

Benton County Commissioner Meeting January 4th, 2023

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, John Fields, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Angie Taylor, Matt Hull, Gail Lange, John Cox, Lucas Darling, Kelsie Muller, Jason Fisher, Samantha Smith, Jennifer Greenberg, Glenda Wallpe, Doug Cordell, Holly Logsdon, David Tribolet and Dave Russell

The first order of business was the organization of officers:

President: Bryan Berry / motion made by Mike Freeland, 2nd by Bryan Berry

Vice President: Mike Freeland / motion made by Bryan Berry, 2nd by Mike Freeland

Secretary: Audrey Freeland / motion made by President, Bryan Berry

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Pipes – they are getting all of the pipes put on the WTH/GIS level. Once completed they will be start adding the stop signs and BF&S are going to assist on getting all of the bridges as well
- Town of Fowler – they have received the survey of the property they will be gifting to the county/highway department. Mike is working on getting bids for the building. Commissioner Berry asked Mike to remind the contractors that they would like to buy local. The county will pay the attorney fees.
- Outbound loads – Commissioner Berry thought that there was an agreement put into place that trucks must use the highways for all outbound loads. Mike said that he has been unable to find anything. Commissioner Berry asked if even through town if it was a 5-ton road.
- 200 S – There should be a sign saying no semi-trucks. Frost freeze signs need to be on both ends of the roads. There has been some upset with these regulations. Mike is asking if they should set up a travel plan, no the board said everyone follows the same (State Road 52 or other state highways). The county is going to have an ordinance drafted if they cannot locate any prior ones stating that any grain facilities with outbound grain must use the closest state highway to eliminate any issues. This will be for any commercial hauling. The board asked Mike Budreau to review the dairy routes with Sheriff Cox
- Employee resignation – The board and Mike spoke briefly about a recent employee who separated employment and what steps were taken regarding the accusations made. Mike stated that he did speak to both parties and a verbal reprimand was given.

Business:

The December 20th, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Benton County Clerk, Jennifer Greenberg joined the meeting to swear in new Commissioner, John Fields. Commissioner Berry and Freeland welcomed John to the board

Commissioner Freeland asked about travel claim submitted for Warren dairy, yes, the county nurse does provide their inoculations. Monthly claims were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

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Pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, and motion carried.

The Who to Contact list was discussed and the following amendments were changed. For heating and cooling it will now be Brouillette's Heating and Cooling with a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, seconded by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried. The change for any new DSL, phone or fax lines will be Vertical Horizons was made with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

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

The annual KONE agreement for the courthouse elevator was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry said that the investment report review will be tabled until the board of finance meeting.

Jason Fisher – DHS & EMA Director

- Knox box – those have been installed. Jason would like permission to give the two security officers a master key. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.
- Furniture – Jason would like approval to purchase some furniture for the EMS stations. The chairs are \$699.00 each and the couch is \$1,199.00. This will be paid for out of the EMS equipment and donations. Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried
- IT Room grant – Jason will be meeting with Tom and Vertical Horizons so they can begin discussing the necessary updates necessary. The security of room mainly the window in the current room was discussed and it was determined that it should be removed or made smaller. Jason said that after looking into the changes, he feels that static arresting carpet or flooring should be considered for the IT room, the board agrees. Jason said that Blue Line construction has responded, and they will do a drop ceiling. HSHB grant agreements have been received so a new fund will be created.
- Ambulance – the build is still 18 months+ out.
- IT grant – Commissioner Berry asked if Jason got everything needed for compliance, yes he did
- ADA grant – Commissioner Berry asked if Jason was able to find any grants to assist with the expenses of the ADA updates. Jason said that there is the grant for voting centers but will have to review to see if it is still open to apply for.
- Line – Jason said that there is still one line on ground outside that has not been identified. Stimson did come and get his lines buried though. He will continue to try and identify whose line it is
- Surf Air – Commissioner Berry asked Attorney Ahler if there had been any communication back from them, no there has not been. The board still wants a letter sent stating that they need to remove their equipment. Commissioner Berry said that it appears that a lot of items are being put on the tower and they need to know what/who it all belongs too. Jason added that he feels since it is the county's tower for security purposes they should consider locking it so they would have to come and get a key prior to anything being added or removed. Commissioner Berry said that they are supposed to be doing that now, after coming before them for approval. Commissioner

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Freeland added that maybe they should get a picture of everything that is on there and ask for it to be identified.

