

Benton County Commissioner Meeting May 16th, 2023

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. at the Benton County Courthouse in Fowler, IN 47944. Those in attendance were Commissioners Bryan Berry, Mike Freeland, John Fields, and County Deputy Auditor, Niccole McGinnis.

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Angie Taylor, Gail Lange, John Cox, Jason Fisher, Brandon (Metro Com), Don Carless, Edwin Buswell, Kathy Sarault, Kayla Finkhousen, Mark (FEMA), Carole Hoff

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Received a Quote for a pipe needed at 3W 870N. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made mention that Deb doesn't make a 14 gauge pipe because they have 12 priced instead of 14. Commissioner, Mike Freeland commented that it would be a \$1300 difference and the delivery fee has gone up. Commissioner, Bryan Berry said his opinion is the 12 gauge would be better. Mike Budreau said he also has a tile that is underneath that he's going to have them move so it's not around that pipe. Commissioner Bryan Berry made a Motion to go with Debco, Commissioner Mike Freeland second. Commissioner, Mike Freeland also mentioned to use the Aluminized, Commissioner John Fields agreeing and motion carried. Need signature to give to Auditor, signature was collected.
- Mike mentioned that he had been working with Walt, E3 Bridge, about a pipe on 3S about 850E we tried replacing the ends of it. It's going underneath the road and about 10 foot in the ground. Tried to extend the ends out because were losing the side of roads falling off because it's too rotten, the pipes too rotten. We don't want to dig that road up because if we did, we'd have do a slip line, Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked to make it longer. Mike continued to say, there is a 15 inch spiral in it now, we will put in a 12 inch smooth which will take as much water, so we need it extended a long ways on each end so fill all that in so we don't have any more erosion. Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked how long you will have to go. Mike said they were going out today to measure length wise, he's guessing close to 60, because they need to get it out of the way. Then they'll have to fill it with fillable fill to keep that thing in there.
- Other than that we've been patching still and trying to get some stone in. We did some work at the Fairgrounds. Trying to fix the racetrack, making roads going in and out.
- Mike got some prices if they're going to build a building, what they are going to do to bring it up the rest of the way. Commissioner, Bryan Berry, said it'll need to come up about another foot. Mike said its \$8/ton from Muller's for fill, or use 53's which, is \$7.55/ton. We filled in the hole where we tore down the old building, with dirt and we packed it in real good so it's ground level. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motion to accept Muller's for the fill, Commissioner, John Fields second and motion carried. Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked Mike if they were hauling it, yes they are.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked Mike if he wanted to talk about the Mack Trucks and Mike said he needs to look into something before discussing. He got a price for a Truck but it's expensive but have been looking at other trucks that have a million miles on them and they are \$30,000. And the one I just got a price for 2015 Mack and wanted \$48,000 but only had 100,000 miles on it, nice looking new truck but only got so much money in the budget. I want to try something with this trailer before. Commissioner, Mike Freeland added that if that didn't work and we had to get a different truck then well have to do that, no since of having a trailer out there that you don't have anything to pull it. Mike said again he wants to try something with that trailer, I think I can make something work, if we can well use that truck until it goes down, it's an old truck, it just wasn't working the first time we tried it.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry mentioned that Mike talked about... he doesn't know if he's going to have a new truck next year to order or if we're going to have the lease run out of the Kabota or

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buy a tractor but I told him to just order a new truck if we want it, we can take it, if don't want it we don't have to take it. Commissioner, Mike Freeland added because it's taking a year to order a new truck, Commissioner, John Fields agreed may even be more than a year. So, Mike asked if I can call and at least get one ordered anyway. Commissioner's agreed. Commissioner, Mike Freeland mentioned too that they may be able to find them something too. Yes, Mike agreed, were talking dump truck, they are all special ordered anyway, we get extended front end for plow, heavy duty front axle, front pump mount, all our trucks are special ordered. Commissioner, Mike Freeland said we need to keep this rotation going so we don't have a bunch of them one year, Mike agreed.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMS / EMA Director

Mark McCalliman - FEMA

- Jason presented statistical update on the individual assistance cases, they've got the highlighted number of assistance at the top. After today the Resource Center will close, people will still have until June 10th to register for assistance but I think on those statistics we've probably saturated everybody that needs help or has wanted it.
- Public assistance side of things we met with them last week, Commissioner Bryan Berry stopped by and met them real quick. Aside of the \$32,000, \$28,000 was approved on the initial first assessment. They take that amount back put the State Report together for FEMA to send to the President to get a disaster declaration on the Public Assistance side. We're waiting on that to come back. Alone I think between the power companies we were like around \$120,000 just before we even turned in any of our expenses for the PA (Public Assistance side). We met our threshold, it's a matter whether the other Counties the damage there was enough. They act like they will be fairly quick, we might be able to shed light on that. So once that happens, some of those other expenses that didn't qualify, would become eligible including any other time we have put into the project after that point. That amount should increase if we get the declaration.
- On the State side, I met yesterday with the Mitigation people, if the Presidential Disaster is declared then there would be 5% of funds made for Public use or Grant use thru the State for Projects. Mitigation Projects would include siren system, tornado shelters in public areas, potentially. One of the big things about that if it comes through, would be a 5% match but it would be an easy way for us hopefully to redo all our siren systems at once possibly. We need to wait and see, that's contingent upon the Federal declaration also. That's all I have on the FEMA info.
- Mark (FEMA) said for Jason to continue on and he would fill in at the end
- Jason continued about Grant updates:
 - Energy Grant – Office of Energy Development we re-submitted, that was a \$50,000 Grant with a \$5,000 match on our side. We were considered, they wanted more information, so we replied. We are waiting on theirs.
 - SHSP Grants – we won't know until September
 - Hopefully Tom comes today so I can talk to him about the SHSP Technology site, so we can get that done. We have a deadline of August 31st.
- Other things, we have the master key, that we initially locked the really old door up in the very top attic. I don't know if we would like to put that on the Tower, the door to go into the fence for the Tower, the gate? We have Vendors just decide to go and climb our Tower without really telling anybody that they are here. So, if we put that key on there, they have to find myself, Darren, or the Sheriff to let them on. Commissioner, Mike Freeland agreed with this, Jason continued to say that the lock won't go to waste if we do that and you're ok with that, it just keeps people. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked, how the door is kept locked now. Jason responded that he's not sure it goes anywhere, I think they get across and it's not easy. Commissioner Bryan

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Berry asked going towards the Attic, yes go up the Judges stairwell all the way to the top there's an old Tiller door, they wanted it open for other reasons. Jason asked if it was ok to put the padlock on the gate. Commissioner, Bryan Berry agreed. Commissioner, Mike Freeland stated as long as he can still check the buckets, Jason agreed that he would be able to.

- The Camera Trailer is in and done. Jason would like to ask for permission to go pick it up, if you would give us permission to travel Out of State, then we would go get it today probably it's about the best opportunity we have to go get it. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked what they would drive, Jason replied back, Jonathan's truck. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motion to approve out of State Travel, Commissioner, John Fields second, motion carried.
- Josh Satchell asked if he could do \$100/week until he changes positions for his Paramedic Tuition, if that is ok with you guys and then settle up on the end. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked, what is that final dollar amount would be, it was half the tuition \$4,000.
- Mike Budreau is gone, but Thanks to the County Highway Department for helping solve some of the little man's problems on trucks lately, which saved us a ton of money on maintenance going elsewhere, on ambulances and the Tahoe.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry happily stated that next week is EMS Week is next week. Jason agreed and said he has a Proclamation here for you guys to sign and then change name for Deputy Auditor, Niccole McGinnis to sign also. Commissioner, Bryan Berry made a motion to sign the Proclamation for EMS Week, Commissioner, John Fields second, motion carried.
- The new vehicle will go to Outfitting on the 25th, they are waiting on everything to come in. We should get it back within 2 weeks once they get it. When we talked about the Grant moving funds around, about taking some money out of multiple budgets. Wanted to make sure it was still good to work through that, I could share amongst EMS, EMA, and then we've got the Local Emergency Management Funds to use, if you guys are ok to do that. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked what the dollar amount would be, Jason believes everything was around \$9,000, they had saved money but Jason added a spotlight, I can have them break that off separate if needed.
- Hopefully we're 2 weeks from getting the Ambulance repaired back, had to wait on the doors from Canada.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked where Jason was with T-Mobile. Jason's reply, were trying everything. I currently have the Business Internet Office Device which Tom would have to set that up. Matt is running around with the Hot Spot and the phone trying it. We're going to try Ambia, Earl Park, all on the State Line. Commissioner Mike Freeland wanted to make sure he was hearing the Company name correctly, should be T-Mobile not Teen Mobile, correction from last meeting minutes. Jason continued to say, their pricing and preemption is very similar, they have the same things that First Net offers but their pricing may be different or better, but want to make sure their coverage is as good, so were giving them a trial. Jason offered for the Commissioners to try the Hot Spot and phones if they wanted to just let him know. The Internet device seems to be pretty revolutionary for what it does. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if Tom (IT) had ever gotten back with him on who the main carrier was, if it was AT&T or not. Jason is unsure because it's been hard to get ahold of them. Heard he was here today so hopefully they can cross paths before we leave.

