

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 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, Mike Freeland, Steve Cox, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Lucas Darling, Jason Fisher, Scott Wealing, Latisha Provo, Angie Taylor, Dan Klemme, Ron Shoup and Beth Budreau

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Patching – they continue to work on this as they can
- Chip & Seal – ordered the oil but Mike cancelled them starting any chip and seal today due to weather
- Macks – Mike forwarded a letter to Attorney Ahler he received about the Mack truck ordered because they are trying to charge the county more. Commissioner Berry stated that the truck we received is a 2023 instead of a 2022. Attorney Ahler asked if there was a signed contract, yes an agreement. Ahler then asked if the vehicle was changed due to them not being able to deliver the product, yes. Mike stated that he does not want to be charged more than what was agreed. Attorney Ahler asked if they have been paid any money yet, yes they have for one of the trucks. Attorney Ahler advised that a letter be drafted and sent. The board stated that there has been money exchanged and one of the two trucks received. After further discussion Attorney Ahler will draft a letter. Mike asked about MK Trucks, they will also be sent a letter
- Roof – Commissioner Berry asked Mike if he had heard from Kyle Tucker about painting the roof, no he has not
- Doc U Sign – Did you hear back from them or anyone regarding Community Crossing
- Chip N Sealing – Commissioner Berry asked where they would be begin and if it was down at Jordan Creek area, yes it will be.
- Cement stabilization – Commissioner Cox asked what the status is, they are supposed to start this week according to what they told Evan
- Nick Leuck – will start this Friday if he is able to secure the equipment needed for the bridge on 400 N and the bridge has been delivered

Dan Klemme – Fair board

The board reviewed a list of items that the fair board would like to review

- Widen, tar and chip all driveways on fairgrounds. – Mike Budreau and the board was not sure that there was enough time for that to happen before this year's fair.
- Repair asphalt on east and west ends of Pavilion. – Mike said that they could probably take the total patcher up there and fix that. Dan said that it is on the East side of the arena where there are big chunks come up
- Dan thanked Mike and his crew for a job well done on getting the grounds mowed before the tractor pull, said it looked very nice

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 7th, 2022

- Request 3 loads of gravel (same as used last year) for spreading around facilities as was done last year (please dump it on the HC parking area like last year). - Mike stated that last time they used a pea gravel grade or chips. It was decided that the chips will be fine for this year as well.
- Rental tent will cost us \$4K to rent a 40x60 tent so we are looking at Pavilion expansion due to high costs for rental tent. – Due to the increases everyone is seeing this is an increase of 3X's so they would like to add on to the Methodist food booth with a pay back of about 2 ½ years. Commissioner Berry asked if that includes the metal for the adding the additional 40ft. Dan said yes that is correct and the fair board has the money for it. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motions to extend out the additional 40 ft. and replace the roof, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried
- Address the 4-H building being used for storage and not being cleaned up. – The board discussed some pictures that John Cox had emailed to them for review. Commissioner Berry asked what Wes Richardson's reason for the mess was. Dan said that he responded with; my bad. Dan continued by saying that him and his wife spent over half of their day cleaning up the area since it was rented because of the state it was left in.
- The fairgrounds has received over \$1200 in rental fees this year between track
- Commissioner Cox asked why the deposit increased from \$500 to \$800; he thought it was that way for a while. Commissioner Cox asked about the bathrooms being cleaned before someone rents it. Commissioner Berry agreed that it should be presentable for those who are renting it.
- Looking to replace the metal roof on the old Methodist food booth. – see above

