

Benton County Commissioner Meeting February 18, 2025

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Phil McGinnis, Shawn Leuck and John Gick, Benton County Auditor Beth Budreau.

Others in attendance were Mike Budreau, Evan Puetz, Penny Titus, Latisha Provo, Attorney Avery Walker, Ron Shoup, Jason Fisher, John Cox, Jeremy Puetz, Glenda Wallpe, Sam Smith, Dave Fisher, Miranda Wirtz, Kathy Sarault, Jon Charlesworth, Josh Winrotte and Connie Neiningner.

Mike Budreau – Highway Superintendent / Evan Puetz – Highway Assistant Superintendent

- Presented bids for a new dump truck.
 - Mack - \$161,917
 - Western Star - \$154,000
 - Freightliner w/ Allison - \$145,500
 - This truck will be used as a dump truck and a sander.
 - Commissioner Gick recommended seeing if they could get the max warranty on it.
 - Mike stated that they just must sign today on the freightliner to get it on order, Commissioners agreed they were okay with that.
 - Mike stated it doesn't include towing so they will have to add that, the commissioners said that won't be an issue.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis made a motion to accept the quote for the Freightliner dump truck for \$145,500, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

- Stone is down at the spot at the fairgrounds for the LP tank.
- Grinded the road 1/3 of a mile outside Ambia and put stone down.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

Jason opened the discussion stating replacement timeline for a new ambulance build, he stated the earliest would be 2027-2028 to get one. Jason talked to the owner of crossroads, and he stated for long term planning purposes if it was decided to order one that is the timeline for right now. Jason stated the last 3 trucks they have been fortunate enough to get demos. The one that is currently on order is their first one that isn't a demo.

- The oldest truck in the fleet is a 2014 Chevy Chassis. Crossroad's is willing to give \$10,000 trade in for that truck if the county switched its options on the build.
- Mileage they stay between 130,000 – 150,000 sometimes a little bit more.
- The lifespan is roughly 10 years for the trucks.

Jason presented statics for call types and response times for the commissioners to look at.

John Cox – Sheriff

- Had the furnace to go out in the jail, it was going to be between 18,000-20,000 for a new furnace. Replacing it would nearly wipe out his Cum Jail fund, replacing the valve is only \$1,400. The sheriff requested to move forward with just replacing the valve or now. Commissioners were in agreeance with only replacing the valve.
- 2021 Dodge is back in service – Engine is working great.
- Waiting for warmer weather to unload the old jail.

John stated there is a bill down at the state house, where they are going to adjust the rate where that jails are paid for housing DOC inmates, right now what they're receiving barely if at all covers the costs of those inmates staying there. The county bills DOC of the number of days the inmate is there, and they

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refund the county, right now that money goes back into county general, John would like to see it maybe go back into Cum Jail if possible, so he is able to use those monies on jail maintenance/expenses.

John Cox – Fairgrounds

- Still waiting on a meter base, NIPSCO was supposed to put it in last week.
- Brick flyer was sent out to the Benton Review for advertising.
- They got insurance straightened out, waiting on final numbers from State Farm.
- Still need to get with Shawn on the Boy Scout Building roof, waiting on warmer weather. Also look at the Grandstand Food Concession stand.

Glenda Wallpe – Recorder

- The Demo copier is working great.
- Glenda looked at other options and the one that she has selected is \$1,500 cheaper than other ones that she has found.

Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve the copier for \$2,698.00, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Sam Smith – Deputy Surveyor

Sam came before the board for a variance setback, for Jeremy Puetz tool shed that he'd like to built. Sam stated that it has gone through Plan BZA and they approved it. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the setback variance, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Business

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented a resolution for gifting the Tomecko property to the Town of Fowler that was prepared by Ingrid Barce, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented an ordinance for the additional \$10 recovery fee for Mainstream, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approved, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented an amended ordinance for WECS, Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the amended ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis brought up the issues with the elevator in the courthouse, KONE discovered that the elevator is losing oil, Darren has put in 10 gallons since December 2nd.

The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:30am, then reopened at 9:40am.

Business Continued

Meeting minutes from 02.04.2025 were approved by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, Seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

Pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

The 02.07.2025 payroll was reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

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Latisha came before the board to explain to them what the Benton Co. & Vanpool Program – Interlocal Agreement. If any businesses in the county are having issues with their employees getting to and from work, they can contact enterprise for a vehicle and the business will designate a driver to get those employees to and from work.

Kathy Sarault & Miranda Wirtz – Health Department

Kathy came before the board to get approval for the purchase of a new surface pro with attachments for Matt, to replace his old one. Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the purchase of the surface pro plus attachments in the amount of \$1,110.45, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried. Commissioner Shawn Leuck also recommended buying him a case for it.

Miranda presented the board with some yearly purchases for the County Nurse dept. such as vaccines. Miranda also presented some items/equipment that they are wanting to purchase with grant funds that they already have set aside. Commissioner McGinnis motioned to approve the purchase of 2 new laptop computers, 1 Vaccine Freezer, 1 Vaccine Refrigerator, Mobile and Emergency Packout Equipment for Vaccines and 2025 influenza vaccine purchase, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Jon Charlesworth & Josh Winrotte – Purdue Extension

Josh introduced himself to the board – he addressed that the 4H educator has resigned.

- Josh stated he has 5 good candidates for HHS.
- Their goal is to start screenings next week, with the goal of doing interviews by March 1.
- The 4H educator is going to be a more extensive search.
- Josh stated he can appreciate the counties' request for \$12,000 back since we have been with an HHS. But Purdue's problem is the contract states there will be 2 people to provide the services, the university has placed 3 people to provide those services. Josh stated he agrees the county did not get the HHS services last year that the county needed from their offices.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated our County lost a whole 4H group this year, they are down to maybe 100 kids in 4H. He stated we were all going to need to get on the same page, or the county will cut ties with Purdue Extension. Josh stated he is going to have a meeting with the 4H council to see what our county desires in a 4H educator.

Josh stated that he would like to offer \$6,000 back from last year and \$6,000 off this year, since the county did not have the HHS services last year. Purdue will be hiring both the HHS educator & the 4H educator, he cannot give a time frame, but he is working on it. Josh advised not to sign the contract until March or April once the interview process has started.

Connie Neiningger – KIRPC Ag Strategy

Connie came before the board to discuss the process of Data Analysis for rural economic development, the reason for this is to lower the costs of the inputs for the producers.

The other side that is looked at is the ag assets – everything grown and raised in Indiana.

4 strategies within KIRPC region – Regional food systems, food supply chain, Ag workforce, Regulatory Streamlining.

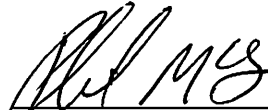
Business Continued

Jason asked for approval for the liveline training in the amount of \$2,250.00 – Commissioner Phil McGinnis motioned to approve the claim, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

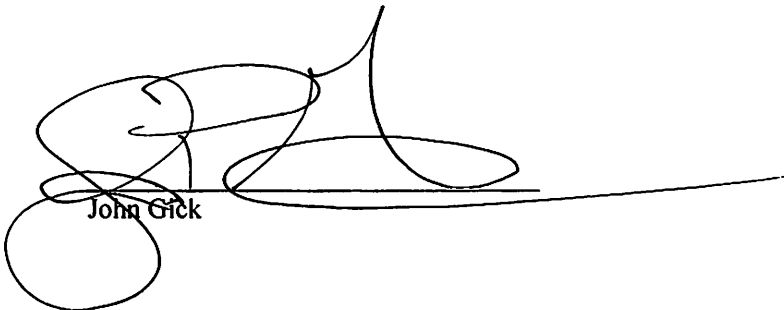
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Commissioner Shawn Leuck wanted to discuss the water project going on in Oxford & Pine Village. Economic Developer Latisha Provo stated that she wants to do the project, but she wants to do all 3 phases, but Steve Eberly wants to stop at phase 2 because Pine Village doesn't have the money, but Commonwealth has already assured them they do have the money. Latisha stated if we don't do the 3rd phase then the county won't get any of their money returned. Because we need those residences in Pine Village to hook into oxford so that oxford has lower rates. Steve Eberly is concerned about the rates of the new residence that are required to on a town water system, and he wants to give them an option and says that Pine Village hasn't committed to this project. With Warren Co. putting the brakes on this project, it puts Benton Co. in jeopardy. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated he would like to sit down with Pine Village and the Warren Co Commissioners. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated he would reach out to Craig Greenwood to set up a meeting.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck, motion carried.



Phil McGinnis

Shawn Leuck

John Gick

Attest: Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor