

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
May 19th, 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, Mike Freeland, Steve Cox, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were: Gail Lange, Mike Budreau, Dave Fisher, Lucas Darling, Jason Fisher, Carole Hoff, Matthieu Hoaks and Gregory Robinson

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Patching – still working on
- CCMG – still waiting on to hear on this. Commissioner Berry added that it is because they need the doc u sign paperwork and he will get that to them soon
- Structures – State is looking to do a couple of small structures and want a ULD for about a month. 71 off of 18 (.466 E of 52). Commissioner Freeland asked about the SW corner/concrete walls on 200 S & 200 W and if Mike knew that it was leaning in again. Mike said yes and there is a lot going on at that intersection but will send a crew to look at it again.
- Truck update – Mike got an email that it should be in transportation on the 12th. Commissioner Cox asked about the one at Rowe's, it is not ready yet
- Drags – was told it was 2 weeks out but that keeps getting pushed back. Mike has been asked if they would be selling them. Commissioner Berry said to get them listed
- Compliment – Mike said that he was told that 300 looks the best it has in a long time

Business:

Auditor Freeland reported that the 1st Amendment Auditors were on site yesterday. There was a brief discussion about their visit. Over all there were no issues. Lucas added that they also were spotted driving around Otterbein. Commissioner Berry stated that some places are playing Disney music in the background since it cannot be duplicated due to copy rights.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

- Haley's – Co. Nurse exit door at Annex quote which includes changing the door, rekeying all doors and installing handicap opener.
- The Fire Marshall looked around the new EMS building and said that the south door concerns him since it opens into the building and not out. The door quote is \$10,826.00, which includes the Annex and having the doors changed to swing out. After further discussion the board asked him to get the finalized details and come back.
- EMT class – Jason has some county based individuals that are interested in taking the course if the county is able to cover the expense which is \$950. Commissioner Berry stated that he would rather have a signed commitment rather than money. The board is

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ok with that as long as there is a reimbursement agreement signed with a 3 year commitment.

- Ice machine – Jason would like to purchase an ice machine for the EMS shed. He will pay for it out of the EMS donation or EMS equipment fund. The board asked him to get some quotes and come back to the next meeting.
- Cabinets/laundry room – Jason provided two quotes from Deno Home Center which include 3 upper and 1 base counter. After some discussion Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approved option 1 and to be paid from the money allotted through the ARPA grant, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained from voting.
 - Option 1 - \$857
 - Option 2 - \$1310
- Grants – Jason is asking for approval to apply for grants for the county as they start to become available.
- Medicaid – Jason has \$2,000 coming. When gear was purchased before they were able to shift items around for everyone except one jacket and one full set of gear. He would like to use these funds to cover the cost. The approval was given to utilize those funds with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.
- Advanced EMT's – Jason stated that all 3 have passed their national registry and 2 of them have also passed the written portion and just waiting on their certifications. He is looking to see what they can pay them for the rest of the year. Auditor Freeland stated that was already approved and she will just need names to place on the voucher.
- Proclamation – It is EMS week so Jason presented a proclamation which was accepted and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. It was then read by Commissioner Berry
- EMS remodel – Berry asked if NORRA had done the final walk through yet. Jason stated he was there doing some dirt work
- Gutters – Jason said that Smart does not do 6 in gutters and that Matt will replace them. He asked the board for their preference. The board stated that wanted new ones installed and to call Matt.
- Account lines – Jason asked the board for approval to have two new account lines created within the EMS budget for Ambulance billing overpayments/refunds and also billing claims. The board approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.
- Cameras – Duane asked Jason what the status of the additional cameras was. The board stated that it was already approved. Jason will review the estimates/invoices he has and let Haley's know they can move forward.
- Open house – there will be an open house in the new EMS shed from 6-8 pm. There will be a cook out held at the Earl Park Park on Saturday as well

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Carole Hoff – Treasurer / Finance Board meeting

Carole started off by saying that the agenda has this listed as finance board and it cannot be that since it was not advertised. Commissioner Berry stated that it is board of finance discussion. He then continued on by stating that Carole had emailed his concerns about Farmers and Merchants bank. Commissioner Berry spoke with Stacy Minier who understood what the county pulling the money out due to lack of interest. They discussed that by accepting tax payments is more a service to the customers.

Commissioner Berry spoke about the different investment options that Grant came up with using T notes and T bills. They will deduct .55 from each one, so the rate was 2.799 for note with the reduction it would be 2.249 in the buckets.

The checking account will stay the same. The 6 month T bill once matures becomes a 3 year and the same for any of the others less than a 3 year. There is no contract or binding agreement for any specific length of time. Commissioner Freeland asked if we wanted to keep the funds tied up for three years. The county has a significant balance with them and they are not investing all of them.

Carole understands what the board is wanting to do and thinks it is great they reached out to the bank. Commissioner Berry said that there will be additional discussions on the balances at other banks later on.

The board asked Carole about on time tax payments. Carole responded that they are getting close and are working on it.

Business continued:

The May 4th, 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 executive session minutes from May 4th, 2022 were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The election payroll was presented with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox, and motion carried.

The County Homes report was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners then temporarily closed their regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. to hold a drainage board meeting. The board reopened their regular meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Business continued:

Payroll was approved as presented. They were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox, and motion carried.