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

- Courthouse Alarm – Commissioner Berry said that he would like to address what happened Friday; a fire alarm was sounded to which the Fowler Fire responded. Commissioner Berry said that after speaking with Chief Burton that there should be a master key available. After some discussion and explanation was discussed that the departments are secured so sure there would no reason for department heads to get upset. Chief Burton would like the county to get 3 Knox boxes and place one at jail, courthouse and annex. Commissioner Berry stated that after speaking with the Judge who gave his favorable vote to it. Jason said that he feels that would be good also. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve for Jason to get a hold of Haley's, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried
- ADA Plan – Dave Buck said that what we have is a good start but it has some improvements. Jason wants to ask for permission to have Dave Buck lead all of the engineering which will be approx. \$6-7,000.00. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned for approval for Bryan to sign, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.
- Quote – Jason presented a quote from Dave's carpentry in the amount of \$10,425.00. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve and to be paid from ARPA funds, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.
- EMT – Jason explained that there multiple agencies who are in need of EMT's but the pool is very low at this time. Jason would like permission to hire someone who has taken

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 7th, 2022

the course but has not passed the national registry. He is currently down one EMT who will be off for an extended time. He is looking to hire them at \$2 less for 90 days to see if he is able to complete his certification. The board approved

- EMT Class – Jason has two employees who are interested in taking the class and know that they will be required to sign a tuition agreement. The board approved Jason to move forward with that
- Air Conditioning – still waiting on quotes, no one has returned one yet
- Ice machine – Jason is looking at an ice machine for the med shed. He said that he would like to request up to \$2500 to be used towards the purchase of one through the amazon business account. It is a small model and it makes 200 lbs. daily. Jason stated that between his EMS and EMA budgets he has the funds necessary to purchase one. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve up to \$2500, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. It will be placed in the bay area for draining.
- SHSB – Sirens – Jason is going to apply for a Duke Energy replacement grant. He would like to replace the siren in Boswell and said that they need to start replacing them due to the age of over 25+ years. Commissioner Berry said that we should have a couple fairly new ones. Jason said that Ambia is probably the newest. Depending on which style they go with the cost will be \$27-40,000 each
- Lightning protection – his now has a new contact so hopefully he will have better luck on getting a quote
- Town of Fowler – Jason spoke about the building that they tore down in 2019 and wanted to know if the county would waive the taxes. Auditor Freeland reached out to Sara at the Town about this property which the county gifted to the Town of Fowler. Back in 2016 that was never transferred so until the tax deed is recorded no taxes should be approved to be removed. This was tabled until the deed is recorded.
- Paramedic – Josh Satchell who is a current EMT is interested in becoming a paramedic and is willing to sign a tuition agreement. The board said to move forward as long as he got a signed agreement
- Annex – Jason asked about removing the south bay door and placing a double door. It would help with the table/chair area also not being so congested. They are also working on getting master keys in place at the Annex. The board tabled the bay door request at this time.

Latisha Provo – Otterbein Library

Latisha said that the bids for the renovations at the library have come in over budget. They are asking if the county would be able to assist them with gifting some stone for the parking lot area. Commissioner Berry asked how soon they would be needing it. Commissioner Freeland said that they would be willing to help and ask that she get them more details before they set an amount. Latisha said that she should have the information by the end of the week.

The board of Commissioners temporarily closed their meeting to hold a drainage board meeting at 8:59 a.m. They re-opened their public meeting at 9:54

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 7th, 2022

Angie Taylor – Economic Development

- READI grant & Greater Lafayette Economic Alliance – she wanted to let the board know that it is very unorganized and so many state changes have occurred. Commissioner Berry said that they have tasked Angie to go out and find a funding committee. There is not a funding committee for Benton County and Angie has informed him of this. The group discussed the matching funds and the changes and while they want to stay with the region, Benton County has limited funding. The board is not happy with how things are being handled and feel that focus should be here at this time. Angie added that the local businesses here are struggling already and she feels that is where her focus should be.
- KIRPC – Commissioner Berry stated that they have come before the board 2 X's about the transportation and both times information has changed. Angie is not against working with them but would need more detail to be presented. Commissioner Cox said to stay with KIRPC

Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to stay in the region but no to the READI grant, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Business:

The May 17th, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Carole Hoff – Treasurer

Carole presented the board with a list of the delinquent tax payers after the May collections date. Last year on the tax sale eligibility list there were 36 properties and current list there is 83. Carole feels that the school referendum that is now in place is a factor. She has received a lot of escalated calls and wanted the board to be aware of the intensity. She added that now it is a reality and some of worried about losing their homes.

Carole then shared that while is she is not saying that it is just due to the referendum but she feels that all offices in the courthouse should be aware that there are upset taxpayers.

Carole then informed the board that there is fraud on the bank account. Fowler State Bank will be filing a police report and have made sure the account is good.

Carole asked the board if they will be informing security of the concern, yes they will.

Business continued

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

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 7th, 2022

Two payrolls (PPE 05.20.2022 and 06.03.2022) were approved as presented. They were 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.

An ordinance stating that the county will ordain a policy restricting videotaping within any county owned building was presented and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry said that he has a few questions on monthly claims.

1. Office Depot – treasurer new monitors, cables and keyboards. Auditor Freeland stated that she worked with the rep and got a good deal from them and that it was in fact two separate orders and not split to bypass accounting
2. Mileage – claim for Mundell (extension office) – she went from Fowler to Otterbein and claimed 136 miles. He would like claim to be denied until further documentation is presented. He then questioned the 400+ miles claimed by Wes Richardson and asked where he was going. Auditor Freeland will ask Niccole to bring down the claims
3. Credit card – Commissioner Berry asked if the credit card was used for any election items. Auditor Freeland said that there was one used for a lunch.
4. Door – Commissioner Berry would like to deny the door reimbursement payable to Marci since they did not request approval in the amounts of \$425.82, \$31.68 and \$284.50.

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the monthly claims except the three claims for mileage for Mundell, the Richardson mileage and the door reimbursement from probation, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner Cox stated that he will reach out to Jeff Budreau when he leaves today's meeting.

There is a claim for a snow plow (Templeton Fabrication) and it has been requested to be paid as a pay at once in the amount of \$3,103.00. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve as a pay at once, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Bryan Berry voted no.

Commissioner Freeland gave an update on the county home camera installation and remodel project.

Deputy Auditor, Niccole McGinnis joined the meeting and presented the mileage claims for Mundell and Richardson. Commissioner Berry asked why she needed to travel to Otterbein for the Safe Place location when there are some here in Fowler. Auditor Freeland said that she is not sure of affiliations. The safe place in Otterbein is the pizza king. Commissioner Berry confirmed that Wes's mileage is for a 3 month period. The mileage for Wes Richardson was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
June 7th, 2022

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

The group reviewed two quotes from Data Pit stop for excise taxes and a website application service. The discussion was tabled.

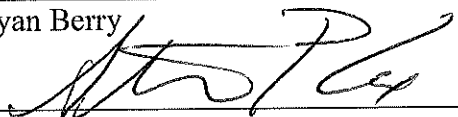
The group reviewed the invoices from LOW Associates. Commissioner Berry asked what was due now and some at the first of the year. He stated that he would like to pay what is due now and get clarification on what is to be paid after the new year. The cost will be paid out of the Pattern Road Fund. The board discussed what was due and what was not and asked Auditor Freeland to reach out to Shawn and get some clarification on what is actually due now. Auditor Freeland asked Attorney Ahler if a letter should be sent to current vendors on the County letterhead, yes the County's letterhead. The Low invoices were approved for payment once the current amount due is verified with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The assistant custodian position has been open for a long time and with the annex custodian position becoming vacant does the board want to possibly combine the two into a new position. Auditor Freeland share the updated reclassification with Attorney Ahler for review and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.


Angie shared that she did speak with someone about investing in the hotel, to which they stated that would rather assist with housing but noted that times are tough. Chris Hart with Cobblestone has reached out to her and she has asked him for direction on whom she is to take that too.

With no further business the Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 10:32 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

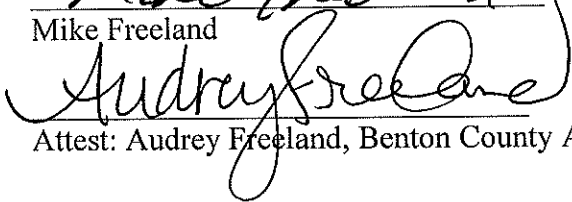
Bryan Berry



Steve Cox



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor