

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
July 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: Mike Budreau, Walt Wilson, Jason Fisher, Angie Taylor, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Gail Lange, Dave Fisher, Kelly Balensiefer, Beth Budreau and Jen Schutter

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Chip & Seal – on going
- Community Crossing – they are ready, they are just waiting on the money to be received by the county

The board opened and accepted bids on two highway drags as follows:

Yellow Drag

Benton Dairy (Ambia) - \$2,000.00

C.M. Construction - \$955.00

Maroon Drag

Freeland Dairy - \$1,750.00

A motion to the Benton Dairy (Ambia) and the Freeland Dairy was made by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Bryan Berry abstained from voting.

Mike said that while they are chip and sealing they are still dealing with people trying to still drive down the road.

Commissioner Cox asked Mike to reach out to KB & S regarding 300 N. He stated that road and Templeton road are not in good shape. Mike said that he has reached out to them a couple of times. Commissioner Berry will get Mike another number so he can deal with someone else. Commissioner Berry said that 300 N there was a situation where a tire blew and the wood got ripped out. It should have been reported but wasn't.

Commissioner Berry said that Earl Park will be hosting their 150 years anniversary on July 30th and would like to close old 41 during the celebration. Bryan and Mike Budreau will go meet with Marty Lewis for the town to see what they are needing.

Commissioner Berry asked if Nick Leuck was still having trouble with welding the bridge. It will need to sit for at least two weeks before moving forward. Mike B. said that they will be setting the guardrails sometime tomorrow.

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Commissioner Cox asked for an update on the second truck. Mike said that the 2nd Mack truck is in and M&K will ship it to Rowe's after they run the perimeters. Commissioner Cox asked if the bed was put on yet, Mike does not believe so.

Angie Taylor – Economic Development

- READI grant – Angie and Bryan met with the group and reviewed the changes they have made. The matching funds and the guidelines have changed. Commissioner Berry stated that Benton County was/is not the only ones who were questioning things. Berry asked the other board members what their thoughts were and if they wanted to move forward and participate. Commissioner Berry shared the concerns he shared with the other individuals on the READI grant board. Commissioner Cox agreed that Benton County is not the same as Tippecanoe and other counties. Commissioner Freeland asked how much it was going to cost the county, nothing. Commissioner Berry said that he did say that we would not pay money to another county.
- Town of Oxford – Commissioner Cox said that for their water project – one project went through and one did not. He asked Angie to reach out to the Town and report back on to what the status is.
- WHIN – Angie attended the road show
- Fowler Foods Market & Deli – Attorney Ahler advised that they can approve on the terms they have previously discussed. Ahler is waiting on some documentation from the SBOA. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approved subject to SBOA approval, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.
- Boswell plots – Angie stated that Gene McGowan and her spoke and he is willing to sell the plots. Commissioner Berry asked who the developer was and Angie was not sure yet who they will decide to go with but she will talk with BF&S and get some ideas.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Director

- Haley's – quotes for the county home to be on the master system for all of the doors. The amount is \$2,148.45. Commissioner Berry asked what the status of the courthouse master system is. Jason said that it is all ordered
- Cameras – Commissioner Berry asked if the old cameras were moved to the county home. Yes and they are up and running but Jason is not sure if it is going back to dispatch or not.
- Earl Park Celebration – Jason will have a crew up there for at least the 5K
- Haley's revisited – The board discussed doors and the efficiency it will allow. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The cost will be paid for out of the County Home ARPA funds.
- Pay at once request – Jason asked the board for permission to be reimbursed for his out of pocket expenses for three lateral file cabinets, two five drawer cabinets and two tables as a pay at once. This request was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

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- Department update – Jason has two students have started their classes, they are doing their online portion and then for ride alongs one will be done in Lafayette and one will be done in Indianapolis.
- Run update – The EMS department is already over 100+ from this time last year
- Building – Commissioner Berry asked if Jason had gotten with Aaron to get everything fixed. Jason said that he has talked with both Aaron and North Mechanical

Kelly Balensiefer – Assessor

Kelly came before the board to discuss a software demonstration her and her staff recently reviewed and asked their opinion. She would like to switch software companies from Proval to X-soft. She said that it will eliminate 3 different programs and four excel spreadsheets they have to manually and it will save the county money overall. The costs can be paid over 5 years.

Kelly described the process now versus if they were allowed to switch companies.

Commissioner Berry said that the biggest issue she has with Proval is a database issue (it is larger than Marion County and they cannot tell her why). Commissioner Berry stated that it is slowing down the system a lot. Kelly said that she described this issue to x-soft and he was able to determine the issue within minutes. The cause of it is due to log files. Commissioner Berry said that he set in on the presentation and is in favor of her moving forward with the conversion. Commissioner Cox asked if there was a current contract in place, Kelly does not believe so. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the conversion, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Commissioner Berry said that he feels the 5 year payout the annual fee should be paid out of reassessment, Kelly agreed. Kelly stated that she has requested the increased amount in her 2023 budget.

Business:

The July 6th, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner Cox asked about Raub and them not being in compliance. Commissioner Berry said that he reached out to Lisa to see if they could get more information. Commissioner Berry asked if they should be paying them if they are not in compliance. Attorney Ahler asked if this was in reference to the letter from the state, yes it is. He stated that there is a phone number they can call to see what all needs to be put into place for them to get into compliance. He asked how much money the county provides to them. Auditor Freeland stated that each month the taxing districts receive LIT distributions. Commissioner Berry feels that it should be withheld until they are in compliance. Commissioner Cox agrees. Commissioner Freeland asked what where they not doing. Commissioner Berry said that is why he reached out. Commissioner Freeland asked if they are able to withhold the funds. Attorney Ahler advised them that yes they can and that once they are in good standing to release any funding withheld. Commissioner, Steve Cox made a motion to approve pay at once claims except for York Township library, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

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Dave Fisher – Surveyor

Dave came before the board to let them know that he received a phone call from Mr. Azzedine Berry-Aaji new attorney, her name is Steele. He continued by saying that the attorney was quizzing him on work done in 2011 on their property. He said that he attempted to explain what drainage law is and that she has to call our attorney directly. Dave stated that he eventually hung up on her. Attorney Ahler added that she should know that she should be contacting him anyway.

Dave spoke about the 75 feet right of way from the top of the bank (each way) and they have since put a fence down along there and Dave is not happy with that. Dave said that they are still upset that he removed the old scrub trees and put in a pipe. Dave stated that he did not put in any pipe.

Business continued:

Commissioner, Steve Cox made a motion to approve payroll, seconded by Commissioner, Mike Freeland motion carried. Let the record show that Commissioner, Mike Freeland abstained for voting on two employees payrolls.

Commissioner Berry asked Attorney Ahler to draft a letter to the York Township library that the funds will be withheld until they are in compliance. Auditor Freeland asked if he would give her a copy for her records as well.

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

Commissioner, Steve Cox said that he would like to see the county donate another \$1,000 to the Earl Park food pantry and made said motion, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland asked Attorney Ahler if she needed to do anything in regards to the transportation county bridge inspection contract. Attorney Ahler advised that he reviewed it and did not have any issues with the document.

Commissioner Berry presented a resolution he would like to have amended regarding the authorization for the checking accounts for Benton County Government. He said that both the Benton County Treasurer and the Benton County Auditor are to be listed on the accounts. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the resolution as presented, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Auditor Freeland was instructed to give the document to Attorney Ahler.

Beth Budreau & Jen Schutter – Earl Park Fall Festival Committee

We are here today to discuss the security during the Earl Park Festival. After speaking with Sheriff Munson about the upcoming festival he stated that his mom who has monitored the playground will no longer be available. In past years they have paid Munson Security directly

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which covered the playground expenses, sheriff deputies for evening shifts and reserve deputies on site. Jen stated that the festivals just wants to be sure that they will still be able to have those security services. Commissioner Berry asked what the sheriff's thoughts were about replacing his mom. Jen replied that he is not going too as she has retired. Commissioner Cox asked if that meant that he would not be providing security at all. Not to her knowledge. Jen continued by saying that it is her understanding that the deputies are scheduled additional hours within the capacity to not hit the overtime.

Commissioner Berry feels that they will still have the reserves, and asked if the festival committee has asked the deputies themselves about watching the playground, not they did not because they are looking at a community member do that. Beth Budreau then asked if they had a signup sheet for the deputies for coverage if they could be paid by the county. They then asked if it could be handled as a special payroll. Commissioner Freeland said he is ok with that as long as the deputies are compensated for their time. Attorney Ahler did not feel there was any issues with that. Commissioner Cox asked Auditor Freeland if there was anything she needed, not really just the written documentation showing the who, what, when and where. Attorney Ahler advised that yes there should be documentation that would be presented along with the special payroll for payment.

Business continued:

Jacob gave a quick update that he is working on the equipment agreement. He also stated that there has been no contact from Keener or his attorneys to date.

Commissioner Berry asked about the resolution for the right of way (utilities) and asked if they could have that at the next meeting. Attorney Ahler stated yes he can work on that. He then asked for some clarification on what they are looking for in the document. Commissioner Berry stated that there are times where some do not want to work with the wind company themselves. The county would like to ensure that the landowner has the opportunity to be compensated. They briefly discussed previous issues and concerns with other projects.

Auditor Freeland asked if she needed to do anything with the INDOT Amendment Bridge inspection contract. Commissioner Berry said no he has already signed and completed all of it.

Auditor Freeland then talked about another invoice from Sunpass and per previous discussions she is giving it all to Attorney Ahler to send them a letter.

Auditor Freeland presented hours for the extension office during fair on behalf of payroll deputy, Amy Schellenberger as well as the corresponding emails. There were no breaks listed on the hours to be manually entered into timeclock plus. She was instructed that they did not take breaks and just grabbed food when they were able. The board asked for advisement. After some discussion Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to deduct the hour break from each day that is 6.5 hours or more worked, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Commissioner Cox said that technically Wes is over 4H and he should be reporting this not Kelsie in his opinion.

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Auditor Freeland asked where the Adwell Heating and Cooling estimate is to be paid out from. Jason and the board reviewed and said that it will be paid from the EMS ARPA funds if there are sufficient funding.

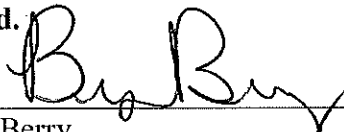
The board reviewed the burn ban and decided that it will be left in effect for now.

Commissioner Berry asked Commissioner Freeland if he was still able to meet with Mark Doud on the 28th of July at 10:30 a.m. for a tour of the dairy.

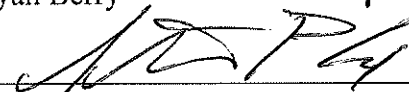
Auditor Freeland asked if the data pit stop agreements were going to be tabled again. Commissioner Berry said yes that he has not had a chance to talk with Shawn Low.

Niccole McGinnis joined the group and asked about a denied claim from the previous meeting for the extension office. Commissioner Berry said that he remembers a lease for a copy machine but does not know why they are paying a lease for computers. Niccole stated that she is just wanting clarification since there is mileage attached to the check also. The board does not remember anything about leasing PC's and tablets. Commissioner Berry asked if Jon Charlesworth has become an instructor to teach how to fly drones. Auditor Freeland said that they have not seen anything on it. Commissioner Cox asked if they were wanting the county to pay for that as well. The claim is for the mileage involved to attend a class for UAV FFA license training program in Wheatfield. Commissioner, Bryan Berry then motioned to approve the mileage but not the computer lease, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

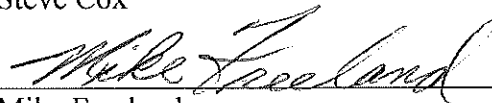
With no further business the Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.



Bryan Berry



Steve Cox



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor