

Benton County Commissioner Meeting  
September ~~7th, 2022~~ 20, 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, Mike Freeland, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

**Others in attendance were:** Mike Budreau, Paul Jackson, Valerie Murphy, Kelly Murphy, Lucas Darling, Ron Shoup, Angie Taylor, Torrey Nobis, Eric Brady, Jason Fisher, Hanne Cox, Kathy Sarault and Adriana Perez

**Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor**

- Patching – cleaning up guard rails along the bridges
- East building roof – it is very rusty Mike presented quotes to paint, new metal and tear off and replacement.

Leuck Construction  
15,341.26 – labor only  
**30,600 total bid**

Spangler Construction  
16,895.00 – labor only  
**32,236.00 total bid**

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to put on new roof and to accept Leuck Constructions bid, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry with the understanding that the metal is to be purchased local and motion carried.

- Painting the walls – Mike said that if they could use the lift the crew could possibly do that part of it. Mike will talk with the crew before a decision is made. Commissioner Cox said that he would prefer to get the walls painted before the roof. Mike stated that Shawn would like to get started sooner than later, the board is ok with that.
- Cutting of roads – Commissioner Berry said that when they are allowing people to cross the roads for tiling that the county needs to set standards that they have to put 60 ft. of dual walls or schedule 40 so if anything breaks the county is not responsible. They need to pass the right of way 10ft on each side.
- Broom – Mike has not received a bid or quote yet. Commissioner Cox said to reach out again
- 600 E Bridge – Commissioner Freeland asked for a status update. This has been completed and inspected.
- Macks – both are still at Rowe's
- Pay loader – Will arrive in November
- Fair – Commissioner Cox talked about the upcoming building removal. He asked Mike about the glass cases and if they would be able to relocate them to the women's building before they start. The items inside are being donated to a church they believe. Mike said yes they can and they did get the water shut off. Commissioner Berry said that the well house is located to the East of the building.
- Brick – Cody and Bryan have not yet talked about hauling off the blocks but he will reach out again today.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting  
September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 20, 2022

**Business:**

The September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were 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 executive session minutes 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

Commissioner Freeland asked for clarification on the correction transaction listed on page 11. Auditor Freeland stated that the money was quietused into the wrong fund in error. The pay at once claims were then approved as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

**Jason Fisher – EMA / DHS Director**

- 911 Update – Commissioner Berry asked if everything got punched down. Jason replied no because no one has the ends. He offered to drive to Indy if Tom located some if not he will order from Amazon to complete the fiber for dispatch
- Ambulance – the quote is good until the end of the month to lock in the chassis and the box price of the truck. Commissioner Cox asked about the demo and if it could be here sooner, yes it can be. Jason's only concern is it is a smaller truck chassis and it does not have a liquid spring on it. The dealer said that with the weight it does not require the added suspension. The chassis is a Ford 450. Jason would like to wait until he hears back from another possible dealer but is concerned with what the price increase will be after this quarter. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve either a new ambulance from Crossroads for \$262,000.00 or the Demo for \$200,000-230,000.00 pending that it meets the specs Jason needs, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.
- Runs – They have currently had 1145 runs which is up from last year at this time where they had 1027 last year
- Paint – Tom is on the final coat and then Dave will be there to do the base trim
- Lightning protection – There is a company that will do a full consultation for \$2500.00 which Jason feels they should do both towers
- Open house – Gail asked if they planned on holding an open house. Jason plans on holding an open house for dispatch but he has to determine with IDACS on how that can/will work due to the limits of what can be seen by public. He can however get her over there so she could do a story.

**Torrey Nobis & Eric Brady – Enterprise Fleet**

They are here today to discuss what they can offer the county. They discussed their fleet and presented to the board a brief overview of their fleet options. A review/consultation review will be done free of charge to the county. Auditor Freeland was asked to give them a list of the

## Benton County Commissioner Meeting

September ~~7th, 2022~~ 20, 2022

vehicle inventory sheet as well as contact information for those department heads. Once they receive that and have compiled the information they will return and give their recommendation to the county.

The board had a few questions on how it would all work and Eric stated that they would provide that recommendation once they have the data and have a chance to review it.

Ron Shoup asked if the Town of Otterbein would be able to piggy back on what the county is doing. Eric said that the agreements are done per entities but they would be happy to review theirs as well.

### **Angie Taylor – Economic Developer**

Commissioner Berry said that he and Angie spoke yesterday to discuss what Zach Stephens (Mainstream) was supposed to come discuss which is the expansion of fiber to the areas the county would like to see covered. Commissioner Berry added that once again he is disappointed that they failed to come before the board. Zach did tell them that the state did grant them approval for phase 3 which will be near Swanington.

Angie wanted to give thanks to Silverback for getting the program she needed to be able to view the map from Mainstream. She then reviewed with the board the updated map. The blue represented the covered areas. The map was reviewed and discussed. Ameri-crew might become a part of the process for the wireless side which will be good. Commissioner Cox asked who is buying the towers, the county is.

The board stated that before phase three begins that Mainstream must come before them and discuss the plan of the day and timeline. Commissioner Berry said that they need to also know and understand what 22 feet from the center of the road is. Commissioner Cox will discuss with Angie for possible locations for towers in Otterbein and Oxford. Commissioner Berry will get coordinates. Commissioner Berry asked the board if they were still interested in running straight fiber, yes they are. Angie will reach out to Paul Jackson and work with him to get all of the roads listed.

The recovery fee that is being charged by Mainstream was a misunderstanding. They are supposedly working on getting that corrected.

Fowler Foods and Deli contract was discussed. When the business is open for three years the equipment purchased by the county will become their property per the contract.

### **Hanne Cox – Election Board**

Hanne wanted to discuss some safety concerns of the public accessing the courthouse during the absentee voting which will begin on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Hanne asked the board if they were still ok with the absentee voting happening on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, yes they feel it is the best location. They will enter the building through the security entrance and come up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to vote.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting  
September ~~7th, 2022~~ 20, 2022

Commissioner Berry stated that even if the roofers are not done they will make sure that they are moved to the other side of the building so there will not be any issues.

**Business continued:**

Commissioner, Steve Cox made a motion to approve payroll, seconded by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstaining from voting.

The board signed the amended capital improvement plan that was approved at the 09.07.2022 meeting.

Commissioner Berry stated that Cyber does want to stay on the tower. In return they will continue to provide free internet to the county but the contract will be updated to be reviewed every 2 years instead of 5 as it is currently written. The companies name has changed from Surf Air to Surf Internet so Attorney Ahler will update that in the new contract as well.

Auditor Freeland presented the board's open enrollment paperwork and asked them to fill it out and sign.

Auditor Freeland then informed the board that she does have all of them registered for the Commissioners conference and has booked the hotel rooms.

Auditor Freeland stated that TextMyGov contacted her and presented a brief demo. She informed them that the county currently has Code Red. The board asked Auditor Freeland to share that information with Jason Fisher and if he is interested then they will reach out to them.

Auditor Freeland asked Attorney Ahler if he could prepare a non-reverting fund ordinance for the opioid settlement. There will be two funds, one is restricted and one is non-restricted. Attorney Ahler will prepare that document.

Commissioner Berry spoke to Valerie Murphy about her previous request. The disciplinary action will stay and motion is denied with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried. Let the records show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained for voting since he was not present for the executive session.

Ron Shoup shared that the Town of Otterbein has a major water main break (at the flashing light). It has been determined that it has been leaking for at least 1 year and they are losing 25,000-30,000 gallons a day. Ron asked the board if money they originally approved for gravel could instead be used to help offset costs of the much needed repairs. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the remaining funds to be for repairs, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting  
September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ~~20, 2022~~

**Kathy Sarault – Health Department**

Kathy wanted to come before the board to introduce her new hire, Adriana Perez. Kathy stated that she has been a great asset to the department. The board welcomed Adriana.

Commissioner Freeland asked who was going to attend the Energy Education meeting. Auditor Freeland will make sure that all three board members, herself and Angie are registered.


Commissioner Berry shared that Deputy Rennick has his new K9 (Riot). Commissioner Cox added that they have begun their training.

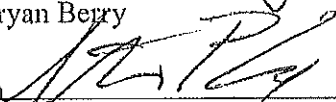
Commissioner Berry said that Doug Horwedel from the Otterbein Fire department has been using the ambulance for quite a few runs and asked if the county could assist with the purchase of a power cots (\$45,000.00). Auditor Freeland will get the cost of the power cot that the county owns and get that information to the board. The discussion was tabled.

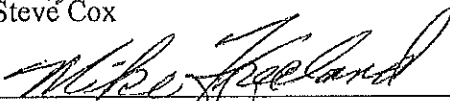
**The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m. for an executive session. The board reopened their meeting at 10:15 a.m. With no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried**

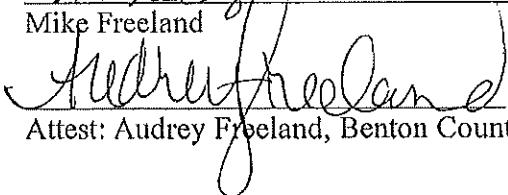
Samantha Smith joined the meeting to ask if there was anything else that needed to be done by the Plan Commission for Joe Vessels. The board stated no and that as of October 21, 2021 the board of Commissioners approved for the alley to be vacated per the petition that was presented by the taxpayer.

The board reopened their meeting to further their discussion on the head custodians review. Commissioner Cox stated that he is the best one they have had for a long time. Commissioner Freeland and Berry both agreed. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to increase the custodian's hourly wage by \$3.00 per hour, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The change will be effective as of today.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan Berry

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Cox

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Freeland

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor