

**Benton County Commissioner Meeting**  
**August 6th, 2024**

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 and John Fields (via conference bridge), County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

**Others in attendance were:** Mike Budreau, Colin Sullivan, Ron Shoup, Amy Wilkinson, Sara Niccum, Marci Burton, Jason Fisher, Josh Satchell, York Little, Dave Fisher and Chad????

**Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor**

- Chip N Seal – they are done and have moved on to patching and replacing pipes (they have found 8 more)
- Staff – 2 new hires / 1 starting today and 1 will start on the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Culverts – Colin joined the conversation they will start with Bolivar and Pine Townships in the fall, and then do the rest of the county. It is a 5-year inspection rotation for them. Colin said that Jonathan is waiting for the route map from the wind farm. They discussed the load rating for the routes and inspection dates. They talked about how it was being tracked.
- Bridge 125 – 75% completed

**Business:**

Minutes were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Monthly claims were approved all except the ones listed below with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

1. HC Garage claim denied
2. Farneys claim denied

Pay at once Claims were presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The grant of easement was briefly discussed and tabled

**Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director**

Jason and Josh Satchell came to discuss the tuition reimbursement agreement. Jason presented an amended version to include a monthly payment of \$50 will be received, and with that he would like to have the small claims case dismissed. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to accept the amended version, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. All parties signed the amended version.

Jason then asked if he could utilize the job restricted to assist with the billing clerk duties since she will be leaving soon. It was to be handled on a case-by-case basis, and he will have her

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work a maximum of 40 hours with doctor's approval on tasks. It will only be for approximately 3 weeks.

A siren replacement quote was given, and it will be for the Ambia siren (will work west to east). The quote was from J&K Communications in the amount of \$36,516.75. The board asked to table it so they can review where they can pull the funds.

The 911 changes were discussed, and the board just does not want Jason to get burnt out but for now it is important separate it out as the new supervisor gets acclimated.

**Business continued:**

Payroll was presented and then approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The Incident Response Plan discussion was tabled.

**Chad & Warren – Bio-Town**

Discussed the RUA route and going pass Benton and taking the Warren County line needs to be removed, they need to go back north. Bryan went on to discuss the number of loads of gravel in the documentation that was previously sent by County Attorney Ahler. The cost of the upkeep, damage and hazmat were covered. The county has hauled 35 loads of gravel to date. The board wants Bio-Town to take a check to Fowler State Bank and place it in an escrow account to cover those expenses. The account will hold \$500,000.

It was asked if chip and seal was a possibility, it will not hold, and larger stone isn't an option because it gets pushed out and the drivers complain. The discussion wrapped up with both parties wanting to work together to achieve a good working relationship. The changes to the RUA were reviewed again and a new draft will be revised.

**York Little – Insight USA / Center Point Energy**

He came today to discuss the route as well as the ditches, the route has not changed much since February. He showed the board where their geotechnical soil borings and those will help them design their pike crossings if allowed. Bryan asked how many borings they are looking at, there is about 7 within the county right of way. Bryan said that typically it is 75 feet back from the center and they will need to go through INDOT. They will either do an open cut or a jack and bore to go under the road. Bryan said that the county prefers that all roads except gravel be bored.

Bryan asked about the "open cut" on Lank Ditch and why they will not bore them. It depends on how deep the ditch is and their preference is to open cut. They are looking at about 17 crossings and right now they have 12 or 13 as open cut. Big Pine Creek ditch is an HDD and Lank Ditch open cut as well as Harrington Ditch as an open cut. The group is here today

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regarding the natural gas pipeline that will come through the county. Commissioner Freeland asked about the agreements, they are in process.

Commissioner Berry asked what their process was if they cut a tile. Normal process is they are repairing it back. They have had landowners/farmers who want to see the repairs and they are open to that. Their contractor will be doing all of those repairs. Bryan stated that if a county tile is damaged there is a certain way the county is going to want to see it fixed. He then asked if they were going to do locates on all of the county tiles before any cutting, and the building inspector and the surveyor will need to be involved. The warranty on any repairs will be a year minimum. The timeline to begin is possibly next February-March. Commissioner Freeland asked if there were going to be multiple crews, it is possible, and they will all be under the same contractor. They briefly discussed the depth, soil and bedrock, their deepest bore will be 90-100 feet. They are out locating this week. The board said that they will need to work with the wind companies and their schedule so they can turn off that grid area.

Bryan asked about Harrington ditch, and that they have it as an open cut. Commissioner Fields said that is a good size ditch. The board would like a copy of their list of ditches. Mike asked what they meant by an open cut; they will trench through it. He then asked what they do if there is water. They will either dam them and pump them or flue them. Mike then asked how deep below the ditches they will go, typically with an open cut it is 5 feet, if trenching it is much deeper. The only above ground will be at the trunkline pipeline. They will fence off/secure everything above ground.

Bryan asked about S01 M drain (open cut). Surveyor Fisher joined the group. Bryan asked if the geotechnical borings would be on county or INDOT right of ways. There will be about 4 on county right of way and 3 on INDOT right of way. They have gotten all of their permits from INDOT and Tippecanoe County but not yet for Benton County. The board advised them to get with Michelle at the highway to start the permit(s) for Benton County. Once the tiles are exposed, they will need to contact the surveyor or building inspector to oversee the repairs. They will share their information with Surveyor Fisher as well.

### **Business continued:**

Auditor Freeland presented a data request received from Farmhouse publishers. It was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

The Cintas cancellation status was reviewed. Nick Ramsey with Cintas is going back to his superiors to see if the EMS account cancellation will be honored. Auditor Freeland asked about the invoices that they are leaving each week and if she is to pay them. She stated that the invoices show product that is not being left so she does not want to pay for something that we are no getting. Attorney Ahler was ok with the Auditor calling Nick directly to get the cancellation invoices.

The Citizen's RX cancellation letter was presented to be signed by the board. After talking with Don Carless, the prescription policy will be changed for the 2025-26 plan year. The letter and

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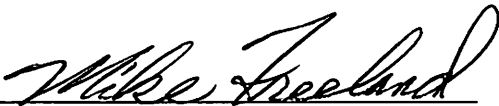
change were approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland asked on behalf of an employee if the board will approve her last check to be direct deposited since she is moving out of state. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to accept the request if the employee signs all waivers and release paperwork prior, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, motion carried.**

  
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Bryan Berry

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John Fields

  
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Mike Freeland

  
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Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor

Call Date	Call Time	From Name	From	Dialed	To	Duration
8/6/2024	9:06:24	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:27:35
8/6/2024	9:02:23	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:00:14
8/6/2024	8:04:28	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:57:25