

Benton County Commissioner Meeting March 4, 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 and Attorney Jacob Ahler.

Others in attendance were Matt Hull, Ryan Besse, Evan Puetz, Mike Budreau, Ron Shoup, Jonathan Devers, John Cox, Bryan Berry, Blake Schoen, Sam Smith, Dave Fisher, Josh Gaskill and Jon Charlesworth.

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

- Got locates for 900 W – as soon as it dries out, they will be out working on the ditches.
- BF&S report back – 1 culvert on 500 E north of Etters, it needs to be done immediately, it's a concrete structure and its pretty much gone. They are going to locate it and then get it replaced.
- Checked the berms on all the community crossing roads that they're going to do, there are a few that need worked on and they will get that done before they chip and seal.
- The pickup it built, but just haven't heard when it will be in.
- Waiting to hear back on the backhoe to see what it will cost to get it repaired.
- Rowe is working on the bed this week, hopefully within the next week or two the truck will be done.
- Email from Stoup's - the middle of June is when the truck should be done.

Jonathan Devers – DHS / EMA

- Estimates presented from Steve's Overhead Doors for the Quonset building. 3 doors – 2 with a chain hoist, 1 will be powered. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated that no more than what the building is going to be used for he doesn't see a need for 3 doors. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated the other 2 doors will still need some maintenance done to them. Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked Jonathan what door they use the most or would it be easiest for them to maneuver their equipment, Jonathan stated the West door would be the best one to put the overhead door. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to replace just one door and then paint the building, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.
- Quote for the south door at the annex – Devers stated that they have arranged stuff differently so they are currently using the north door more so we could hold off, but it will eventually need fixed.
- Devers said that Jason still hasn't heard back from anyone about doing electrical work on the Quonset, Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated that he heard back from Caleb Brost, and he was considerably higher than the guy that Jason spoke too.
- Devers stated that he can look at and see what cables, electric boxes, breakers, wire to go into do outlets and lighting etc. costs, if the county has access to a trencher and lift. He could get everything installed to cut costs, if an electrician can just come out to inspect the work and do the final tie into the annex.
 - Commissioner Phil McGinnis asked to reach out to L&D Electric for an estimate.

John Cox – Sheriff

- Still not heard anything back about the gas line with NIPSCO at old Jail. He is trying to abandon the line so it is off for when the old jail is tore down.
- Fountain County reached out to ask about looking at the old jail cells for parts and pieces for Fountain County's older jail cell doors.
- Ordered banker boxes so they could begin unloading the shelves n the old jail and get them into the container and have the old jail cleaned out by the end of March.

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- Jail doors just got serviced for the first time since it was built – good to go – cost was \$750 – will start doing annually.
- Sheriff's winter conference – 18 bills in house and senate that are still viable that pertain to Sheriff's Office and Jails. A lot of information on immigration and impact on jails.
- Need to set up a meeting with Smart Roofing to talk about Jail roof for this fall. – Only bidding out the labor, already have the cost for materials.
- Opening for a corrections team – Already have two applicants – moving forward with that.

John Cox – Fairgrounds

- Renewing 501(c)3
- Presented the fair backer letters, they have been advertised for sponsorships.
- Electrical is done, ready to spray foam the walls.
- Received another request to rent the new building for June 27th
 - Renter fees were discussed – Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve a Renter's fee of \$500 with a \$100 reimbursement back to renter for cleaning fee, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.
 - Certificate of liability is required – Can be homeowners' insurance from Renter
 - Renters will be required to take care of their own trash.

Bryan Berry – Taxpayer

Bryan stated that he talked to Stephen last week and he was confused, it sounds like they got the right paperwork they are going to get it signed and sent back to you.

The decommissioning plan has been updated several times, Jill Richey doesn't have the newest addition of the ordinance. Attorney Jacob Ahler stated that he is more than happy to send a demand letter and attach the updated ordinance.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that they can approve that they had Fowler Ridge III decommissioned done by wood, but we're not going to turn them loose to do any maintenance on them or give them any road bonds until we get the rest of this taken care of.

Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that Fowler Ridge II isn't going to be taken off the table until they agree to do the decommissioning by wood or what direction we are going to go. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated at this point we will have Attorney Jacob Ahler send the updated ordinance with his letter.

Bryan stated that they will be putting up the fence around the Freeland Park Tower on Thursday.

Bryan stated they are still waiting on mainstream in the Town of Otterbein. Bryan asked Ron Shoup if they had gotten permits yet, Ron stated not to his knowledge. But they were going to permit Tippecanoe and Benton.

Waiting on Mr. Smith on the right of way easement in Wadena.

Blake Schoen – Hoosier Associates

- Last year they remarketed the counties insurance and made some changes on companies due to prices and deductible changes, they try to do it every couple of years.
- Reviewed the insurance coverage for the county.

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- Blake asked about the Old Jail coverage – The county will keep liability on it until it is demolished.
- Adding coverage for the equipment from BC Fairgrounds.

The board temporarily closed to hold the Drainage Board meeting at 9:29am, then reopened at 10:00am.

Jon Charlesworth – Extension

- Purdue will be cutting a check for \$6,000 for a reimbursement from last years educator. They also rewrote the contractual service agreement for 2025 and took \$6,000 off the original price. Jon stated he told his business office he doesn't expect the contractual service agreement to be signed until June once the positions were filled.
- Jon stated he would invite the council and commissioners to the interviews once that process starts. Jon stated it sounds like they are open to possibly rewriting the job description so that a local person can be eligible.
- Extension will be going live with fiber at the annex.

Business

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented an invoice for the Treasurer's office for postage for the Spring Taxes and asks that it be paid at once. Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve, seconded by Shawn Leuck motion carried. – Let the minutes show the Commissioner Phil McGinnis abstained from voting.

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented invoices from Republic Services for dumpsters. The dumpsters are no longer being used, and they have no came to pick them up and the retirement village and recycling are still being billed for them. Attorney Jacob Ahler stated that he will reach out to them.

County Auditor Beth Budreau asked about Kone, Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated he talked to Darren, Darren stated that Eric with Kone is the only one that knows what's going on with the elevator and that's the only person that the county wants to deal with, because the other two gentlemen Kone sent last week didn't know what was going on. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated there are 2 violations that need fixed.

County Auditor Beth Budreau presented the contract for the purchase of the upgraded ambulance and asked what the commissioners would like to do. Commissioner Phil McGinnis stated that the PL is basically the escalate of boxes, with the liquid spring suspension it's a game changer. With purchasing this style of ambulance, the county will be able to extend the trade or purchases or new ambulances up to 4 years longer. With the ford chassis he has not had the maintenance issues that he had with the Chevrolets. The box life is a life long electrical, the boxes can be remounted, so if the box isn't destroyed when its time to trade in, it can be refurbished onto a new chassis when its time. Commissioner Shawn Leuck stated if we went this route, he would like to see us reusing the box if at all possible. Commissioner Shawn Leuck motioned to approve the purchase of the ambulance, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

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County Auditor Beth Budreau presented landscaping bids

- Gretencord Lawn & Garden Service LLC - \$2465.00
- BlueLine Mulch & More - \$ 1890.00
- Courtney Krug - \$5415.00

Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve the landscaping bid from Gretencord Lawn & Garden Service LLC, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried

Commissioner Phil McGinnis made a motion to approve the commissioners appointment list, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Commissioner John Gick motioned to approve the mulch bid from BlueLine Mulch & More, seconded by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

Meeting minutes from 02.18.2025 were approved by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, Seconded by Commissioner Shawn leuck, motion carried.

The 02.21.2025 payroll was reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Shawn Leuck, seconded by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, motion carried.

The March monthly claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner Phil McGinnis, seconded by Commissioner John Gick, motion carried.

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

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Phil McGinnis, second by Commissioner, Shawn Leuck, motion carried.

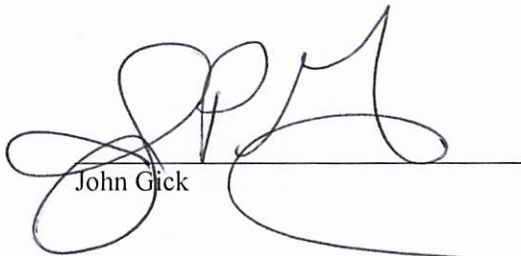
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Phil McGinnis



Shawn Leuck



John Glick



Attest Elizabeth Budreau, Benton County Auditor