

Benton County Council

June 27th, 2024

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

Others in attendance were – Ron Shoup, Mike Freeland, Latisha Provo, Judge Wright and John Cox

Latisha Provo – Economic Development

Latisha spoke to the board about an upcoming wind farm tour that she has agreed to do for a group of home-schooled students, which will be held at the Fowler Theatre on September 27th, 2024. She is seeking approval to pay the costs out of her wind tourism fund. The request was approved for the funds to be used up to \$1,000 with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilman, Brent Cox and the motion carried.

Latisha then asked the board if they had any questions on the updates/director notes that she has been sending out to them. The board said that they appreciate her sending them out to them.

She wrapped up by talking about some website updates, community calendars and whatsapp24/7 is working with them as well on another project.

Business:

Meeting Minutes from May 23rd, 2024, were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilman, Jack Duncan, and motion carried.

Reviewed department head transfer requests and approved with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Robert Sloniger and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland spoke on behalf of the Assessor who was unable to attend about her office updates. The board of Commissioners approved her to bid out the reassessment portion of duties. She will be hiring someone to fill the chief deputy position. The second deputy full time position will be eliminated in 2025. She has requested a part time position for data entry, and she said that she is not sure how much that will be utilized. The board discussed the funding for paying for the contracted services and where it would be paid from, whether or not it would be cost savings overall and if the part time will be a long-term position. The contract will be paid from her reassessment funds

John Cox – Sheriff / Jail / Fair board updates

Jail – the feasibility study is well underway, and the 1st draft should be ready by the end of the month. Overall, it is not in as bad of condition as originally feared but there are some things that will need to be resolved, the roof is one of those items that will need to be addressed. They will look at the plumbing issue that has been discovered (under Pod 2).

He has applied for a grant from ICJI for a sotoxa machine that allows deputies to test for narcotics with immediate results and can be used in court. There will be one in the jail at intake and one for the deputies.

He is applying for grants to get videos into the deputies' vehicles for safety and convictions.

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He has worked with Spillman to get all of the past updates done and is finally on the most up-to-date version.

He worked with Silverback IT support to get the GIS upgrades which will allow all first responders to have up to date mapping. They will also be working to get locators into the vehicles which will notify dispatchers on who is closest to responding.

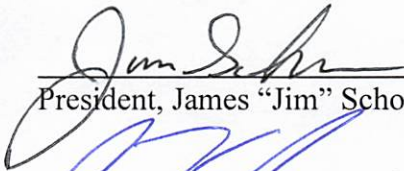
Fair update – they are packed this year with events and more vendors than in years passed.

The jail is currently at full capacity.

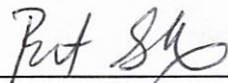
Judge Wright

The judge came before the board to discuss a new law that is going into effect as of 07.01.2024 that affects his department. The law states that if their staff does not make a minimum of \$43,888, they will be eligible for overtime. After some discussion the board voted to approve a salary amendment for the affected employee salary to be increased to \$43,888. This was approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilman, Robert Sloniger and motion carried.

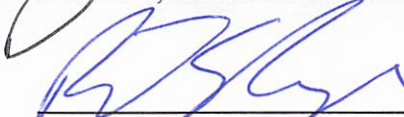
With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m. with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Rober Sloniger, motion carried.



President, James "Jim" Schoen




Vice President, Brent Cox




Councilman, Robert Sloniger




Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach



Councilman, John "Jack" Duncan



Councilwoman, Katrina "Trina" Schutter



Councilwoman, Jacqueline "Jackie" Steinmetz

Attest: 

Audrey Freeland, County Auditor