

Benton County Council September 22nd, 2022

The Benton County Council were set to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Council members: Robert Sloniger, Brent Cox, Jack Duncan, Jim Schoen, Brad Harman, Angie Glotzbach and Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were – Lisa Jefvert, Angie Taylor, Mike Freeland, John Cox and Bryan Berry

Lisa Jefvert came before the board today to ask the board to declare that they will act as the fiscal body for the 2023 budget. The board will serve as the fiscal body with a motion by Councilman, Jim Schoen, second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried. Lisa thanked the board.

Councilman Sloniger stated that the Earl Park library reached out to him about an appointment that will need to be made to replace Mary Brock on the library board. He said that she will be sending that information soon.

Business:

The meeting minutes from the August 25th, 2022, meeting were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

Department head transfer requests were approved with a motion by Councilman, Jim Schoen, second by Councilman, Brad Harman and motion carried. The transfers were presented as follows;

600.00	1189-000-03.62	DUES	1189-000-03.25	CONTINUING ED	RECORDER
30.00	1000-002-03.31	PRINTING-COMPUTER	1000-002-03.66	TRAINING	AUDITOR
550.00	1000-002-02.21	STATIONERY- ENVELOPE	1000-002-02.20	MISC SUPPLIES	AUDITOR
500.00	1000-002-03.31	PRINTING-COMPUTER	1000-002-02.20	MISC SUPPLIES	AUDITOR
23,420.00	1000-068-03.59	MAINTENANCE AGREE	1000-068-03.25	CONTRACTUAL SERVIC	COMMISSIONER
50.00	1000-068-03.59	MAINTENANCE AGREE	1000-068-03.21	ANNEX REFUNDS	COMMISSIONER
100.00	1000-068-03.59	MAINTENANCE AGREE	1000-068-03.29	PROMOTION OF CO BUS	COMMISSIONER
200.00	1000-068-03.59	MAINTENANCE AGREE	1000-068-03.10	IT SERVICES	COMMISSIONER
538.00	1000-068-03.59	MAINTENANCE AGREE	1000-068-03.42	BONDS	COMMISSIONER
3,500.00	1000-068-03.15	WABASH VALLEY	1000-068-02.20	MISC SUPPLIES	COMMISSIONER
1,888.00	1000-068-03.98	MEMORIAL EXPENSE	1000-068-04.48	LAND & IMPROVEMENT	COMMISSIONER
600.00	1189-000-03.62	DUES	1189-000-03.25	CONTINUING ED	RECORDER
100.00	1000-622-02.55	LINENS	1000-622-02.32	GAS & OIL	RETIREMENT VILLAGE

\$32,076.00 total transferred

Auditor Freeland gave an update on the additional appropriation for the clerk. It is set to be officially approved at the October 22nd meeting.

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Auditor Freeland shared the 2023 Form 3 for the board to review, it is the notice to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Freeland gave an update on the roof project and let the council know that there could be a few additional expenses than they originally discussed.

Commissioner Berry said that Attorney Ahler will be sending over the amended investment policy for the council to sign.

The public hearing and 1st reading of the 2023 budget was then done. The following changes were discussed during the 1st reading of the budget.

1. Sheriff - Councilwoman Glotzbach stated that she would like to see the sheriff deputies pay be increased to \$50,000.00.
2. Surveyor – the ditch mileage was put to the 773 (5%) and the inspection of corner stone was put to the 910 (5%)
3. Highway – grader/repairs listed 2,000 and it should be 20,000

The group also discussed that there would need to be budget adjustments done at the January 2023 meeting to move money into accounts that will be split or budgets moved to different funds.

Sheriff elect, John Cox informed the board that Deputy, Ethan Deno has worked his last shift so they will be looking to fill that position.

Sheriff elect Cox asked what the next process is in the budget process. Council President Sloniger and Auditor Freeland answered his questions.

The amended investment policy was presented and reviewed. The ordinance was approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox and motion carried. Commissioner Berry asked that this ordinance be emailed once recorded to FSB-Steve Brunton and FMB-Grant Whaley.

Commissioner Berry spoke with BP winds and BP contacted DLGF but have not gotten back to the county. The group discussed the issues with BP with DLGF for the 2023 certified net assessed values being wrong. He said that they are going to wait until the county and the schools budgets are approved. The whole issue could be resolved with an amended state utility report and the county being able to recertify. Councilman Schoen said that the key is the DLGF does not want to admit they were wrong. Commissioner Berry added that even their general counsel (for DLGF) said that both BP and the DLGF were wrong. Commissioner Berry stated that he then reached out to Senator Niemeyer and said that the county does not feel the DLGF should be making decisions on behalf of the county.

Commissioner Berry said that BP is out knocking on doors trying to sequester carbon in case the board is asked about it. They want to put it into the group but will not answer Berry on why they do not want to put it in the air.

Commissioner Berry will reach out to Attorney Ahler and have him re-amend the investment

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ordinance regarding the 30 days, which will be presented at the October meeting. Councilman Sloniger stated that yes he would appreciate that.

The group closed out the meeting at 9:34 a.m. with a motion by Councilman, Jim Schoen, second by Councilman, Brad Harman, motion carried.

B. A. Dyls

Janet Jensen

W. Sloniger

Attest: Audrey Freeland
Audrey Freeland, County Auditor

Michael R. Conner

Brad Harman

Jim Schoen