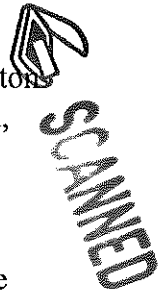


## Benton County Commissioner Meeting

~~August 2nd, 2022~~

August 16

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, Steve Cox and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland



**Others in attendance were:** Mike Budreau, Gail Lange, Mike Budreau, Carole Hoff, Angie Taylor, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Matt Hull, Don Carless, Jason Fisher, Beth Budreau, Amy Schellenberger and John Cox

### **Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor**

- Chip & Seal – on going – hoping to finish today
- Structure – Mike said there is one that has some problems and plans on having Walt take a look at it. It is at 700 S 370 W, the cement is coming apart. Commissioner Berry asked what size the structure is. Mike said the opening is 48 inch so he wants Walt to double check because it is showing they need to put in an extra-large one.
- 1200 E – this is completed
- County Home – Commissioner Freeland asked if Mike would call Kiefer and see what the timeframe will be for him to get out there. Yes Mike B. will get a hold of him so it can be done before the bad weather.
- Dave really like the cement approaches on the new bridge.
- Oil – Commissioner Berry asked if Mike has oil left over. Mike stated that he has enough for patching. Mike B will get a hold of Troy Strasburger and work out a time to go get the gravel from the tear drop
- Mack(s) – the 2<sup>nd</sup> one should be at Rowe's. The 1<sup>st</sup> one they are still having some issues with the pump.

### **Matt Hull – Building Commissioner**

Wabash Valley did get their special exception permit. It now needs to be advertised for 2 weeks in the Benton Review. Commissioner Berry asked if Dave still planned on bringing that up at the Drainage board meeting, yes he is.

Commissioner Berry asked Matt when he would be available to blow the culvert out on 800 N / 100 W. Matt stated that he can do it whenever they want him too. Berry said that Larry informed him that everything that is dug out will be grated. Matt said yes it has a 30 inch pipe going in front of that property dumping into it, which is his concern. Berry said that it is his also.

Commissioner Cox said that him and Angie attended the Town of Oxford meeting and asked if Matt knew of any updates regarding the old school. Matt stated that they just got the asbestos study done.

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Commissioner Berry asked if there were going to be any issues with the tile and if it was ok to be put in afterwards. Matt said that there is a county tile that ties into it, so if they repair that portion then it should be fine.

### **Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director**

Jason is pushing forward with getting all of the EMS/EMA equipment put back into the Annex, so he needs the testing site to be moved as they have been instructed to do prior. He provided some other options in the event that cases start to rise. One option was a car port which can be purchased for \$1,800-1,900. Commissioner Cox said that they do not need to purchase anything at this time.

Jason is wanting to use an extra computer that is approx. \$1,300.00 +. He continued by saying that he has funds available between EMA and EMS to cover the expenses. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the purchase, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Haley's will be on site soon to finish up camera work. They will also be installing the Knox boxes as soon as they arrive.

Drywall is all that is left at the building remodel/addition. Commissioner Freeland asked about dispatch. They will be moving around the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ron Shoup wanted to give a special thanks to Jason and his staff for being in attendance at the street festival. The Town appreciated them being there.

### **Don Carless – EPIC Brokers**

Don began by passing out renewal printouts for review as open enrollment is upon us. He briefly discussed the ongoing issues with Maestro and why they sought out other options.

Don, Commissioner Berry and Auditor Freeland had met previously to review the current year and it was a good year overall. They did come back with a 2.31% renewal. The stop loss quotes they received back Reliant Health Partners came back with the best rate. Don spoke about the fixed rates, the admin fees and which could be revisited/removed, COBRA and the ACA reporting. With Option 1 (Employee Plans) there is a 16% reduction in fees overall.

Berkley – renewal with 6% less

Option 1 (Employee Plans) – overall expenses would be reduced by 15-16%

Commissioner Berry asked about lasers and if everything there was set, yes there are no lasers. There would be no midway changes, if there was a situation where a laser would be needed it would not occur until the following renewal.

Commissioner Cox asked about the notes at the bottom and the transplant. They discussed the pharmacy/prescription model. Don explained that the startup costs which will cover the printing

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of booklets and is a pretty standard fee. Commissioner Freeland asked if this would be a one-time fee of \$1750. Don replied yes it would be. Commissioner Berry wanted clarification that this is not a trust. Yes that is correct, it is not a trust.

After further discussion on the changes Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve switching plans to Option 1 (Employee Plans), second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Don thanked the board and said that his team is ready and the open enrollment date has already been set and they will be on site to assist with open enrollment meetings and process.

### **John Cox – Fairboard**

John asked if there were any questions to the 2022 fair recap that he sent to the board previously. There were none.

John stated that holding the fair early was well received and they hope to leave it on that week. With that said they would also like to be able to bring back the carnival and get the fair attendance up. They are looking to maybe also host go-kart races and asked for permission to skim off the grass for a track. Commissioner Cox asked if about the demand for running out of bounds and if they had anything to use. John stated that the track is still there and the company who is running the event would bring it. Commissioner Berry asked how many races they would like to hold. John said that the first one would be during the fair and then at least a couple more if it goes over well.

John then asked about getting some of the sod scrapped off and he is hoping that Ceres Solutions will donate the spray. Commissioner Freeland asked when John would like to have the sod scrapped, this fall would be fine.

### **Carole Hoff – County Treasurer**

Carole said that after reviewing Tracy's email regarding the threshold, she is trying to get back to the 5 million. Commissioner Berry said that they are at 5 million, and that they were lowered by 1.7 million. Anything over 2 years is what 25%. Carole said that she was told by the State that it is 25% of the total from the date it was done. Commissioner Berry said that it is, and that it states CD's 2 years or less do not qualify.

Carole then asked about the resolution that removed her deputy from the accounts. Commissioner Freeland said that no one was removed and it lists both the Treasurer and Auditor. Commissioner Berry asked if she received a letter from Jacob. No she has not. Commissioner Berry said that per the statute the elected officials of those offices can elect who is on there but they will not list names. Carole stated that the bank has issues with the wording within the resolution. Commissioner Berry said that Steve Brunton said that it was fine. Farmers and Merchants said it was not. Commissioner Berry said he will make sure that Jacob sends her the letter and will also reach out Farmers and Merchants.

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The resolution was reviewed and discussed and will be reviewed further upon Attorney Ahler's return.

Commissioner Berry asked Carole if she did a compared the costs of doing the tax bills herself. Carole said no because this year she stocked up on products due to the rising costs. Commissioner Berry said since she has the extra product for 2023 she should probably just plan on doing it the same. Carole said that she just wants to be able get the bills approved and mailed as earlier as possible. Commissioner Berry asked if she could estimate how many taxpayers would like to receive them via email.

### **Business:**

The August 2nd, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The minutes from the Executive Session held on 08.02.2022 was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

The examination of records payments were questioned by Commissioner Berry. He wanted to make sure the county is repaid. Auditor Freeland said that we are through the settlement process. Commissioner Berry stated that a previously denied claim for Marci Maris was paid, he would like the board to agree that the department head must come back before the board to get approval since it was denied by the board. The pay at once claims were approved as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Bryan Berry abstained from voting and signing the pay at once claims.

Commissioner, Steve Cox made a motion to approve payroll, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained for voting on two employees payrolls.

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the county home report, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland read a letter from KONE (Elevator Company) stating that they are imposing a 3% increase and they wanted to notify us so if the county deemed it necessary to switch companies we had enough time. The board has no issues with the company and feel that they are doing a great job.

Auditor Freeland presented a letter on county letterhead that she needs signed for the exit interview conference with State Board of Accounts. The meeting will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.