

Benton County Council
January 23, 2025

John Cox – Fairgrounds

- Brody Fox and John were able to attend the state fair and festival convention. They were able to get a lot of great ideas to bring some new things in.
- Boy scout barn needs reroofed.
- Grandstand/Food stand needs a new metal roof and walls.
- Finishing the fencing around the track, they received a \$23,000 donation so that project can be completed.
- Fair board discussed some rental fees for the fairground buildings.
- Turned ownership of the gates, fans and everything inside the facilities to the County Commissioners.
- John discussed the updates of the new fair ground building.

Jon Charlesworth – Extension

Jon presented the council with the 2024 Purdue Extension Impact Report. He explained the put it out every year and Purdue puts it out as a recap of what they do every year. Jon stated at the local office they do monthly 4h newsletter that they put out. Jon also does a quarterly Ag & Natural resources newsletter.

Jon stated that the health & human sciences educator position that we share with Warren Co., Benton County pays \$13,000 for that position a year and it's been open for a year, Jon stated we are supposed to be top priority to get the position filled. Jon wanted to let the council know that he is aware, and he is trying to be as pushy as he can be with his superiors.

The group closed out the meeting at 10:21 a.m. with a motion by Councilman, Ron Shoup, second by Councilwoman Katrina Schutter, motion carried.

Ron Shoup
Jacqueline Stearns
Ron A. Ayre
Pat Sles

Angie Starn

Attest: Beth Budreau
Beth Budreau, Auditor

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Glenda Wallpe – Recorder

Glenda came before the board to present an ordinance to the council in regard to her perpetuation fund, it is request for her to use the money in that fund to run her office. She also presented an affidavit stating that there is money in her perpetuation fund to be used. Councilwoman Lori Cyr made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz, motion carried.

Glenda also stated that her 12-year-old copier quit working, so she is asking to use some of the monies within her perpetuation to purchase a new copier. Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz made a motion to approve the purchase of a new copier out of the Recorders Perpetuation Fund, Seconded by Councilman Ron Shoup, Motion carried.

Glenda talked to the council about her clerical line, she had requested \$8,000 to be budgeted for 2025, however the council only approved \$2,100.00. She explained what her part-time clerical would be doing and why she needs the additional \$6,000.00. Glenda asked for the council to approve transferring the money into the clerical line after the first quarter. Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz motion to approve her request to use additional money for clerical, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Cyr, motion carried.

Jason Fisher – EMS-DHS-EMA-911

Jason came before the board in regard to staffing for the counties 911 center. Jason had asked for 2 additional dispatch positions for the 2025 budget year so that it would allow 2 dispatchers to work on each shift at the same time. But only 1 budgeted position had been approved, Jason went on to present real life examples from county calls where a second dispatcher on duty would have been helped significantly. Jason is requesting funding to add an additional dispatcher, so they can have adequate staffing in the 911 center. Multiple emergency personnel from the community either sent in letters or spoke in regard not only how much an asset it would be to have a second dispatcher on duty at all times, but also how it could be lifesaving to an emergency call. Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach asked for clarification, since dispatcher #6 is already funded in Co. General, they would need to move dispatcher #7 into Statewide 911, Auditor Beth Budreau stated yes that is correct. Councilwoman Lori Cyr made a motion to approve the funding the dispatcher #7 out of statewide 911, seconded by Councilman Ron Shop, motion carried.

John Cox – Sheriff

- They were able to fill the 3 Correction Officer positions this week, hopefully around April they will be able to be out on the floor.
- Presented and explained the CAR Report for the commissary fund, it just shows the beginning and ending balances for the year 2024.
- Commissioners are moving forward with the demolition of the old jail. John is going to remove all the artifacts out of the building and put them in storage until they are able to go through them with the historical society.
- Jail inspection went well, with no major issues.
- A firearms simulator has arrived for training purposes.

Benton County Council January 23, 2025

The Benton County Council were set to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Council members: Angie Glotzbach, Lori Cyr, Katrina Schutter, Ron Shoup, Jackie Steinmetz, and County Auditor, Beth Budreau.

Others in attendance were – Derek Fuehrer, Jason Fisher, Brad Lane, Bill Burton, Rachel Largent, Niccole McGinnis, Glenda Wallpe and Jonathon Devers.

Organization of Office

President – Jim Schoen, Motion made by Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Cyr, Motion carried.

Vice President – Angie Glotzbach, motion made by Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz, seconded by Councilwoman Katrina Schutter, motion carried.

Northwest IN Solid Waste Appointment – Jim Schoen, motion made by Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz, motion carried.

Business

The meeting minutes from the December 19, 2024, minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman Katrina Schutter, seconded by Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz, motion carried.

Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach brought up the discussion from the budget meetings that in January 2025 there needed to 1 dispatcher moved to Statewide 911 fund. Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz motioned to move Dispatcher #7 to fund 1222, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Cyr, motion carried.

Auditor Beth Budreau talked about Re-Establishing of Cum Jail – Since the process of re-establishing the rate was done last year; however, the rate did not get changed for 2025 budgets. Beth wanted to discuss this with the council to start the process of re-establishing the rate again. The council was okay with me starting the process.

Auditor Beth Budreau presented a certificate of appointment for Blake Schoen for the Oxford Public Library board member, Councilwoman Jackie Steinmetz motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Councilwoman Lori Cyr, motion carried.

Niccole McGinnis – Treasurer

Niccole came before the council to present the investments and cash balances of accounts as of 12/31/2024. Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach asked about one of the investments, because its maturity date shows 04/12/2024. Niccole stated that yes that investment has matured, and that she hasn't met with the commissioners yet to discuss moving forward options with it.