Mark McCalliman - FEMA

- He is just got off the plane from his home, Johnson City on Friday, based in Indianapolis but moving to Lafayette because they have given him the Northern Counties that have been effected by Tornadoes and just happened to have called yesterday and Audrey said there was a meeting tomorrow morning if he would like to come and he said of course I'd love to come, if you all would have me.

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- He is hoping they had received an email from his predecessor, Stew, which was introducing Mark. Mark is now our point of contact for the next 30 days or maybe longer, based in Lafayette supporting the Northern Counties.
- Up to this point, Jason has been working very closely with Tony, on the observation side of things. On the Governmental side, I am the Elected Officials point of contact. So we work hand in hand, Tony and I do, even though Tony covers a larger area and does more operations. Mark is more on the external affairs that deals with Elected Officials, Congressional Media, and those kinds of messaging external facing. Messaging will be coming from Mark instead of Stew, which you shouldn't see much of a difference. But just want you to know, Public Assistance Mark doesn't have a lot of insight to that, other than that the reports I get in each day but that's another group but if you have questions related to that, should that come up, he can be here for that as well. Of course Jason will have his channels that he gets his information from as well. Exchange of cards/contact information was given.
- Mark reiterated the key things Jason went over:
 - Last Day to register for Individual Assistance will be that week of June 10th thru 14th
 - Last Day for the Research Center is today, May 16th.
 - Have had about 31 or 32 Registrations
- Sounds like everyone is good with the information and up to date, but if there's any follow up questions or questions now he would be glad to try to answer them. Commissioner, Mike Freeland and Bryan Berry said not at this time. Commissioner, Bryan Berry continued to say that Jason has said they are really well to work with and on top of it.

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMS / EMA Director

- EMS Week being next week, ok to spend less than \$2,000, probably \$1,500-\$1,600; hand-outs, and EMS Appreciation items. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motion, Commissioner, John Fields second, motion carried. Majority of it goes to the schools, hand-out pencils.

John Cox – Sheriff - Fairgrounds

- John has been working really closely with Frasier last few days, trying to make sure I'm communicating out to the public. I'm getting a lot of positive feedback on putting stuff out on our Sheriff's Office Facebook page. I probably talk to him three times a day as things change, I know he's talking to you, so if there are certain things we do/don't want him to do please let me know that because... Commissioner, Bryan Berry commented, we originally agreed to move that stuff after hours and now they are coming back and saying it's a safety issue which I tend to agree with that. But we did turn him loss at 9:00 this morning. John agreed and said he had reached out to him after talking to Commissioner, Bryan Berry. Commissioner, Bryan Berry told him from here on out until we sit down and discuss how were going to do this, he needs to call and make sure were good with it. John agreed. John continued to say, they've got about 9 more days of school left and once we get passed that 9 days then it'll be a little bit easier, more flexible. Commissioner Bryan Berry added, don't you think also that both of those roads are heavily used since the Highway is closed. John agreed with the safety concern of moving cranes in the dark. Commissioner Bryan Berry mentioned it wasn't so much the dark, it was more about starting before 4:00 in the afternoon so they would be done before dark. John said he was willing to support that, he told him, he needs to keep them up to date so he can communicate to the Community because he's had a lot of people reach out to him to thank him for pushing that out. Commissioner, Mike Freeland added until school is out, after 9:00 and before school ends, to keep from interrupting heavy traffic. John agreed.

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- Move Overs – John is going to try to get out of it, but not sure he will be able to since he pushed the button to order, because he is not happy about how much time is taking to. He feels he has two options: 1. Jason has one he is going to try 2. Lynn Emerson has reached out to let him know Mike Alsop's Shop is now open for Outfitting. We're going to for sure have the second truck Outfitted by Mike Alsop. I've shared the information from Move Overs, so Alsop's can price things out to be competitive.
- Fire Alarms/Panel Alarms – trouble with these in the jail breaking, so had Malhaup's come and fix it and broke again. So, John is going to contact the President of the Company to get this resolved. Have a Fire Alarm that Malhaup's asked us to move the inmates out of the outdoor Rec until John realized that the outdoor Rec door was stuck shut, so he is going to have Mike come today to bring over his backhoe and chain to try to unstick the door. He's got to get it working in the event there was an Emergency.
- John wants to Thank Mike and the rest of the Highway guys for working hard getting things done at both the Jail and Fairgrounds.
- Cameras System – Tom & Tracy are supposed to be here today because Sheriff/Jail has lost one of the servers and can't back up. Going to try to patch it until Grant money comes in to be able to replace it. Commissioner, Bryan Berry mentioned if they had looked into seeing if we had an extra one, and John said yes that is what Tom is supposed to look into today. Server 2 is the one functioning, it records, but as soon as it records it's gone and can't go back.
- Fairgrounds – received a \$5,000 donation from Kathy Dimmich in honor of her late brother that she has asked to go towards the Go-Kart Track. They will be putting in the Safety Fence and create a banner to put on the Safety Fence
- Fairgrounds – had some drainage issues by pond, Mike was able to help with that. Once it starts to go down, they'll go back out there to check around the pond and clean out the debris. Wants to talk with Leslie to see if she would like to help out. There's so much trash that is plugging the drain.
- Fairgrounds – going to send out letters for donations. Talked to Kyle and our budget looks ok for some concrete work. Talked to Milestone about bringing in some extra asphalt to resurface the arena area, can't get a commitment.
- Fairgrounds Building size – John has some local businesses/contractors putting numbers together. Shawn Leuck would like to do the construction, Brouillete heating and cooling will put in the heat/cool programming in. Commissioner, Bryan Berry starts off, there are two designs presented,
 1. Building size 95x60, all Bathrooms at one end 10x28, women's with 5 stalls, men's with 3 stalls/2 urinals, 3 sinks each. Other end has Kitchen 10x28 and storage room.
 2. Building size 112x60, all water at one end, Kitchen, Utility Closet, Bathrooms, women's with 4 stalls, men's 2 stalls/2 urinals, 2 sinks each, and Storage Toiletries. Other end, Office/Extra Space, Storage, and includes an outside Patio.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry continued to comment that he felt the bathrooms in layout 2, he feels are going to be too small. He also doesn't see a problem with having water on both ends compared to having water on just one end of the building. John believes having the heating/cooling will eliminate the humidity problems which caused the mold. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if having the water on both ends would be a problem or does it matter, Commissioner, Mike Freeland commented it might cost more, but also agreed that the more space is probably needed and they'd need to talk with the ADA guy to see which is more compliant. Also, need an Architect that will make sure they have enough or what is needed when there are groups of 300. John agreed also to give more space for bathrooms. He also liked that we won't be buying tables or chairs, people will rent it for what they want as its part of their cost. The storage space could significantly shrink since we won't have a lot in there. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if the storage space was thought to be too big, Commissioner, Mike Freeland didn't feel it

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was and then asked if the smaller space 8x5 was for mop bucket, John added Utility room. Commissioner, Bryan Berry also mentioned on the other end about the 4x4 room, may be able to make it longer for a little more storage if needed. Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked if there was another Exit, Commissioner, Bryan Berry was not sure for the one layout. #1 layout, Commissioner, Bryan Berry mentioned he would put in another door for an outside Patio option like #2 shows. Commissioner, John Fields agreed with having a Patio no matter what design they went with, all agreed that taken out a window and adding a door to a Patio. John added about having a short overhang. Talked to Chris about a full metal structure inside and out, it would be less costly. It'd basically be a metal building with insulation and wiring with climate control. Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked about the inside being metal especially, John stated that they had talked about putting metal inside, Commissioner, Bryan Berry and Mike Freeland agreed it would be too loud. Commissioner, Bryan Berry added, that the storage room would be ok, most get moldy but think this will be ok since it will be more climate controlled. Inside should be drywall, Commissioner, Mike Freeland agreed as well and added the Trusses need to be at least 2 foot center minimum and put in extra, Commissioner, John Fields agreed, Commissioner, Mike Freeland added that 16 inches would be best. John then repeated that they recommend, Drywall, Studs, and 2 foot minimum Trusses. Economic Developer, Angie Taylor asked if the Kitchen was going to be fully equipped; Stove, Sink, Refrigerator. Commissioner, Bryan Berry and John both commented that it looked like it on the layout, yes there were spots for those. John added that it looks like a stove, sink, refrigerator, and counter space goes all the way around with an opening into the hallway.