Business continued:

Commissioner Berry asked Angie if she was able to get anywhere with the wireless, no she hasn't received any correspondence back from her emails but will continue to reach out.

Samantha Smith brought up the carbon sequestration ordinance the county has imposed. Commissioner Berry asked Commissioner Fields if he was familiar with it, yes, he is. Commissioner Berry went on to discuss section 6 and that they are changing it from 15 cents to 30 cents per ton. Commissioner Freeland and Commissioner Fields agree. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motions to approve the amendment to ordinance 2022-1216 with the forementioned changes, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Glenda Wallpe – Recorder

Glenda came before the board for approval to accept the annual CSI agreement for her office. Commissioner Freeland asked if there were any changes, no there is not. It is a monthly fee of \$1,038.00. The agreement was approved and will be paid with monthly claims with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Glenda then spoke about her systems running slow and it was determined that the anti-virus is taking up a large amount of memory. She asked if there have been any recent changes. Commissioner Berry responded that none have been done since last January. He then asked if she was server or cloud based, she is server based and then CSI has an offsite copy as well. Glenda will continue to work with IT and CSI to get the issue resolved.

Kelsie Muller – Extension office

She came back in front of the board to see if they were in agreement with the proposed verbiage she had sent out to be added to the contractual agreement. The verbiage to be added to the contract would read as; "The county extension director, as supervisor of county employees in the extension office will use the county personnel policy for county paid staff". The board said that they said that they were ok with the verbiage. Kelsie will send to her director (Jason) and then he will send to Purdue legal to review, if it is approved then Purdue will sign and send to the county to sign.

Doug Cordell – Otterbein Fire

Doug came before to the board to ask if they were able and/or willing to assist with the purchase of a power pro cot. The board said that they would assist in paying and it will be paid for out of the public safety funds. Auditor Freeland asked Doug to send her an invoice, so payment came be processed.

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Seal bids for bituminous, fuel, hot mix, stone, oil and etc... The highway bids received bids from the following:

Fuel –

Ceres Solutions
Petroleum Traders Corporation

Bituminous Bids

Bit Mat
Milestone
Asphalt Materials

Stone

Roger Stone

Asphalt (Surface & binder)

Milestone
Reith-Riley
Central Paving

All bids were accepted, and the final decision was given to the Highway Superintendent with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields and the motion passed. A complete breakdown of bids will be available in the Benton County Auditor's office once received from the Benton County Highway department.

John Cox – Sheriff

- Inspection – the jail inspection will be on January 12th.
- Jail – John is working on getting quotes for the duct work cleaning. Are there any updates on if there is funding available for cleaning the duct work. Commissioner Berry said that there is some for ventilation and air conditioning through the ARP grant funding received.
- Sewage pit – John would like to get the boards opinion on getting bids for the cleaning of the pit. Commissioner Freeland suggested Matt Johnson. Commissioner Berry added that he would like him to meet with Mr. Johnson to see what he recommends since they did have a plan, but the Town was not in favor of it. John will start with those discussions. The board also asked him to find out if it requires a certified person to handle. CPC – the commissary companies and John are working on moving from paper boxes to iPad so pages cannot be removed or eliminated. Commissioner Berry said they suggest using the ARP and the Cum Jail fund to cover these expenses.
- Correction officers/CO's – John will be losing another CO to Newton county due to pay. John is looking to ask the Council to allow him to shift some of his budget funds around so he can be a little more competitive.
- Merit board – will be having a meeting with the board on Thursday. He would like to discuss the positions that he will need to hire the following – 2 CO's, 1 Matron (appointed by Sheriff) and 2 on road deputies.
- Flooring – working on this and new carpet is about installed. Commissioner Berry said if there are any wiring concerns to reach out to Vertical Horizons. John thanked the board because there are some cables that will need to be replaced
- General updates – John spoke to the board about some changes he has implemented on timekeeping and such. John would like to have the county attorney provide a 3-year

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commitment agreement since it costs the county about \$8,000 each. The board was in full support of this. Commissioner Fields asked what the current rates were for deputies, \$50,000

- Spillman – there are updates happening and there are 2 left out of the 8 updates that had not occurred. It is going well and they are great to work with
- Old jail – John would like to take the previous sheriff pictures and other memorabilia out of the old jail, clean it up and display it. The board liked that idea
- North door – John has received on replacement bid for \$4,000 and after speaking with another contractor he is just waiting on their bid
- Roof – there is a new leak so John would like to move quickly on getting some bids and getting that fixed. They currently have 15 buckets/pans that must be placed around whenever it rains.
- Jail structure – John has two AE companies that will be coming to give their suggestions on the infrastructure improvements needed. Commissioner Berry asked Auditor Freeland to review to see if there are any funds left on the RQAW retainer.
- Highway – John wanted to go on record that the highway guys have been a huge help and he truly appreciates their willingness to help him and his staff
- Grants – John has 3 grant proposals that he has submitted
 - Taser grant
 - Ballistic vest grant
 - Camera grant
- Vehicles – John got some quotes for new vehicles. The VIN # for the vehicle that was ordered last year was received but does not have a date for delivery yet. John provided a quote from a local dealership for a chevy in the amount of \$49,100. He would like to get more information on the Dodge and when they could expect it before deciding on purchasing. He would like approval to move forward with the local dealer and trade in the Tahoe towards that vehicle. Commissioner Berry feels that trade in is the best option. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve the purchase/order from Mike Alsop in the amount of \$49,100 to be paid out of the Cum Capital funding, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.
- Deputies – Brayden Ely will serve as the armor deputy and will double check all firearms and inventory. Austin Rennick will serve as jail commander/sex offender registry officer.
- Inmates – they are currently having 2-3 inmates on suicide watch. Some new suicide blankets and other items were purchased. John invited the board to come over and see how things are running.

Business continued:

Auditor Freeland asked about the drug testing agreement. The county is currently with ITI Testing, and ROCC responded that they do provide both CDL and non-CDL testing but they will not come on site. The employees would have to travel to Lafayette. Auditor Freeland added that is has to reach out to the clinic but feels that last time they were asked they could not without being it being a conflict.

Commissioner Berry said that was prior to Everside so he would like her to ask. Commissioner Freeland agrees that until we have more options they should not vote.

Commissioner Berry asked where or if it was decided where the meeting minutes were going to be posted, it will be on the county website. Angie Taylor said that they put them under the highway but she asked them to move them under the respected boards.

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Jason Fisher – DHS & EMA Director

Jason returned and said that he can get off the wireless with Mainstream 100X100 for 3 years that will cost \$49.95 a monthly. Jason said that they were given the Public Safety rate. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to approve if that is the amount for all 3 years, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried. Commissioner Berry asked Jason to notify Mike Stimson to remove all of his equipment.

The board of Commissioners then made the following appointments:

Commissioners Appointments for 2023

Title	Appointee	Motion-Second-Abstained
County Attorney	Jacob Ahler	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Courthouse Custodian	Darren Regnier	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Dept. Homeland Sec/EMA	Director Jason Fisher	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Deputy EMA Director	Jonathan Devers	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
District Planning Council Rep	Jonathan Devers	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
IT Person/Company	Silverback Consulting Group, Inc	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
**N.W. In. Solid Waste Dist. Rep	John Fields	Bryan Berry/Mike Freeland/N/A
**K-IRPC – Comm. Representative	Angela “Angie” Taylor	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
**Bi-County Drainage Board (2 Comm.)	Commissioners by district	Bryan Berry/Mike Freeland/N/A
Board of Zoning Appeals Attorney	Brooke Scheurich	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Area Plan Commission Atty	Brooke Scheurich	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Community Action Board Rep	Audrey Freeland	Bryan Berry/John Fields/Mike Freeland
Economic Developer Director	Angela “Angie” Taylor	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Highway Bookkeeper	Michelle Traylor	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
ADA Coordinator	Morgan Stevens	Bryan Berry/John Fields/Mike
Freeland Highway Supervisor	Mike Budreau	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
**Plan Comm. Council rep	Brent Cox	Appointed by the County Council
**Plan Commission Rep.	Mike Freeland	Bryan Berry/John Fields/N/A
**Plan Commission Rep	Jon Charlesworth	Is automatically on the board
**Plan Comm. Surveyor rep	David Fisher	Is automatically on the board
Plan Commission Members	Allen Buchanan	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Plan Commission Members	Jim Lawinger	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Plan Commission Members	Bob Leburg	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Plan Commission Members	Paul Schutter	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Plan Commission Members	Deb Orr-Lane	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Retirement Village Superintendent	Tonya Robinson	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Veterans Officer	Paul Griner	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Wabash Valley Hospital Rep.	Audrey Freeland	Bryan Berry/John Fields/Mike Freeland
Recycling Administrator	Michelle Traylor	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Health Commissioner	H.B. Recom. – Kathy Sarault	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Building Comm (Brd apt. Comm Recm.)	Carl “Matt” Hull (Recommended)	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Health Commissioner – Secretary	Kathy Sarault	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Building Commissioner – Secretary	Kathy Sarault	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board President	John Cox	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board Vice President	Dr. Taylor Concannon	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board Secretary	Meredith Cobb	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board Treasurer	Kyle Keffer	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board Public Relations	Niki Harman	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A
Fair Board Sergeant at Arms	David Quear	Mike Freeland/John Fields/N/A

**** Representative is to be a Member of the Board of Commissioners or by statute requirements**

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The board received their conflict of interest forms were passed out, they are due back by the next meeting so Auditor Freeland can get them uploaded.

The group then discussed the ARP funding and the need to amend the plan and account titles. There are a couple of areas that went over what was approved so the money originally set aside for premium pay/employee bonuses will be moved to there. The board would like to move forward with the recycle department bathroom and the annex project to remove the southeast bay door and have push door installed for fire exit. The board will review and let Auditor Freeland know which projects are completed and any remaining funds will be placed into the overbudget/unappropriated funds. Commissioner Berry said that the dispatch and EMS should be completed. Commissioner Freeland said that aside from the railing at the county home and recent damage at the county home that project is complete. He went on to say that he has asked Brian Brown to relocate the ice machine and a couple of cabinets. Any funds left over in the retirement village remodel will be moved to the fairground new building.

Commissioner Berry asked if the personnel policy was ever amended or if it needs to be amended. No amendments have been done at this time.

Commissioner Berry asked about the funds going to the Oxford Senior Center and why it was made out to the church. Auditor Freeland stated that is where the invoices say to send the remit to and that has not changed.

Commissioner Berry asked when the live view option will be available through LOW. Auditor Freeland is hoping that it will be soon and talked about what the departments will be able to do.

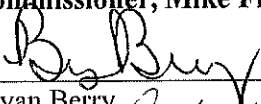
Commissioner Berry asked the board if they were ok with asking Samantha to come up and do the organization of office for the Drainage board, yes that is fine.

Commissioner Fields asked how much has been set aside for the new building at the fairgrounds, currently \$250,000.00 but there are some additional funds within the ARP fund if needed.

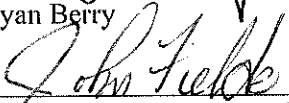
Jennifer Greenberg – Clerk of the Circuit Court

Commissioner Berry asked if she was ok with selling the window that was previously purchased. Jennifer said that she would like to have a window between her office and the front counter if they are ok with that. She is ok with selling that window though.

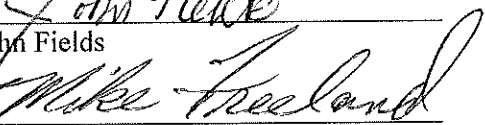
With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried



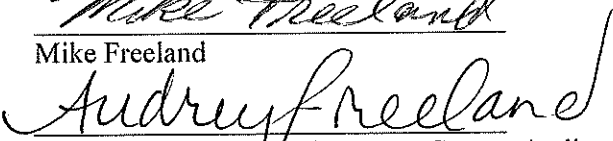
Bryan Berry








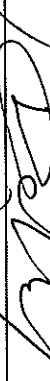
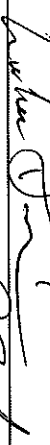


John Fields



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor

DATE	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE
1/4/23	Gail Lange/Benton Reviews	
1/4/2023	Angie Taylor	
1/4/2023	Matt Hull	
1/4/2023	Doug Corbett/Ottoburn PD	
1/4/2023	John Cotti / Beso	
1/4/2023	Dave Rassel Asphalt Material	
1-4-23	Lukas Dostling / Team ad Ottoburn	
1-4-23	Michael Williams / Hwy 51 Area 500	
1-4-2023	Darius Triboldt - Bit Mat Inc.	
1-4-23	Jasur Piskur	