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Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

Jason returned before the board to discuss the invoices/estimates as requested from Haley's on the doors being changed to open outward instead of inward.

2349.45 – County Nurse door

4,600.00 – Annex door with handicap buttons

The remaining estimate is rekeying, access punch pad, and all other doors in the annex Building. There is also a button to allow access to the building that Jason will pay for that portion out of the EMPG grant (page 1 – the bottom four lines Jason can cover \$163.20 / \$40.00 / \$75.00 and \$180.00.

Commissioner Freeland asked about the nurse's door and if it will be tinted, yes it will be and the nurse and her staff will have a button to allow access into the office. The total invoice for everything discussed now and prior is \$10,826.90 from Haley's. The approval was given with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The invoice will be paid from multiple areas; the dispatch and EMS portion will be ARPA. The board asked Auditor Freeland to review the grants the nurse has to see if their portion will be eligible to be paid from one of them.

Auditor Freeland presented a new 3 year contract for the cost allocation plan with Maximus. The board reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained from voting.

The meteorological tower approval was given 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. Auditor Freeland will get the signed copy to Samantha Smith.

Auditor Freeland presented an amendment for the Gov Medical Health plan stating that Covid testing fees were waived through Tela-Health. County Attorney Ahler had reviewed and had no objections to the board signing. It was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland then presented a request from an employee who would like to be able to have their payroll deposited onto a credit karma account. After some discussions the board denied the request since it is not an already approved list. The group discussed the traditional check and savings accounts and what the current policy states. The board stated that if it does not align with current policy then it will not be granted. County Attorney, Ahler asked if the county allowed paper checks at all. Auditor Freeland stated that it is policy for direct deposit for payroll, only longevity, bonus and last/final paychecks are processed as paper checks.

The security of the courthouse was discussed and issues of departments/employees letting public into the building without going through security. The board asked Auditor Freeland to send out a reminder once again stating that they will lose keycard access. Auditor Freeland will speak with the security officers about the board wanting them to track any/all offenses. This is nothing new and the board feels everyone should be willing to follow the rules since it is for their safety

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also. Commissioner Berry feels that the first offense should be 2-3 day unpaid suspension and second is termination. Auditor Freeland asked what if it is an elected official, they will lose their keycard access. Auditor Freeland was also asked about all employees and public must enter through the security entrance and all other doors will only open by keycard access. Commissioner Freeland made a motion to look into getting a keycard readers to exit the building

Auditor Freeland then asked for clarification on what/how exactly she is to set up the keycard access for the council members as the board has approved them to get keycards. After some discussion it was determined that they will be given keycards with limited access on meeting days from 8 am to 10 am with additional access given during budget hearings. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the Council keycards, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland gave a quick review of a letter received by former employee, Elizabeth Babb.

The group discussed how the final paycheck and release of liability waiver and whether or not an emailed signature is acceptable or not. County Attorney Ahler advised that there is no law but it will need to go by policy. Current policy states that it is to be picked up so final checks cannot be mailed.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

He is trying to get quotes from contractors to frame in the doors with metal. The following have been contacted;

1. NORRA Contracting – has not gotten back with him yet
2. Tom Winchester – stopped by and said high cost would be around \$15,000
3. Jonathan Devers and Gregory Robinson – offered to do it door by door and would be paid out of the mechanic line or contracted services through payroll process
4. Landon McDaniel – no response
5. Blue Line Construction – nothing yet received

Jason then talked about the floors and that he would like to move forward with that but he has not heard back from Cooley. Greg Adwell stopped by and let him know his thoughts. The board asked him to reach out again to Adwell and they will go from there.

Business continued:

Commissioner Berry said that per statute they are to provide a courthouse and so many departments. There was a department that recently changed a door without permission or approval from the board. He asked about the separation of power comes into play since the Judge has control over the court room but the Commissioners have power over the courthouse. County Attorney Ahler advised that it is his position outside of the courtroom need to be approved by the board of the commissioners. Commissioner Berry asked if there was anything in the statute defining that they have to provide an office for probation, if not he would like a letter drafted stating that.


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Auditor Freeland asked if there is an ordinance about videotaping no but County Attorney Ahler will draft something stating that there is no unapproved videotaping throughout the courthouse. Then if someone comes on the premises they can be given a warning and then if they continue the prosecutor will need to be involved.

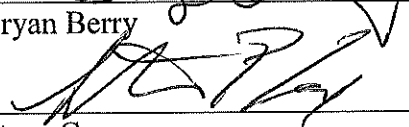
Auditor Freeland asked about getting a software ordinance for the county as well, yes that can be done.

Commissioner Freeland stated that all of the flooring has been laid at the County Home and he would like to know if the board members were ok with allowing some of the part time employees coming in and cleaning for extra hours, yes the board felt that was fine. He then gave a quick update on the rest of the remodel and septic.

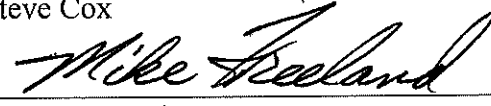
With no further business the Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.



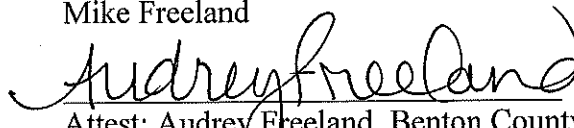
Bryan Berry



Steve Cox



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor