costs as much as possible. The transfer request from the 8th Jailer salary line to the overtime account line was approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.

Angie Taylor – Economic Development

Councilman Schoen explained that due to some questions that have been asked regarding the purchase of the church that Angie is here today to help answer those.

Angie shared some handouts to help explain the two projects/grants that the county is participating in for the READI grant;

1. Childcare grant – this is the only project that will require matching grant funds. Benton County is ranked 46th in the state for childcare services. Through this project the county purchased the church in the amount of \$50,000 and gifted it to the Montessori who was looking for a larger space. The purchase price will offset the 3-year matching grant funds which is a total of \$75,000. With that being said, the county will only have to pay an additional \$25,000 over the next two years. Angie went on to explain that it will allow more capacity and Mrs. Parker already has new children who have signed up. Councilwoman Schutter said that she was asked how it all transpired and how she was selected. Angie said that the list they had to choose from was eligible from the list that had met the specific state certifications. For those certifications Mrs. Parker didn't have she has now either obtained them or in the process of completing them. They now accept the low income or CCDF

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- vouchers. Angie continues by saying that there are very few licensed childcare providers in the area. Part of the point of this project is to help those who would like to become licensed providers. With Stephanie's help there is now another individual who is looking into becoming licensed as well, which will all be handled through the Child Care Network. Councilwoman Steinmetz asked if our state ranking is so low because we do not have the state licensing, yes because without the licensing they can't track them. The goal for the region is to reach/provide 430 seats (openings) throughout the region. Councilwoman Steinmetz asked if this would affect the preschool out at Benton Central. Commissioner Berry replied no because their funding is through the state and only so many hours per day. Councilwoman Schutter asked if anyone would be able to use this provider since it is a Montessori school. Angie said yes and that the CCDF vouchers that she is now accepting will help offset those costs. Councilman Duncan asked how many children are enrolled. Angie is not sure of the exact number but has been told that enrollment is up for next year. Councilwoman Glotzbach added that they also offer a summer camp program. Councilman Schoen asked Commissioner Berry to clarify if another stipulation of being able to be a recipient was that they had to be a non for profit and have a 501(C)(3) classification. Commissioner Berry said that for the county to donate it to her she had to have those yes. Councilwoman Schutter asked if the county had been reimbursed yet for this purchase. Angie said that we will not be reimbursed those funds as they were paid out as funds used for matching grant requirements. So, to reiterate the funds used to pay for the church will offset the total matching grant funds which is \$75,000 over a period of 3 years but the county will not be reimbursed, however over the next two years the county will only have to pay out an additional \$25,000. Councilman Schoen stated that from the grant the benefit to the county will be better childcare. All the liability of the church will be Mrs. Parkers not the counties as well. Councilwoman Steinmetz asked what parents do for newborn to 3 yr. olds and what is available, not much. Commissioner Berry added that they usually go to an individual. Angie added that by joining this partnership it will help bring awareness to the county and try and help those who want to become licensed providers do so. The Child Care Resource Network, who is based out of Remington, is the contact that Angie will be referring them too. Councilman Duncan asked if the payment was from the wind funds. Commissioner Berry said that it was to be paid out of the capital improvement plan. Councilwoman Schutter asked if they are the council and over the money then why did they not know. The Council sets the budget and then the Commissioners oversee the spending. Angie said that there will be an article in the paper as soon as her and Gail's schedules line up. She said that they are overseeing the 6-county region and what the funds can be used for as they can only be used in certain ways.
2. Housing/Broadband project – For this housing broadband project there are no county funds being used and no matching grant requirements. This will help with the lack of service in our rural community. She spoke about the upcoming project in Golf Heights and how their request was for assistance with broadband & Wi-Fi. Americrew will be working on this who has an agreement with Mainstream (but are separate entities). So, they will be working with Angie to get the proposal together for the grant. The county will get 1.49 million for broadband and 5G Wi-Fi services with no matching grant fund requirements. The county will be putting up a few towers for this project. Auditor Freeland said that there have been funds set aside through the ARPA grant and Commissioner Berry said that most of the towers are already established. They also spoke about the structural issues with Mainstreams construction and poor quality. Most of that has been corrected or will be soon now that Kelly with Americrew has seen it.

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The two projects selected were the best fit for our community overall. The total grant funds to be awarded to the county are expected to be over a million dollars with the county having to match a total of \$75,000.00.

Business:

The meeting minutes from April 27th, 2023, meeting was approved as presented with a motion by Councilman, Mike Connor and second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.

Department Head budget transfers were reviewed with a total of \$81,584.46 and approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.

The following CF-1 forms were discussed. These forms are submitted each year by those companies who currently have been approved for a tax abatement. The group reviewed and approved with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried

- Boswell Chase Grain (2)
- American Gardenworks Inc
- Millennium Real Estate LLC
- Holscher Products / Jamcat LLC (2)
- Fowler Ridge IV Wind Farm LLC (6)
- Meadow Lake Wind Farm LLC (2)

Auditor Freeland stated that Jordan Creek Wind Farm also had submitted theirs, but it is not included as there were issues getting it to print out with anything besides a signature. Auditor Freeland and Assessor Balensiefer are working with Colton from the wind company to have them resubmitted.

Auditor Freeland presented a list of items to be updated or changed on the salary ordinance per approval of the Council. The changes were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried.

Councilman Schoen discussed the October meeting and explained that they will need to vote at the next meeting for a new date so they can approve the budget before the DLGF deadline. Auditor Freeland stated that it does require a live vote so at least 5 members will need to be in attendance.

Auditor Freeland asked the board if any of them would be interested in attending the Council conference. She asked them to let her know if they can attend and she will make sure to get them the information.


Auditor Freeland then briefly discussed that Sheriff Cox had talked about possibly adjusting the Cumulative Jail rate. She went on to state that the deadline has passed for this year (May 31st) but wanted to make the board aware that next year it might be revisited.

Auditor Freeland introduced Mark Doud who provided a brief introduction.

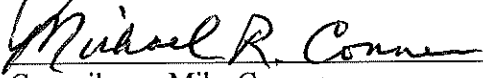
Auditor Freeland stated that Lisa Jefvert with the York Public Library who will be attending the next meeting for approval on an additional appropriation. They have the funds they just need the Council's approval since the board approves their budget as they are binding.

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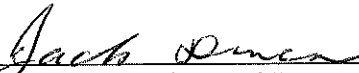
With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m. with a motion by Councilman Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan, motion carried.



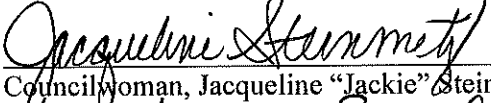
President, James "Jim" Schoen



Councilman, Mike Conner



Councilman, John "Jack" Duncan



Councilwoman, Jacqueline "Jackie" Steinmetz

Attest: 

Audrey Freeland, Auditor



Vice President, Brent Cox

Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach



Councilwoman, Katrina "Trina" Schutter