- Putting some sort of overhang over the doors on the Westside of the building, go out 10 feet or so that way if you're having a wedding or something you can get underneath it. Will also have a foyer, so double door entry to help keep warm/cool. Then on the back side, take out middle window and put in doors to go out to Patio.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked about an Architect and mentioned the gentleman who designed the EMS building and Commissioner, Bryan Berry agreed. Commissioner, John Fields commented that he likes the layout but main center area would like to see bigger, bathrooms are a good size, but adding about 10 feet would help, that way to have a stage for a band or whatever. Commissioner, Bryan Berry added that for the Patio, eventually have 4 foot sides, roof attached so you could have a band. John asked if Commissioner, John Fields was saying to have 80 instead of 70 across, because the one is 112 and the other is 95, you'll want the bigger. Commissioner, Bryan Berry commented that he and Shawn will discuss the length because Shawn likes a certain way of building. So around 112/104, length would be around 64/62.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked Commissioner, John Fields if he wanted to go 112 or 104 long; agreed to 112x64. Commissioner, Mike Freeland said that should give us enough room to have 300 people and if the Architect doesn't believe so then they can adjust, all agreed. John then put things together, that the Commissioner's agree that they want a little bit of both of the designs but will need to discuss with Architect, Commissioner, Mike Freeland agreed he would contact the Architect to discuss plans. John asked if a vote need to be done for the size of the building or do they need to talk to Architect to get a plan first. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked John to contacted Shawn to make sure these are the sizes that he works on, 112x64 or if it needs to change some and then get back with Mike to move forward. Commissioner, John Fields made a motion to approve moving forward with the Building at the Fairgrounds with the Architect on going with a bigger size of 112x64 depending on what the Architect says, Commissioner, Bryan Berry 2nd the motion, motion carried.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked about concrete coming for the other shed that they extended, John said yes, Kyle is handling it, it's dug out, putting gravel in, padding it down, and have concrete coming to be poured.

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Brandon – Metro Com - Fiber

- Commissioner, Bryan Berry started off by wanted to know what Metro Com wants to do with bringing Fiber into the County. Brandon showed a map of their line coming in, Stockland, IL to Fowler, IN and then 100 S & Adeway. All their Network is in Illinois, a little in Missouri, Southern Indiana, were expanding into Indiana. The line coming in is specifically for cell towers. The line runs from Fowler, North of Stockland back into Illinois, all the way to Clifton, runs to Champaign and then up to Chicago. It's going to come into Fowler and have about 80 miles worth to get to the towers that were looking at now that are North of here. Since we do have some here were looking at connecting it back to our Network. In the Future, we do Fiber homes as well, and we will plan to do that in Indiana. They have about 5,000 miles in Illinois and are wanting to get here in Indiana so we can head North and hit the Verizon towers, so anything we pass along the way has potential for Fiber of the home. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if Fiber would be available to the homes soon; it would be 2024/2025. Brandon stated, that they still have a lot to do in Illinois and competition.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry then asked if they were to approve this in today's minutes to start the backbone process, how long would it be for them to start. Brandon's response, later this summer, but we have already built North of Stockland. All of our towers are currently clustered if looking at map. Verizon has their dates and doesn't care how long of a build it is, so were looking into doing a 3rd Party with Mainstream, to buy the Fiber now to serve those towers. We would build to here this summer and then going North we might do some plowing this Fall but probably next year in the Spring. But our portion will be this year. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked to if it would be buried, and Brandon assured it would be and they plow 42 inches but can go 2 feet or 20 feet, depends on everything else. Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked if they would be cutting any roads and Brandon said no it would all be boring. Roads, Tracks, Creeks all get bored.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry mentioned that they are going down the Adeway and right now there is no Fiber and the Adeway to this side of Fowler there is no Fiber, so when you come in here, would he be willing to do that for us. Brandon asked to do Fiber to the home or businesses. Commissioner, Bryan Berry & Mike Freeland said home and businesses. Brandon stated Fowler was on the list to do, Commissioner, Bryan Berry added they've had some competition. Brandon continued that Mainstream has started in most of the towns around here, all agreed, is kinda similar to what we do. Fowler will be the first town in Indiana we build, we were hoping it would be this year but doesn't look that way now. We've had a lot of competition, there was another purchase made for another company, so the Company is getting aggressive in Illinois and Frontier is getting aggressive in Illinois as well. We've been trying to get as much of Illinois as we could before other people/companies get there, that is why this got put on hold.
- Fiber is a plan for the home but not super soon, but as far as businesses along the way, yes. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if they could get Fiber to the Courthouse, Brandon said yes. Any business that want to sign up can, this line is for Commercial, if a farmer wants it along the way, it's expensive so they don't end up getting it because we use the line for Commercial use. This is more for City Buildings, Banks, Schools.
- Heath is another contact person for Operations
- Brandon asked if we had Fiber here and Commissioner, Bryan Berry explained not on this side of town, we run off of an AT&T wireless and would like to have our own dedicated Fiber. Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked who their provider is, Brandon said they are their own and own everything they install. Commissioner, Bryan Berry continued to ask about where they are based out of. They have a big hub in Rantoul, IL, Sullivan, Buckley to McComb area to Chicago. Working on a bill now that goes from St. Louis to up the Western part of the State connecting to Buckley to Sullivan on up to Chicago.

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- Brandon mentioned there are towers that they would get an Lit Service as they call it, they get two Fibers off of someone's line because they don't have Fiber here, they need to Lease it until they get the build completed. This line they are building will connect to Buckley directly to their shelter which connects back to our main network, Metro is/will be the main provider.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland again asked if the Businesses on 100 S & Adeway will they be able to connect them, Brandon said yes. He added that any Business off the route can also, but there is a cost, one-time fee, example: if we built in the Center of Fowler and there's a Business on the Southeast side, they could contact the Sales to get the total cost of getting it. The line they are bringing in, there would be no costs but monthly charges as long as they are along the direct route. This is all privately funded, no costs to tax payers, state, and county, it's on us to buy, build, and maintain.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked about the Residential side again and Brandon responded if there is a lot of interest. Bryan added that they would like pricing because Mainstream did not cover everyone.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked about hitting tiles. Brandon added when plowing they hit tiles/sewage lines they make sure to fix them. If farmers know where they're tiles are or close to where they may be, let them know, they will not go to them, but they will go around the tile 50/100 feet on either side and will probe just to make sure. If they find the tile is broke because of them they will fix it, doesn't matter how long. The plowing they do themselves but boring they do themselves & Sub-out.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked how long it would take to go from Stockland to Fowler (12-15 miles), Brandon said about 2.5 to 3 weeks to plow, Boring would be another 3-4 weeks. Once the plow comes through and boring is done then the cables come through a couple of weeks after that, so looking before the end of the year if they start this Summer. If businesses want to connect while they are boring and they know ahead of time the businesses want Service, they will connect as they go.
- Brandon mentioned they do not want/need funding for doing this build, just need permission to come within our County from Illinois. Commissioner, Mike Freeland motioned to move forward after talk Commissioner, Bryan Berry discusses costs and bringing Residential services to the county as well as Businesses with Sales guy, Heath. Commissioner, John Fields second, motion carried.

Don Carless – EPIC

- Started off by showing an overview of all the funds from October 2022. They are keeping an eye out for large claims and currently we are doing well with nothing major going on. With this, they are going to send this report to 10 other carriers to keep the competition with our current carrier for next year.
- We are currently running very well. They send this report out monthly so HR/Auditor and Commissioners can see what is going on to date.
- Starting in late June/July they will really start marketing to other carriers to get our renewal started.
- Don asked if there were any questions/concerns and Commissioner, Bryan Berry questioned the RX claims column that showed some elevation. He believes it is because of the Specialty Drugs that are not covered in some surgeries or the higher cost brand. He plans to get with their Pharmacy Team and look at different options from Citizens RX to see what would be best if our numbers do continue to rise, get a head start on the renewal also.

