

Benton County Council February 27, 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: Ron Shoup, Jim Schoen, Brent Cox, Angie Glotzbach, Jackie Steinmetz, Lori Cyr and County Auditor Beth Budreau.

Others in attendance were – Heather Nally, Chrissie McCutcheon, Leslie Fisher and John Cox.

Public Hearing

Councilman Jim Schoen asked those in attendance if anyone had any discussion regarding the re-establishment of the proposed new Cumulative Jail rate. Hearing none the public hearing was concluded with a motion by Councilman Brent Cox, seconded by Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach, motion carried, and the regularly scheduled business took place.

Leslie Fisher – SWCD

Leslie came in to introduce herself to the new council members, she proceeded to explain how the soil and water works and just a general update. Chrissie and Leslie are county employees, the county supports them with just salary and benefit options. Then they are subset of the state, they are a part of the Indiana conservation partnership, they are USDA affiliates. They follow security protocols, training, rental office agreements, privacy with clarence on using farmer data. But they are county employees because a portion of their salary is paid by the county. They report to a board of 5 elected supervisors within soil and water. Leslie stated they do work weird hours, because of the USDA service hours, historically everyone always started later. Leslie reiterated that Heather just answers to SWCD.

Current funding they are working off of right now, at the close of 2024 they received \$180,000 from the Roy Whistler Foundation to purchase 34 acres on Big Pine Creek. The highway dept will be putting access off the road to the property. Leslie stated that after gaining access to the property they will start with the parking area and then moving into actual access it will be mowed trails, unless they are able to get funds for a mulch type situation.

They consistently work towards grants, so they have operating funds, they were awarded a 3rd round of IDEM Section 319 Grant, they were able ramp up their education and outreach programs.

Another grant that they received is the National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance Grant – which they were able to hire Heather Nally as a new employee with that funding. Heather is a Benton County SWCD employee – but is not a county employee.

Leslie went over some projects/research that are going on right now, these are things that are always going on, and they will ask for SWCD's help to pick out sites for the research. An example is some research from Purdue going on right now, regarding the aerial imagery of how many cover crops are planted, and what that reduces in nitrogen in stream, the overall nitrogen load.

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John Cox – Sheriff

John presented the jail's commissary resolution to the council members; he went to explain it. He came before the board to ask permission to use money out of the commissary explained in the resolution. Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach motioned to approve the commissary resolution, seconded by Councilman Brent Cox, motion carried.

John stated he just got back from conference – one of the things that he had to learn about that he didn't know about is the pension fund for the merit deputies. Goelzer investment management is the company that the Indiana Sheriff's Association uses to manage all of the funds for the deputies. John presented a facts sheet to the council members about the company. He stated that he spoke with Elaine Beaty, and she stated she had never come to speak with the council about the sheriff deputies' investments. John stated he would like to invite her to the March meeting to do a presentation. Councilman Jim Schoen stated he thinks it would be a good idea. Sheriff Cox stated he would get with Beth to get Elaine on the agenda.

Jail updates

- Buying eggs and vegetables from the local market in Fowler next to Sundog.
- Purchased in car video & body worn cameras with Opioid Monies.
- Public media summary didn't meet state law requirements – Getting an App for the sheriff's daily log & arrests summaries using Opioid Monies to update that.
- Applying for more Opioid money for a body scanner.

Business

Auditor Beth Budreau presented minutes from January 23, 2025, meeting, minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach, seconded by Councilman Ron Shoup, motion carried.

The group closed out the meeting at 9:26 a.m. with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilwoman Angie Glotzbach, motion carried.

J. Schoen
Ron Shoup
Jacqueline Steinmetz
John Cox

Brent Cox
Angie Glotzbach

Attest: Beth Budreau
Beth Budreau, Auditor