

Benton County Commissioner Meeting March 21st, 2023

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. at the Benton County Government Annex building located at 410 S Adeway / Fowler, IN 47944. Those in attendance were Commissioners Bryan Berry, Mike Freeland, John Fields, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland.

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Angie Taylor, Matt Hull, Jason Fisher, Dave Fisher, David Meihls, Kylee Senesac, Phil McGinnis, Jonathan Devers, Josephine Patula, Ira Kemp, Tracy Emilson, Gregory Robinson, Matt Hoaks, Josiah Bontrager, Heather Lawton, Gail Lange, Kenyon McGinnis, Max Murphy, Lucas Darling, Niccole McGinnis, Preston Meihls, Josh Satchell, Ron Howk, David Greer, Larry Schellenberger, Dianne Cooley, Valerie Murphy, Kelly Murphy, Colin Sullivan, Elaine Meyers, Brian Meyers, Vica Gill, Blake Schoen, Frasier, John Cox, Mike Worthman, Bill Brost, Lillianne Hartman, Kate Hartman, Doug Hartman, Grayson Hartman, Presley Hartman, Mary Van Wijk and David Miller

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Grinding – CCMG grant road. They have completed 400 and will be doing 100 N next from 6-9E
- Roads – fixing a lot of gravel roads
- Detached trailer – Commissioner Berry asked if he had heard from Curt on the cost. Mike said he has received a couple of quotes but has not received the written quote from West Side Tractor which will be the lessor amount - \$116,000.00. There is one in Kansas for \$109,000.00 but that is a little far away and does not include the delivery fees. The board reviewed the quotes Mike had. Commissioner Fields asked if it was a drop trailer, no it is a detached trailer. After some discussion, a motion to approve the purchase of a detached trailer from Hamilton Equipment for \$47,100.00 with spring ride was made by Commissioner, John Fields, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The trailer will be paid for out of Highway funds.

Jason Fisher – EMS/EMA and Dept of Homeland Security Director

Jason wanted to present some individuals with awards together for their life saving efforts on a recent call. He wants to publicly recognize a group of public safety officials. When a call comes in regardless of where they come from, or what they are doing, when the call comes in they come together for one common goal – to help save a life. Recently a call came through the 911 dispatch center for an individual not breathing. Immediately, Dispatcher, Brian Meyers took the call dispatching EMS-3, Medic 1, and available deputies to Earl Park. Brian's partner, Dispatcher, Lillianne Hartman entered the call into CAD and assisted. Earl Park Fire department was also paged to respond to assist with the medical call. Lots of positive events fell into place that day and Jason highlighted those as follows.

***First the quick response time by Deputy, Brandon Jones who arrived and started CPR.

Followed by defibrillation (shock) with heart monitor was soon delivered by Paramedic, Gregory Robinson. Medic 1 with Advanced EMT, Valerie Murphy and Josephine Patula arrived along with off EMT, Matt Hoaks. Also arriving on scene were fire fighters; Larry Schellenberger, Max Murphy, Kenyon McGinnis and Cody Swarner. Everyone arrived to assist and help with the transportation of the patient. In our business there are a lot of things we train for everyday and go through advance cardiac arrest life support training. We recognized the out of hospital chain of survival, every chain for that link worked that day.

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Those chains are;

1. Early recognition of emergency activation by dispatchers taking the call
2. Early and high-quality CPR on scene by the deputy, EMS and Fire personnel
3. Early defibrillation by EMS
4. Early advanced life support, resuscitation and transport by EMS aided by the Fire department
5. Post cardiac care by EMS
6. Recovery care by EMS and the hospital

Often when the public hears about life savings events, they think it is just one person but all too often it is a team. More importantly in this situation the team included neighbors, members of the community all trained in different disciplines, however one common skill brings us all together like CPR and AED training. Follow that by advanced cardiac care by EMS, assisted by on-site teams of fire department and first responders for the best care we can provide. This award is given to first responders in the course of duty provided and aided in the events of cardiac arrest care for the ultimate outcome of survival of the patient. In these instances, the patient receives the care necessary to have a full recovery. We cannot say thank you enough for the work these folks do every day regardless of the outcome, they always take the next call. With that we would like to take this opportunity to recognize these individuals for their efforts and care with the cardiac arrest award.

Those individuals are Firefighter, Max Murphy / Firefighter, Larry Schellenberger / Firefighter, Kelly Murphy / Firefighter, Kenyon McGinnis / Dispatcher, Lillianne Hartman / Advanced EMT, Matt Hoaks / Advanced EMT, Valerie Murphy / EMT, Josephine Patula / Paramedic, Gregory Robinson / Dispatcher, Brian Meyers

Not present: Deputy, Brandon Jones and Firefighter, Cody Swarner

Jason said thank you again to everyone and added that they cannot be thanked enough for these types of situations. He also mentioned that they have all been nominated for American Heart Association, Heart Saving award as well. The board thanked them all for their efforts.

Jason then spoke to the board and provided them with departmental updates. Run numbers were first on the list and as of last month they have surpassed last year's numbers and are on track to hit 1500 (+). Jason moved on to discuss the possibility of purchasing a demo. Also, he wanted to let them know that the insurance company did approval the repair of the damaged ambulance. The demo will be available this summer and is more user friendly.

He spoke about the remount and the amount, which is \$308,000.00, and while he knows that it is a significant amount the chase costs have increased 25% alone. He feels that the extended cab will be a nice bonus and provide them with more room. There was some of the money approved within the Cum Cap fund for an ambulance and by purchasing this demo it will keep the county on a two-year rotation. A motion to approve the 670 Diesel engine, 550 chase demo in the amount of \$308,000.00 was made by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. The funds will be paid out of Cum Cap, Public Safety and Wind funds (if necessary).

Commissioner Berry asked Jason to get Coroner, Matt Rosenbarger set up with a fuel account. Auditor Freeland said that she would reach out and get that set up.

Jason talked about the towers and the quote for the lightning (static) for the very top and asked what the boards thoughts were. The board felt as if they should move forward. Commissioner Fields said that

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the cost was about \$7,000.00 with climbing being the main expense. Commissioner Berry asked where they were at for the tower at the EMS station, Jason has not yet got one for that but if they do not have to climb it, they could possibly use the lift it might not be much. Commissioner Fields asked if they were both grounded, yes, they are and they have been tested. The large tower was tested and it was grounded by they also grounded it to the building as well. They did the same with the tower at the EMS station. Commissioner, Mike Freeland approved to move forward with the lightning static apparatuses, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motioned carried.

Jason spoke about a recent incident with the server issues due to a crash. One situation that occurred had the fire department looking for individuals and they were able to use some of grant purchased thermals. Since they could not fly the drone due to the weather, they did use the imagery of the camera to locate them. The money was well spent and has been very beneficial to multiple departments.

Business:

The March 7, 2023, regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland was made, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Payroll was approved as presented. It was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried.

Pay at once claims were approved as presented. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

The nationwide annual contribution was discussed. Attorney Ahler advised the board to mark the decline box. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to decline any changes to the Nationwide annual contribution, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Colin Sullivan – BF& S

Commissioner Berry asked if they were able to see if they could do the Geotech for the new bridge. Colin is waiting to hear back from Brian. Commissioner Berry said that they have already approved the purchase of the bridge at the last meeting. He said that they prefer to do the spread footer instead of dry filing. Colin will touch base once he has heard back from Brian and Nate. Colin asked where the bridge was located 400 E between 7-8 north. They asked Colin to stop by and get the dimensions from Mike at the highway.

Business continued:

Commissioner Freeland asked Matt Hull if he had spoken with Kyle Kiefer, they have not yet been able to.

Blake Schoen – Hoosier Associates

Blake wanted to give the board a quick update and highlight all the policies held by the county, over all they are running great. He went through a few of the policies and provided a high overview of what each policy on the handout provided is; General liability, Medical, Commercial Vehicles, Workman's comp, Buildings. They will within the next year do a replacement cost estimator on those buildings. Blake spoke about meeting with the department heads and walking through each department with equipment to ensure they had all the correct information listed.

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He talked about the coverage on elected officials, law enforcement, employment practices and cyber. He spoke to the group about the high risks with that. He talked about loss control and emergency plans that the county needs to appoint as the spokesperson and/or change of command. There is also a company that will come in and do free training on active shooters, cyber risks and bomb situations. Blake can get more information to the board if they are interested. The claims in the last year were low and overall, the county did well.

Blake thanked the board for their time.

John Cox – Sheriff

- Rock-N-Dirt – will be onsite tomorrow to finish up the estimate
- Roof – Both contractors have stated that depending on what they find they will advise and then also provide an estimate accordingly
- Trucks – Sheriff was informed that the 1st truck should be arriving any day
- Jail – Currently they have 32 inmates. He is still working on 3 year plan so he can take it to both the Commissioners and also the Council to possibly re-establish the cumulative jail fund
- Drug Task Force – Sheriff will be meeting with the prosecutor and the judge to discuss what the Supreme court is asking all judges to do. Sheriff Cox said that he recently learned the medical provider they have for the jail has a free addiction program that they can provide. Sheriff Cox is going to meet with her soon to start those discussions. He has not contacted Valley Oaks on it. He has contacted the Sheriff Association because there are 5 small jails like ours that are part of a pilot program for substance abuse currently. He is looking for low or no do on his staff part due to the lack of staff members so it would have to be managed from the outside. With that it will have to be able to transition from jail, through court and probation.
- Grants – some of the new body armor is starting to arrive. He has not yet ordered the corrections officer body worn.
- We Tip Hotline – he applied and was awarded a grant from the Coalition in the amount of \$2,200 to bring this service to the county for a year on a trial basis. It is used all over the United States by law enforcement agencies. It is 100% anonymous.
- Video cameras / Laptops – there are no working laptops in the deputies' units and they have never had video cameras. Sheriff Cox is hoping to change that as well.
- Tasers – he has more tasers failing each day so he is looking into other grant opportunities because he needs to have a non-lethal option. He will be purchasing new ones.
- Staff/Testing – He has three candidates that he is looking at. They will go through the next steps then hopefully he can extend a recommendation to the merit board
- Jail – Still down 2 CO's. He has a past employee who would be interested in coming back and helping on a part-time basis when his schedule allows. He would like to create a new account line for part time and move the funding from the two vacancies there.
- Uniforms – Commissioner Fields said that he really likes the new uniforms and said the guys look good and comfortable. John thanked him and said the deputies like them also.
- Fairgrounds - he spoke with IMI and found that they do not have a place to dump cement, so he is going to have them put it at the fairgrounds for new approaches for the barns. Houston Electric also has told him that they will donate their time and materials to get the lighting at the grounds. Brouillette's have a key so they can service the furnace
- Highway – John once again wanted to give his thanks to the highway for all their hard work and because of that the Race is on. He has the safety wall/barrier in place.

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Frasier, Mike Worthman, Ira Kemp – BP Wind

Commissioner Berry asked if the group was ok with the road use agreement amendments he had marked up. Ira said that they were ok with them. The group then reviewed them

1. Section 1.3 – adding the school corporation transportation. BP will need to reach out to them
2. Bond amount – back to surety bond instead of escrow
3. Repairs – 24 hours instead of 30 days because that is to long

Commissioner Berry showed them what they based the price off of for the bond and what roads they will use. BP representatives were ok with those changes. They reviewed the routes on the RUA.

Commissioner, Bryan Berry then motioned to approve the RUA, to attach Milestone prices to the RUA and the original map and the route/roads (miles) that will be traveled and it will be signed when the copy arrives. Ira asked if they could confirm the cost for the RUA to revert back to the original.

Commissioner Berry said that originally when he and Leo spoke about the blanket bonds that is what was in the agreement they were about to improve. The blanket bond will be carried more for the roads they need to do repairs on. Ira was ok with that. Commissioner, Mike Freeland then seconded Bryan's motion.

There were 3 variances that were approved by the BZA and before the commissioners to now give final approval. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. Ira said that she will make sure to send a copy back once it is signed by Alister.

Mike said that when Alister and were here that they were advised about some towers. Alister has asked that those be reviewed with particular focus on the school ones. They will also add the county to the on-community benefits program. Commissioner Berry said that the county does appreciate that and wants to continue to work with each other.

The group signed the RUA agreement and presented BP with the original and will provide a copy back to the county once it is signed in its entirety.

The commissioners temporarily closed their meeting for their Drainage board meeting.

Colin Sullivan came back in front of the board after speaking with Brian. Brian asked if there was a design for the bridge that was purchased, no there is not. Commissioner Berry does not believe that the design would handle that size. Brian and possibly Nate will need to come out and go out to the site.

The board reopened their meeting and discussed the WECs/Megawatt fee. It is 100 meg times 750 per megawatt. Matt Hull will work with Ira on totals. Commissioner Berry asked that \$25,000 be placed into the already established megawatt fund with the remainder to be placed in a new non-reverting fund which will be named WECs/Megawatt Fund.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried.

The Commissioners opened the public hearing for the ADA Compliance hearing. David and Preston Meihls were on site to answer questions and/or concerns from the public.

David Meihls is the consultant for ADA compliance and asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to speak. With no response, David then spoke to the group on the transition plan with the public aspect portion.

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David also wanted to let the board know that the ADA Coordinator interim will be Jason Fisher.

They then discussed the courthouse ramp and east entrance and the stairs, which needs to be reviewed. The group discussed the incline percentages and intervals.

The next county location that will be reviewed will be the BC Highway. David added that the ADA Coordinator is welcome to go along with them but it is not necessary as they understand that schedules do not always allow it.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried.

Bryan Berry

John Fields

Mike Freeland

Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor