

# Benton County Council

## December 15th, 2022

The Benton County Council were set to meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Council members: Robert Sloniger, Brent Cox, Jack Duncan, Brad Harman, Jim Schoen, Angie Glotzbach and Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were – Mike Freeland, Mike Conner, Angie Taylor, John Cox, Gail Lange, Trina Schutter and Bryan Berry

### **John Cox – Sheriff Elect**

- Provided a brief summary of Sherriff school. There will be a lot of statue responsibilities' and tweaks we need to make.
- Courthouse security and security of the courtroom. Met with the Judge briefly and he and I are going to start working on the next steps.
- Grants – He has applied for a couple of grants; one is a ballistic and body camera grant. We got a notification it was a little over \$12,000 we will be receiving from ballistic. Ballistic and body video is still out there and hopefully will provide \$800 per deputy.
- Jail Inspection – would like the board to consider re-establishing the CUM JAIL rate. This would allow him to work on some of the issues; rain proof, secure electronics and risks. John said that he met with our jail inspector own at the school and he made it clear his job is to not hurt me but help me get things done. We have two serious issues in the jail. The facility leaks a lot and then the door and door locking system in our panic hardware. Bryan made arrangements with the current folks working on the courthouse to come up with stop gap on that.
- Roof - The commissioners they have given me permission to get quotes for a pitched roof on that part of the jail.
- Floor covering - this is ordered and will be installed by the end of the year.
- Cum Jail rate - would like to request that the council raise the jail cumulative fund over the next four or eight years. We got some significant structure things we need to fix. Councilman Sloniger stated that if the board decides to adjust the cum rate for 2024 that process would need to start around May of 2023. The rate for 2023 will be 0.0246 for cum jail. Councilman Schoen asked Auditor Freeland what the expected revenues would be with that rate, Auditor Freeland said that the total cash revenues were \$61306.00 for 2022 and expected 2023 is \$65664.00.
- Meals - John sat down with the cook, and she has a spreadsheet on how many meals are fed inside the jail each month since 2018. Running 30-40 inmates consistently and 30 – 34 this morning. Councilman Sloniger asked if we were housing any out of county people at this time, no we are not.
- Commissary Fund – Councilman Sloniger asked if John knew the balance of the commissary fund, no he does not at this time. He plans on meeting with the current sheriff to get all of that information. John does plan on using some of those funds to offset upcoming training costs for his staff.
- Donation – The board of commissioners approved a donation fund to be established

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- Cum Jail – Councilman Schoen asked John if he could put together a three year plan so they can better plan on what the possible new cum rate could/should be. He will start that after the walk through is complete so he knows what should be priority.
- Bookkeeping & Matron - Sherriff will appoint a matron and be paid at the level of deputy. Several duties have been spread out and not getting done well. The two ladies that have been helping in the evening are both resigning so I am left with a challenge. I coming to you with a couple of ideas. I really want to keep the two new c/o positions that you guys gave me but I really need that funding to be moved elsewhere. The Matron and cook will be the first things he would like to address. From one of the new c/o positions he will need to move the difference between what was approved and what is needed to get it statutorily correct (\$50,000.00). There is currently only one cook and a trustee but if the trustee leaves then he will not have anyone to cook. The matron is also responsible for cooking, administrative work, working with juvenile and all women inmates. Councilman Schoen asked him to get with Auditor Freeland and get some things ready for the January meeting.
- Shift supervisors – he has selected the two shift supervisors which will not take effect until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year
- Deputies – the department is currently down two deputies with and possibly will be losing another one after the first of the year.

Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach wanted to go on record and thank Sheriff Cox for what he has done, how prepared he was coming in today and for putting time into a job that he does not have yet.

Councilman, Robert Sloniger gave a brief recap of the steps that they would need to take if the board does decide to re-establish the rate. He spoke about the public notices, public hearings and timeline to begin the process.

### **Business:**

Approval of the November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes with corrections to names was done with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

Year end transfers were reviewed and approved. The amended totals was \$ 211,015.17. Auditor Freeland informed the board that with our new software department heads will soon have the live view. On their budgets we can change a setting if they do not have money in that line item it will automatically reject the claim. The transfers were then approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Jim Schoen and motion carried.

Earl Park library would like to appoint Sara Wallpe as a replacement for Jamie Baker. This was approved with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Jack Duncan and motion carried.

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Auditor Freeland reported that the county has gotten our final numbers from BP. She wanted to thank you Commissioner Berry for all the phone calls he has made and for those he made again yesterday. Our 1782 was received and will need the council to vote on requesting the DLGF to allow them to keep the 2022 rate in order for the BP investment relief payment to get approved. Jim has the breakdown as far as what the payments will be. It is my understanding that BP is ready to make that payment and the county will be setting up a non-reverting fund for that check to be deposited into. The DLGF and SBOA have given us some guidelines how that money will be disbursed. Commissioner Berry provided additional information and stated that after the first of the year they will start having talks about 2024. The group then had some discussions on the funds being received and the processes that will need to be followed, and how the funds will be available for use once distributed.


Auditor Freeland spoke to the group; an application for deduction for access evaluation real property vacant building deduction to be removed was received. She stated that the individual is requesting taxes be removed from three buildings because they are falling down. I did some research from the instructions. I got with the assessor and we went through it and found many mistakes and items that will allow this to be denied by the board. The first thing is that the form was received by the county auditor on December 9<sup>th</sup> after the May 10<sup>th</sup> deadline. The assessor stated that it is also well as after the 30 days after the assessment notices (form 11) which were mailed by the assessor. We do not know the date the buildings were vacated, and it is not zoned for commercial or industry purposes. Current property class is 511 which is residential one family allotted 0-9 acres and they also did not fill out or submit a CS-1 which is the start for appraisalment. The request was denied by the board with a motion by Councilman, Brent Cox, second by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach and motion carried.

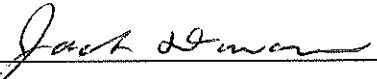
4H building is down and after Christmas will look at designs on what we want. 300 people event building.

Robert and Brad thank you

**The group closed out the meeting at 8:44 a.m. with a motion by Councilwoman, Angie Glotzbach, second by Councilman, Brent Cox, motion carried.**

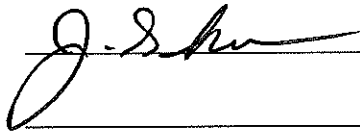
  
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Attest:   
Audrey Freeland, County Auditor

  
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