

Benton County Commissioner Meeting March 7th, 2023

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, Mike Freeland, John Fields, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Walt Wilson, Angie Taylor, Gail Lange, Dave Fisher, Lucas Darling, Dianne Hubbard, Jason Fisher, John Cox, Holly Logsdon, Beth Budreau, Stephanie Donahue, Morgan Stevens, Bill Burton, Ryan Besse, Matt Cooper, Frasier and Mike Worthman

Commissioner Berry asked everyone present to take a moment of silence for Adam Kelp, who was employed at the Benton County Highway and passed away unexpectedly.

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Roads – the guys are out fixing roads, wash outs and pushing back trees
- New building – Mike would like to insulate the new building and presented the following bids:
 - Totally foam - \$30,557.68 for roof and \$18,069.73 for walls
 - Stateline foam - \$31,050.00 for roof and \$20,425.70 for walls

Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to accept the bids from Totally Foam for both the walls and roof to be done now, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. The cost will be paid for out of the highway budget

- Bridge/Structure – Mike presented bids for a new bridge at 400 E / between 7 & 8 N (near dairy for the new ditch) and they were as follows:
 - E3 Bridge – 50X26 concrete floor 2 sections \$127,920.00
 - E3 Bridge – 50X26 composite and ready to be set \$164,880.00
 - E&H – 50X26 4-inch metal grid - \$134,628.00

Walt Wilson added that the E3 highest price will not take as much labor, but both will need a concrete base and they have put these in other areas (Brad Conner installed). One of E3 will require rebar (composite one) and the one with 2 sections will not. Mike added that he has reached out to Brad, and he did not appear interested in doing it. Commissioner Freeland asked who else could they reach out to because Milestone is working on mainly state stuff. Commissioner Berry added that they were also twice as high.

After further discussion on welding, installation etc. and comments on other bridges installed previously there was a motion to accept the bid from E&H with Nick Leuck doing the installation was made with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

- New Building – lots of FBI quotes with different additions/omissions depending on what the county wanted. One of the quotes is \$183,846.00 with opt 1-with ½ Thermax on the roof which will cost an additional \$36,587.00 and opt 2-with 7/8 OSB under the roof which will cost \$19,000.00 more. None of these include doors either in the price. For doors there a separate bid provided; walk in doors, 24ftX16 overhead or 18's. Mike shared a quote from Steve's Overhead doors in the amount of \$43,162.62 and Wabash Overhead door-\$33,446.75.
 - Central Iliana – 168,843.00 with Wabash doors 33,446.75=\$202,289.75 – this does not include any concrete, gutters or labor
 - Wick Buildings – 221,480.00 and includes everything

Commissioner, John Fields motions to accept the Wick Buildings bid with payout to be in 1/3's and a start and stop date to be provided, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

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Jason Fisher – EMS/EMA and Dept of Homeland Security Director

- Camera – the tower has been ordered from a company in Texas with the better IR capabilities
- Friday storm update – Med 2 was involved in a minor accident and Jason has taken it to Crossroads and they are working to get it operable, but the body shop is booked out until June.
- Annex – Ron has started but not quite finished.
- HEP plan – to start the Cyber security/IT room remodel. Ron possibly be available for IT ceiling input, but the biggest decision will need to be on what the county wants to do about the non-static floor.
- County Buildings – Commissioner Freeland asked about the County Home and the County Nurse railings and if they had been fixed/corrected. Jason said he would investigate it. Kyle said that he would fix them if needed
- Fiber – Commissioner Berry asked if he would check on what was brought in, yes, he will investigate it. if usable, can he go ahead and use it. The board approved it to be used.

John Cox – Sheriff

- New deputy – Paden Clements will be sworn in today at 11:30 if anyone is available to attend
- Quotes – 3-year plan for jail updates is in process of being compiled
- Rock-In dirt- will come up next week to also provide a quote on more of the structural side
- North Jail door – still working on getting quotes
- Vehicles – The 1st vehicle should be ready the 1st week of April. Working with upfitters on cost and it appears to be around \$19,000 for K9 and \$15,000 for non K9 vehicles. The cost is up significantly, and John is asking where he is to pay for the difference from. There is sufficient funding for one vehicle and outfitting but will look if there is enough for both
- Grants – ICFJ equipment grant to assist with ½ cages being installed in the trucks for the deputy's safety. John added that there are no dash cams in any of the vehicles and the laptops in the vehicles need to be replaced. He is working with Jason on grants and getting them submitted and written.
- Body cams – updating and adding some to the CO's. they are compatible with the server so that will save some cost
- Ballistic vest – this is in process and working for stab resistant items
- Radios – need to start planning on how to find or seek funding for replacing these outdated items. The board asked how soon they were needed. John would like to replace at least 1 or 2 each year and asked if there was any funding available. J&K cost is approximately \$2-3500 each. John is willing to look for grants but would like to get approval for at least 2 now. The board is on board for getting two now but ask that John looks into grants because we are not sure how the loss AV situation is going to affect on-going budgets
- Thank you – John wanted on record his thanks to Jason, his staff and the dispatch staff for all their coordinating efforts last week. John is looking to implement services awards for the different things; life saving award, chief/sheriff award and citizen award for going above and beyond.
- Testing – they will hold this Sunday and there are 5 applicants that have been extended invitations to attend. He is still down 2 CO's and has not had any interest.

Business:

The February 7, 2023, regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with amendment of showing that Commissioner, Mike Freeland was not in favor of the bridge work at the Oak Grove golf

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course/bridges. With amendments in place a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland was made, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Holly Logsdon – Chief Deputy Clerk

Holly came before the board to seek approval for the purchase of a new copier/scanner for the clerk's office. She provided a quote in the amount of \$6,125.00 to the board and stated that they have the funding to cover the purchase. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned the approval of the purchase, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Business continued:

Monthly claims were approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Payroll was approved as presented. It was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried.

Pay at once claims were approved as presented. Commissioner, John Fields motioned to approve, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked to table the Nationwide annual contribution request.

The new County Home resident admission form was reviewed discussed. The board discussed the intake form and when the resident was placed there. The new resident moved in on February 17, 2023. Auditor Freeland stated that Tonya is looking into revamping the intake form and is trying to reach out to other facilities to see what their intakes look like. Approval was given with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland introduce Stephanie Donahue to the board. Stephanie has accepted the part time clerical position for the enhanced capital asset clerk. The board welcomed her.

Frasier and Ryan Besse – BP Repower project

Came before the board to provide a quick update and let them know where they were at with the current project on 40 clipper turbines which will be repowered. Frasier showed a power point (rough draft) showing what they going to be doing to the turbines.

Schedule wise – they are working on getting the RUA (Road Use Agreement) and Commissioner Berry shared his rough draft version with them. The preconstruction road inspection was briefly discussed and Commissioner Berry who they got for that. They will be working with Sargent Lundy.

They will then work on mobilization to get onsite to begin. Early next month they will start the site preparations will begin. They will begin in the north area and around July/August timeline they will be to clean up and have their recycling crews on site. Commissioner Berry asked if they have determined how they are going to remove the blades, yes, they will be cut. September is when installation and completion should be done. They will be brought in by truck.

The group discussed the lay down area and sub station off 200. BP will set up their trailers and everything there starting next month and then they will begin the turn radius work.

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Berry reminded them that they will need to go before the Planning Commission and present their drainage report, the verbiage must include that any damage to the road and/or tiles will be repaired at their expense and have a 2-year warranty.

Frasier asked who the best contact for bus routes and schedules would be. Commissioner Berry said they would need to reach out to the school corporation.

Bill Burton – Center/Fowler Fire chief

Bill came before the board to seek assistance with funding for rescue equipment. They have purchased some equipment so they have cutters and spreaders, but after the recent incident involving the school bus they would like to buy a ram. The ram will allow with the hydraulic cylinders to place it and push the dash off an individual. Their pump would not work during that either. If they are able to purchase it, it would give them two spreaders and the ability to cut also. The cost for a spreader is \$13,500 and the ram is \$11,200.00. He is unsure on where to take the two-stage pump for repairs. Commissioner Berry suggested they reach out to an individual out of Goodland to see if they can work on it. Burton said that most are going to the battery operated because no one is wanting to work on them. Commissioner Berry said that the electric scares him and asked how they would charge the batteries. They have 60V batteries and two charges on the trucks that are checked weekly. Burton said that he has been using grant funds they have received for gear and equipment replacements such as radios. Commissioner Berry asked if the town or townships can assist with any funding because of the large expense. He continued to state that the county is still unsure how the loss of AVs will leave the county as we move toward the 2024 budget, so they do not want to commit they had any public safety funds that they could utilize. Chief Burton stated that he might be able to get one of them purchased from his funds at the town. Commissioner Freeland asked if the battery-operated ram total cost was \$11,500, yes, it is. Commissioner Berry then asked if any of the older equipment would hold any value, possibly. Commissioner Fields said that years ago he sold some old equipment to Avontic so maybe they can put it out there and see if anyone is interested.

After further discussion the board advised Chief Burton to review his funds and see what they can come up with and that the county would possibly be able to find funding for 1/3 or 1/2 of one piece. The board agreed that the unknown leaves them with some uncertainty but want to assist. Commissioner, John Fields motioned to approve up to ½ of the cost for the equipment for extrication purposes, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Chief Burton asked if he was ok to order. Commissioner Berry stated that if it he had funding for the one piece and we are invoiced for ½ or less for the other piece. Auditor Freeland asked where it was to be paid from, it will be determined once they have a total.

Morgan Stevens – ADA Coordinator

Morgan came before the board today to discuss advertising the public discussion meeting that is set to be held on Tuesday, March 21st at 10:30 a.m. at the Benton County Government Annex building. It has been advertised.

Commissioner Freeland asked what David stated about being needed for the County Home railing and the County Nurse railing. Mrs. Stevens said that the county home has not yet been evaluated but the county nurses railing needs one so more than likely the county home will as well.

The next schedule area for review is currently set to be done at the County Highway. Commissioner Freeland said that if they need to add one at both places they want to be able to tell the contractor to do

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both at the same time. Stevens added that Matt Hull would be another contact for ADA requirements as she has shared a booklet with him, so he had all the updates as well.

Business continued:

Commissioner Berry reported that Dave Schutter will begin the courthouse window replacement project around the first week of May.

The READI grant proposal they have talked about childcare, affordable housing and invets is still in process. The invets portion is not moving forward currently. Angie Taylor said for affordable housing the total grant pool is around 1.4 million dollars with no matching grant funds. These funds can also be used for broadband expansion, broadband WI-FI developments. Commissioner Berry added that through the READI grant there is around 72,000 that is to be used for childcare resource network. Commissioner Berry and Angie have met with some individuals regarding the Presbyterian church. Commissioner Berry would like to know if the board members were still in favor of making an offer on the church (\$50,000.00) and then signing it over to Mrs. Parker and her expansion. Commissioner Freeland asked if the county would be reimbursed those funds. Commissioner Berry said there would be no county funds used it would all be part of the awarded grant funds.

Angie added that on another grant in process right now there will be matching funds on that on but they are still rewriting the MOU (memorandum of understanding) and they will be broke out over 3 years. Once the commitment letter that was submitted will also have to be redone with the MOU being rewritten. Angie stated that there would be \$35,600.00 expenses which would be \$11,850 each year over the 3-year period.

Commissioner Fields asked what the process would be if given/gifted. Commissioner Berry stated that if it is approved it would be with the understanding that the county has the 1st right of refusal. Any repairs and maintenance would be at Mrs. Parkers expense and that will all be clearly stated in all the paperwork.

On the housing portion of the grant the group discussed briefly. Angie is waiting to hear back from Zach, but it is in the engineering phase for the county. Commissioner Berry asked if she had reached out to the group in Boswell about the lots. She has spoken with them, but they will attend the next board meeting to see where they stand. She is also going to reach out to the RFP group.

Commissioner Berry asked if the money will be paid to the county or directly to the contractor/vendor. Angie stated that the county will submit an invoice with the specifics, but she is not sure how they plan on distributing out the payments.

Commissioner, John Fields then motioned to approve the purchase of the church in the amount of \$50,000 with the contingencies and with the 1st right of the refusal with the READI grant funds the county is set to receive with Commissioner, Bryan Berry signing all documents, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Bryan Berry abstained from voting.

Commissioner Berry asked Angie if there was anything she would like to report on. She replied that she spoke with Rusty Hoaks, and he stated that INDOT sent a letter stating that they are planning on paving over the bricks, and they are unsure how to stop it. Rusty is going to send the information over to Angie so she can investigate it more. Angie is going to send it to OCRA and see if they can stop it or if they have any suggestion.

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Commissioner Berry gave a recap about the commitment letter on behalf of the Town of Oxford for their water project(no money is being paid out from the county), but the county will need to sign another letter for them. The updated commitment letter was approved to be signed with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Angie then spoke briefly about the website maintenance and the proposed cost. They are stating that the cost will be \$1200. The board said that if she has the funding, they are ok with her spending the funds. She will be able to cover the expenses out of her part time clerical that Angie feels it is well spent funding. Angie added that if they do not approve it, she will have to purchase an adobe editing program to be able to do anything.

Commissioner Berry asked the board about scheduling a meeting for the board of finance meeting for the next meeting or the first meeting in April. Auditor Freeland said that the March 21st meeting will be held at the Annex building and they have full agenda which is currently scheduled out through 10:30 when they will open for the public discussions on the ADA.

Jason Fisher - EMS/EMA and Dept of Homeland Security Director

Jason came back before board discussed the tuition agreement with Josh Satchell and the cost to the county, which was \$8,000.00. They will need to review and calculate the total of the repayment amount that Mr. Satchell will be responsible to repay. Jason asks that they set up a meeting with Mr. Satchell to have that conversation and that he is aware there will be a repayment requirement.

Jason heard from Crossroads who informed him that they cannot fix the door. It will be 4-8 weeks for the new door to be in so they are looking at 2-3 months before it is fixed.

Jason went back to the tuition topic and added that the company is going to allow a credit towards the next individual who elects to take the course which is 1/2 of the amount.

Mike Wortham – BP

Mike came before the board to quickly discuss a few items. He would like to get a new copy of the payment agreement with the corrected/updated date. They are in the process of getting that payment written and they hope to bring it to the special meeting on Thursday, the 14th day of March. Mike reached out to his team members and asked them to bring back the updated letter to be signed.

Mike would like to schedule a time to meet to discuss the project plans with the full team and county officials. They would like to outline how they plan to work with the county. Mike said that they would like to start conversations with the landowners, the county and get their local office set up. Once they get that completed they would like to have an open house and invite the local officials out to see the site.

Commissioner Berry said that the county is open to the meetings and asked if BP is open to discussions on providing the county some type of reassurance of continuous payment for the loss of AV until legislation is changed. Mike said that they have a member coming from London and would be available to hold a special meeting to start those conversations. Auditor Freeland reviewed the requirements for posting for a special meeting. After some discussions they are tentatively looking at holding a special meeting on Tuesday, March 14th with time to be determined once Mike hears when the member would be arriving.

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Commissioner Berry informed the board that he spoke with the Everside Clinic about handling the drug testing for both CDL and non-CDL test. They are able to also do the alcohol testing and it is a little more cost but all the testing would be done at the clinic. Auditor Freeland noted that she does have it listed on the November agenda to be discussed and a cancellation letter sent.

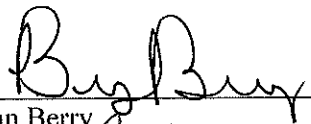
The group discussed the credit card ordinance. Attorney Ahler stated that he is ok with how it is written and nothing from a legal standpoint causes him any worry, but wants to verify that the board understand that it states that it is only for Sheriff's office, yes they do. The sheriff's office will be the only department that will have a credit card in their possession however they will still utilize the travel cards maintained by the Auditor's office. Jason Fisher asked if he like to be considered for the same policy for a credit card for his department, LEPC and other emergency situations so he does not have to bother the board to get theirs. Commissioner Freeland replied that they are allowing the sheriff one on a temporary basis and they might rescind this at some point. Commissioner, Mike Freeland then motioned to approve a new credit card policy ordinance, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry asked if they could review the discussions concerning the church and if it states that he has authorization to sign the documents on behalf of the county. They were reviewed and yes, it is listed.

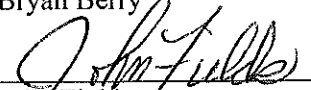
The board discussed the board of finance and advertising requirements. It was discussed that they will have a meeting to set the meetings throughout the year and send it to the Benton Review so it is done for the year.

Mike Worthman returned with the updated letter which was signed by the board. Auditor Freeland asked if she could have a copy of it sent to her once the BP individuals sign it. Mike will send her a copy via email.

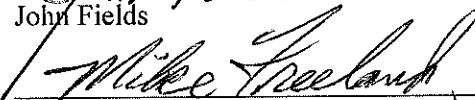
With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, motion carried.



Bryan Berry



John Fields



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor