

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
September 7th, 2022

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, Steve Cox and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Gail Lange, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Jason Fisher, John Cox, Walt Wilson, Evan Puetz, David Hittle, Leo Chavez, Mike Worthmann, Ira Kempf, Tanya Jiang, Reuben, Ryan ?, Dan Blaney, Russ Collins, Samantha Smith, Rex Kepner, Jen Grawcock, Chrissie McCutcheon, Leslie Fisher and Stanley Sinclair

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Chip & Seal – They have finished
- Pipe – the pipe on 300 will be placed today
- Pipe quotes – presented and awarded as follows
 - E3 Bridge – 6,374.20
 - Debco Metal - 6,125.00Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the bid from E3 even though it was more due to it having the requested specs or as strong as E3's, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.
- Trucks – Commissioner Berry asked for update. They are both at Rowe's and the first one should be delivered in October. They are just waiting on a pump.
- Dave Buck – Commissioner Berry said it can be done in steps and they will sit down at another date to determine what/where they are wanting to start.

Leo Chavez, Mike Worthmann, Ira Kempf and Tanya Jiang – BP

The group wanted to come before the board today to have a brief discussion and meet and greet with all parties involved. They just wanted to touch base, get some contact information and briefly discuss the upcoming road use agreement.

Ira went through the presentation for a brief project overview on the 40 turbines that need to be repowered. The new blades will be 120 meters. Commissioner Berry asked if that will affect the setbacks. Reuben stated that they will be still be within the setbacks so no it will not be a problem.

Estimated Key dates – Meet & Greet – September 2022
Heavy Haul route – Nov. 2022
Pre Road video survey – April 2023
Civils Campaign – April 2023
Install (Cranes) – May 2023

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Construction – November 2023

Post Construction – November/December 2023

Vestas will be responsible for civil works, transportation, decommissioned, installation and removal. Commissioner Berry asked Ira if BP understood that the transportation agreement will be between the county and BP, yes they do and so does Vestas

The turning radius expectations were discussed. Ira spoke about the SPMT (Self-Propelled Modular Transportation) that they will be using.

Commissioner Berry asked where the laydown is be located. It will be at the original location off 200. Alliant Energy will not be involved in this project. The county contact for now will be Ira.

Commissioner Berry spoke about frost law concerns and cement stabilization requirements. He asked if there was anyone close had used the SPMT, not that they are aware of. Ryan said that what he likes is that the loads are almost cut in half. Ira added that the weight distribution is more even.

Commissioner Berry said that the cost is \$2,750 per megawatt. He explained that they would like

Dan Blaney & Russ Collins – Iroquois

Dan and Russ came in today to discuss the addition to the conservancy. He has a petition that the people have signed. They are here to get a positive or favorable statement from the Drainage Board saying that you should participate. Dan and Attorney Ahler will work together on the resolution.

Russ said that a lot of the water comes down Kent ditch. There will be one member from Benton County and two from Jasper County.

David Hittle – Oxford Main Street

David wanted to come before today to give a little bit of information on the Oxford Main Street. It is an organization for small towns to revitalize the downtown. They hope to be able to apply to become a 501(c) (3) to be able to apply for grants.

They will possibly look to the County to provide an endorsement letter but for now he just wanted to meet the board and give a brief explanation on what they are hoping to achieve. They will be holding an open meeting on September 20th, 2022 at 7 p.m.

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John Cox – Sheriff elect and fair board

John wanted to provide the board with a few updates

- Track – the highway did a great job and they have been very easy to work with
- WLFJ funds – John spoke as the Sheriff elect for this grant to increase the public safety funds to help replace some radios, Tasers and other equipment
- Farm to Fork – It was held at the fairgrounds this year and it was very well received
- Fairgrounds – John is working with Mike at the highway to get the electricity for the front of the building, which will need to be removed by the end of the month.
- 911 Move – This is underway. They are working through a few issues and are working on a solution for the CO's. Commissioner Berry said that he would like to see the county get away from SASS, John was on board with this.
- Chip and Seal – he asked if the highway would be able to put some down this year. No it will have to be next spring

Business:

The August 16th, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

The monthly claims were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

The pay at once claims were approved as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Commissioner, Steve Cox made a motion to approve payroll, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

The special event payroll was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Commissioner, Bryan Berry stated that he spoke with Caesar regarding his equipment on the tower and will have more information by the next meeting

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

- Health Dept. vehicle – Jason has the tow bill that he would like to get approval to be paid as a pay at once claim. That was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.
- Crossroads Ambulance – Jason has a quote in the amount of \$266,440.00 and let the board know that they are two years out; 1 year for chase and 1 year for the build. It is the same truck as the one currently in service. They tabled approval until the 09.20.2022 meeting.

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Business Continued

The board would like to hold the Custodian review after the next meeting

Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the amended capital improvement plans resolution (amounts only), second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

The board reviewed the internal control policy that has been created and elected to set the threshold at \$5,000. This was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland presented a pay at ordinance amendment to include contracted services. This was adopted and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland presented the transgender waiver to be signed for insurance for the open enrollment period.

Commissioner Berry asked about the data solutions contract Carole had sent regarding the auto agent. It is something that she would like to do and the financial company will pay for that feature. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approved, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry said that he spoke with the Council regarding the investment policy and that there needed to have more information. They asked Commissioner Berry to serve as the liaison and work along with the County Attorney. Attorney Ahler has the document and will get the policy written as needed.

Attorney Ahler reviewed and discussed the insurance waiver and the board is not going to cover those expenses.

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

Leslie Fisher & Chrissie McCutcheon – Soil & Water

- 319 grant – They wanted to come and let the board know that as of 2023 the 319 grant portion of their salary will no longer run through the county. They will have their accountant do all of the paperwork and taxes. The county portion of their salary will still be processed by the county. The 319 grant budget was not requested on the 2023 budgets. Commissioner Berry asked if SBOA will allow them to take it to a private accountant. Auditor Freeland said there are other counties who have handled it this way and it was not an audit exception for them.
- Vehicle – The truck that the county owns is in dire need of some mechanical work. It still has the original tires. Chrissie presented an estimate from Etter Tire for repairs in the amount of \$1,837.50. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the repairs with it

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being paid from the 319 grant and then the county to pay the remainder, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

- Recognition – After their conservation workshop where they shared their documentary it is being shown at Seeger today and was shown at the State Fair and with a couple of international groups.
- History tour – will be held this Friday
- Smithsonian exhibit – will be shown at the Otterbein library and is all water associated
- Watershed grant – They have been awarded another 5 years of this grant funding
- Governor award – Not publicly announced at this time but they received the Environmental Excellence award which will be presented at the end of this month

Stanley Sinclair – taxpayer

Stanley came before the board today to discuss a private bridge and culvert for a friend he is hoping to get resolved. He has been helping Widow Adams with her one and only access to her property. Commissioner Berry asked what road this is off of, it is off 700. Stanley stated that it is a private bridge and he has been informed that the county does not maintain private bridges.

Commissioner Berry said that they have been keeping it clean for years and while he does not know how long it has been ongoing that it has been there prior to anything the county had done. After some discussion Stanley asked if the ditch maintenance fund had a balance that could assist with these repairs since Adams has paid into it for years. Stanley would like to work together to get this fixed. Attorney Ahler provided some advisement and stated that the land owner themselves would have to file those documents.

Stanley proposed a remedy to the board. He would like to purchase a tank and place it there and fortify the area. Commissioner Berry said that he feels this has been an ongoing issue even before he was here and that even though Stanley and Mr. Gobel have talked about this the problem was there prior to any ditch work done by the county. It is the same as a driveway it is the land owners responsible to maintain that just the same. Berry said that the county is not against helping but they cannot use county funds where they do not know if it is a regulated or non-regulated drain.


Commissioner Cox asked if Adams or he had spoken with Shawn Leuck about allowing access. Stanley said yes he has but Shawn's demands are that she has to sell a portion. Commissioner Berry said that they need to revisit with Mr. Leuck and Adams to see if they can reach a resolution.


Stanley asked if he was able to take the bridge down and place the tank. The board informed Stanley that he would have to come before the Drainage board before anything is done.


The meeting recessed at 10:31 a.m. for an executive session. The board reopened their meeting at 11:40 a.m.


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With no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.


Bryan Berry


Steve Cox


Mike Freeland


Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor