

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
September 4th, 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, John Fields (via phone conference), County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Steve Wallpe, Latisha Provo, Leslie Fisher, Arriana Arredondo, Ron Shoup, Lorren with Bio-Town and Matt Hull

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Patching – they have this completed
- Pipes – they have replaced all of the pipes that were found and needed to be fixed
- Gravel – they are working on roads now. He got a quote for the double pipe on 300 S/925 W. The quotes were presented and approved as follows.

*Debco - \$34,250.00 / \$48,250.00 with labor

*E3 Bridge - \$37,777.72 / \$46,277.72 with labor

After some discussion on the quote specs the higher bid was awarded due to the gauge of of the pipe that was recommended to be used but not included in both bids. The Debco bid was awarded with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. The board asked Mike to find someone to install after harvest

- Lift – Commissioner Berry asked Mike to haul the lift to Oxford, yes, they can do that
- Executive session – there will be an executive session, and the board asked if him or Evan could be present.
- Drag – no update
- Staff – new hires are working well and has one part time that is planning on working through breaks at school
- Tiles/Tresses – fairgrounds – the state cannot remove them yet due to the native bats

Lorren – Bio-Town

The group talked about the \$50,000 payment towards maintenance and the revised maps. Lorren asked about the bond, as they have one with IDEM for 1 million pollutions (regarding spills). Commissioner Berry asked for a copy of that bond with the county listed as an additional insured, yes, they can do that. Attorney Ahler will be sent the revisions for review before the board signs.

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Leslie Fisher & Arrianna Arredondo - Soil & Water

They returned today to discuss the fish stocking of the county fairgrounds pond. They reviewed their proposed limits for the minnows, blue gill and large mouth bass. Arrianna added that maybe some signage could be placed on limits and size limits. The board asked her to look at the signage at the Fowler Pond. The group discussed possibly doing a restock on an annual or bi-annual basis and there is another sale in the spring. The cost for restocking was approved by the board with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. The commissioners will cover the expense for this transaction.

Leslie then moved on to discuss the proposed park and request for gravel. Previously discussed the board is ok with granting access with a limited amount of extra however, the county does not want the liability. Also, he stated that the county should not take away from private contractors/businesses that do this type of work. Commissioner Berry asked if the S&W have pans, yes, they do for maintenance and they have a local landowner who is going to take care of that. The board discussed adding some additional stone aside from the access, and if millings could be used. Leslie reiterated that the access lane will be placed where it is currently tillable land. Commissioner Berry said that the board is willing to assist them with the initial access lane and culvert. He said that they will need to decide what they want and how wide. She then stressed that they are not in a rush and if they secure the grants, they will be doing a slow open with limited access. Steve Walpe added that they just need an estimation of cost for the grant application.

Business:

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

Commissioner Freeland asked about the status of the Cintas accounts for the Sheriff and County Home. Auditor Freeland stated that they are still under contract. The Monthly claims were approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried

Commissioner Fields asked about the old dumpster service. Auditor Freeland said that the new ones have been delivered but the old ones are still accessible and being used so we are currently double paying for services. Attorney Ahler has sent documentation to Republics but has not received any response. Ron Shoup had a contact that he will share with Attorney Ahler.

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

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

The grant of easement was tabled again since their attorney has not returned any communication

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Commissioner Fields asked about the tower at Freeland Park, it is not yet there but Commissioner Berry will be reaching out to them today.

The J&K siren replacement quote(s) was approved, and it will be paid for out of the Community Investment fund.

The county home report was approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. They briefly discussed the status of the home and the cost per person to run the facility.

The board discussed the drainage issues to bring all the members up to date. There are a couple of things being discussed again after the last meeting. Everything north of 500 S there are 502 acres that will be the most benefited and the remaining will not have access to the 24-inch without crossing the 18-inch tile. They talked about individuals who have done private work to drain properly and do not feel he should have to pay into the tile. It was proposed to Y and do a new 18 into the existing one and the price is approximately \$130,816.00 with a 6400 ft of 18-inch dual wall. Broken down it will be \$32.50 an acre over 8 years. Another quote for 6400ft with a 24-inch dual wall would be \$199,744.00. Broken down to \$49.74 an acre over 8 years. The board will need to vote on this during a drainage board meeting.

The Incident response plane was revisited, and a second signature was signed. Auditor Freeland will send the signed copies to Silverback.

The group reviewed the comp time 60 extension request from Jon Charlesworth for staff member, Kelly Wallpe. After some discussion the group approved the extension, but it is a one-time extension.

The annual SSL certificate for the timeclocks was signed.

The jail assessment study was approved to be paid for out of the wind farm and Auditor Freeland was just asking which one she is to use. Commissioner Berry said that it will need to be paid for out of the Amazon wind. Commissioner Freeland stated that a copy of the study is to be sent out to the full board.

The board discussed mileage claim submitted by the county home due to them using their personal vehicle since they do not feel that their county vehicle is safe. The board stated that they had not been notified that the van was not working. The claims were denied by the board due to her not coming to a meeting or reaching out to them. It was also discussed that there are insurance issues of her transporting residents in her personal vehicle. The claim was denied with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

The tabletop recovery system request from Tom Beaumont was discussed and determined that dispatch will to the daily exchange with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

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The board reviewed a request from Civic Plus to come and present their product and it was determined not to move forward at this time.

The board asked Auditor Freeland to reserve six rooms for the Commissioners annual conference.

The board discussed the decommissioning ordinance to have verbiage added to that after 10 days of not receiving a letter of credit or notice of an escrow account at Fowler State Bank there will be a \$10,000 daily fine until that is completed. The was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

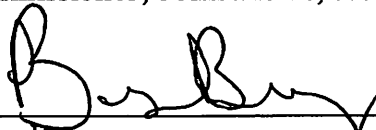
Auditor Freeland said that Diane Hubbard and Penny Titus stopped by yesterday hoping to catch the meeting. Diane notified Auditor Freeland that Penny will be the new district contract for Mr. Baird.

Attorney Ahler provided some updates on Invenergy and their inability to obtain an escrow account.

Attorney Ahler also updated the board on the status of the upcoming sheriff's sale regarding the Boswell location. They also talked about the process and spoke about what happens if the building is not winterized properly.

Latisha asked the board about the cooler that was gifted to The Market. They are not using the cooler and there are some sealing issues and wanted to ask the board if they knew if there was another entity that could use it or not. It was determined that the board felt that the cooler is property of The Market, and they are able to donate it or whatever they deem with the cooler.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, motion carried.



Bryan Berry

John Fields



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor

Call Date	Call Time	From Name	From	Dialed	To	Duration
9/4/2024	17:36:21	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:00:05
9/4/2024	8:12:53	Benton County	(765) 884-0930	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	2:03:15
9/4/2024	8:12:28	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	2:03:42
9/4/2024	8:10:44	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:00:34
9/4/2024	8:09:55	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:00:21
9/4/2024	8:09:11	BUCHANAN FARMS	(765) 366-0168	(765) 314-3985	Benton County Conference Bridge (8000)	0:00:33