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- Recapping on an AMPS claim on a previous employee, AMPS received a balance bill in February 2022, AMPS did tell employee they did have to \$350 Co-payment. On March 24, 2022 employee received a second balanced bill notice, which reflected the \$350 payment. They sent the employee a balanced bill kit in which employee did not send back until June 2022, the next day the Advocacy Team started monitoring the Employee's account. January 9, 2023 the employee received a collections notice, Legal got involved on March 15, 2023.
- The original bill was \$21,346, AMPS allowed \$600. After review, there were things on the bill that were not necessary according to AMPS. So AMPS and Legal have negotiated the price from \$21,346 down to \$14,341.81. Employee paid their portion so now the County has to pay the claim or they go after the ex-employee. AMPS is asking the County for a yes or no to pay the \$14,341.81. Don added he asked Employee Plans if they would cut a check to the provider or if the Commissioners would want to cut a check.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if they could make an offer, Don stated that is the offer, Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked if they could say we are paying this, Don added he could get the contact information.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked what they wanted to do, Mike Freeland said he doesn't want them to go after ex-employee and it's a lot of money to pay. John Fields wants to know who they are working with and do a counter offer and if they don't accept then go from there. Don encouraged Commissioner, Bryan Berry to call and make them an offer, Commissioner, John Fields agreed. Don will be getting in touch with Commissioner, Bryan Berry with the contact information.

Edwin Buswell – Road Safety Plan

- INDOT gives money to do Traffic County each year but won't give money for a Consultant to do Safety Plans for Counties. They took some training but didn't think they had the expertise to do it. There's an 80/20 Grant that became available last year that will help pay for a Consultant to do the Safety Plans.
- The Safety Plans would look at the crash data. They would talk to Sheriff, EMA to find out where the issues within the County. Commissioner, Bryan Berry made a comment of 18/41, another was 352. Edwin made mention they won't look at State or Federal Highways but will of a County Road that Intersects with a State/Federal Highway. Then come up with potential solutions to help reduce these problems, which could range from major reconstruction to simple lines being painted on the road where/if a lot of run/slide offs were or different pavements to education for distracted drivers.
- We're asking Counties for the Grant Match of:

○ Population under 10,000	\$14,250
○ Population between 10,000 and 15,000	\$18,250
○ Population over 20,000	\$23,750
○ Total Match	\$160,000
- We've talked to a couple of Consultants and the numbers above are the high end estimates. The other estimate we received is about half of these amounts. Once the Grant is awarded then we will have to do a procurement and the County can have someone on the Sworn Committee if wanted.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry questioned every intersection or just talked to Sheriff's Department...Edwin stated that they take the crash data from the State system and talk to local officials to discuss the issue intersections as well. Other Counties that approved this so far: Newton, White. Carroll took it under advisement. Starke & White were going to do it themselves until Grant became available. Pulaski & Warren is interested.

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- Commissioner, Bryan Berry wondered if this would affect Community Crossing Grants, Edwin responded probably in the Future. INDOT has been wanting them to do this for a while. This Grant once you have a plan will allow you to apply for Implement Grants. There are also State Grants that this information will help on.
- Commissioner, Mike Freeland asked if this was a one-time fee or annual fee. Edwin stated it is a one-time. Grant goes in July 10th, make announcements 4th Quarter of 2023 but may take up to 12 months to get the Grant Agreement. May be Fiscal year 2025 before we start this plan in terms of budget.
- Commissioner, Bryan Berry asked what they wanted to do, Commissioner, Mike Freeland said he is all for reducing some fatal accidents/injuries, Commissioner, John Fields asked what kinds of things they would do say for bad accidents, intersection that comes to mind is 300 S & Adeway. Lots of accidents happen there, so a simple fix would be to make it a 4 way stop. Edwin said some options are signs, rumble strips, speed bumps things like that, the Consultant will find the better result. Then it was asked if all Counties would be together or separate, Edwin stated it would be all Counties with the one Grant and they would do all the paperwork not the Counties. Also, asked if it was mandated to fix things the way the Consultants wanted, Edwin stated the Counties didn't have to fix things at this time but would help if the County applied for other Grants. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motion to see what the Consultants are going to charge us before we say yes. Edwin said it would be next year before we'd get proposals after the Grant was awarded. Commissioner, Mike Freeland added that since it will help with Community Crossing Grants and others we should do this. Commissioner, Bryan Berry second the motion, motion carried.

Kathy Sarault – Health Department

- Introducing new employee of the Health Department, Kayla Finkhousen, working Monday & Fridays.

Business:

The May 3rd, 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.

The May 3rd, 2023, Executive Session Minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland was made, second by Commissioner, John Fields and motion carried.

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

Pay at once claims from May 3rd, 2023 were corrected, reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, John Fields, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, motion carried.

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

The County Home room and board reports February & April were reviewed and approved with a notation that the reports need to be turned in in a timely manner, a motion by Commissioner, Bryan Berry to approve both reports, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Gail Lange – Benton Review

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Wanted to record a Quote from the Commissioners for the Benton Review about EMS Week & also the Fairgrounds and its building project.

Deputy Auditor, Niccole McGinnis asked the board if they made a decision about purchasing a lawn mower for the Custodians Office. Commissioner's said to continue to work things out, not at this time are they going to purchase a mower, and may be that they work it into the Custodians budget but will also need to find a place to store it.

Economic Developer, Angie Taylor asked about signing the Agreement for the Rural Cloud Initiative, Commissioner, Bryan Berry was unable to attend due to farming. Angie continued to say that they are looking for a Pilot, farmers, Dairy, large grain. About this Precision Ag, they are seeing a food crisis in the future. Commissioner, Mike Freeland made a motion to move forward with the Farm Grid/Visual Ag Food Plan, Commissioner, Bryan Berry second, motion carried.

Angie also asked that when they get ahold of Heath from T-Mobile/Metrocom to give her contact information to Brandon. She would like to talk with him more about getting things to Residential.

She would also like to confirm the media posts about Animal Control in our County and not having Shelters within our County because no one wanted them, Commissioner, Bryan Berry stated that no one that he recalls have come to them about having one. Boarding animals we have Heartland and Oxford but not Shelters.

Questions about the Presbyterian Church, Angie is confirming information. This was put into place because of matching grants, Commissioner, Bryan Berry agreed. Commissioner, John Fields added that the money was allotted for that the Program, it had to be used for Education/Daycare/Preschool. Someone that is licensed could have the same opportunity that was given for this Organization.

Commissioners also asked that when Angie talks with Brandon from T-Mobile, to ask him about how they do repairs when someone goes down, like how quick their response is.

Commissioner, Mike Freeland has two bids for Lawn care, Fowler Pest Control. First one for 2 applications of weeds control \$588.50. Second for 7 applications \$1,490.51. He just wants to control the weeds for this year and then maybe next year add the package of 7 applications. It'll be paid from the Commissioners Fund/Location, Contractual Services.

Commissioner, Bryan Berry brought up about Summer Help, hiring for Highway help. Commissioner, John Fields asked about raising the pay from \$12 to \$13, Commissioners agreed as long as it was in the Highway's budget.

Commissioner, Bryan Berry mentioned that he had an update from Frasier, Project is going as planned, all equipment deliveries will be completed by Wednesday of this week, 2 main cranes on site. To date have removed 2 sets of clippers components, installed 2 sets of Vesta components and a third to start this week. Have over 100 people on site, Project Leadership Team working out of the offices and laydown yard, will have first road closure today, last Saturday we were able to revise delivery segments to delivery to the 4 locations that use the intersection by the school to avoid disrupting school traffic. We continue to get great support from Benton County Transportation & Sheriff Department.

Economic Developer, Angie Taylor asked if BP had gotten ahold of anyone regarding the Bio Sequestration. Commissioner, Bryan Berry stated that he has not but would email Nagel & Niemeyer today and see they were continuing to do the Summer Study.

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Angie also asked about TJ receiving the letter, if Commissioner's had heard from him, no. Commissioner, John Fields added if they'd received a payment, no. Angie stated that they showed up knowing she was going to be in meetings, but let them know to take the money to the Auditors or Records office and they didn't. They were in the building but didn't go to the offices. Angie continued to say after 4:00pm she drove to them and picked up a check that was only for \$5,000 instead of \$16,666. Attorney Jacob Ahler recommended that we not cash the check until we get full payment, so we are holding the check and he was sent the letter.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, John Fields, motion carried.

Bryan Berry

John Fields

Mike Freeland

Attest: Niccole McGinnis, Benton County Deputy Auditor