

Benton County Commissioner Meeting August 2nd, 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, Jason Fisher, Angie Taylor, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Gail Lange, John Johnson, Bill Brost, Latisha Provo, Dan Watson, Lisa Jefvert, Morgan Stacy, Niccole McGinnis, Judy Brenda, Kelsie Muller, Wes Richardson and Jennifer Bennett

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Chip & Seal – on going
- CCMG – hoping that money will be deposited by August 4th
- Farm to Fork – Steve Wallpe reached out and asked if the highway could help remove items from the arena since that is where they will be holding the dinner. The event will take place on August 31st. Mike said that he plans on cleaning out back first and possibly taking it to Gick's and then moving everything outside and then putting it back in after. The board asked Mike if they would have time to do it. Mike stated that when they get their CCMG money that they would be busy for a week straight.
- Commissioner Berry asked if he talked to the counselors about the WD-40. Mike said yes and they reviewed some other lubricating tips.
- Meadow Lake – they need to come in and do some turbine work on #604. The county needs a map and Mike needs to specify that they are only allowed at that one turbine. Both the Crane Company and Meadow Lake need to know this. Meadow Lake has already pulled a bond for the project. Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to approve the work plan as long as a map is provided prior to any work beginning, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.
- Blade check – there was a blade check done for another turbine and there was also a bond pulled for that.
- Drags – did the winning bidders pick those up yet asked Berry. Yes and the money has been turned in
- Bridge 400 – Commissioner Berry asked about the replacement went smooth and Mike is happy with the work. Commissioner Cox asked if Kyburtz has been there yet or if that was going to be on Wednesday. It will be Wednesday. Nick has already started to work on the other one.

Business:

Commissioner Berry asked Jon if he had anything. Jon said that he did not want to cause any issues with his area on 200 and said that Mike Hardebeck keeps its drug so it is fine to be left alone.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

The July 19th, 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 Berry asked Bill if he had anything, yes he does. Bill asked the board to chip and seal his road because he has maintained it for over 30 years and it has never been in this bad of shape. He said that IMI hauls all the time every day and they are breaking the edges whether they are empty or full. He then asked about 900 and if that is true he would appreciate it if it was not tore up because it needs a base. Commissioner Freeland said they all do. Bill then said that IMI hauls empty and full all year around and farmers can't haul grain. He said that Budreau told him to let them know but it is every day and he cannot be monitoring it. Commissioner Freeland asked where they were hauling too, both Remington and Attica.

Bill then asked if there was a drainage meeting today, no there is not. Bill went on to say that the pipe on 500 N 150 W there is a pipe in the road that is plugged. Commissioner Berry asked Bill to stop out at the highway garage and let Mike know. Commissioner Cox asked how big it was, it is there are two 18" pipes and it is his surface drain from his field. He added that it has been mentioned numerous times but nothing has been done. That is not true.

Business Continued

The August monthly claims were presented and the board had a few items they wished to review. They were the items that follow;

1. Purdue extension – Commissioner Berry said it appear that there was a duplicate claim being paid for mileage for Jon and Kelsie
2. Dwenger Excavating – wants to verify this is not the final payment
3. Silverback-Commissioner Berry asked that the claim be brought down for review.
4. Quadrient leasing – who is this. Auditor Freeland stated it is for the mail machine

Deputy Auditor, Niccole McGinnis was asked to pull the requested documents and join the meeting.

Commissioner Berry asked about the 8113 fund for the TA Grant and if it was completely done. Auditor Freeland stated that yes the grant period has ended and the balance has been paid back to the Soil and Water department.

The pay at once claims were approved as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

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.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

Latisha Provo – Otterbein Library

Latisha came before the board with a updated quote for the parking lot at the Otterbein Library which showed that they would provide a credit if the county provided the gravel. The suggestion was that they would need 280 tons of stone. They would just need the stone dumped on site prior to August 27 to September 2nd. Commissioner Freeland said that they would give the information to Mike Budreau and verify that timeline will work with his schedule. Commissioner Berry asked if the spoils would be the counties or the companies if we haul it away. Latisha will reach out and then send the board an email with the answer.

Lisa Jefvert – York Public Library

Lisa wanted to come today to discuss the suspension of funding to the library due to noncompliance and wanted to explain the situation. She is hoping that if she came and gave some more detail that the board would reverse their decision. She became the director in 2019 and states that the library has been in a non-compliant status prior to then. She has and continues to work to correct the items the state has declared as noncompliance issues. The number of hours they are open (20 hours are required) is the biggest hurdle but the with surveys they have had done the number of hours are good. Lisa stated that she feels the library is an asset, the board agrees. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to reverse the suspension of funding to the York library, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Business Continued

Deputy Auditor McGinnis joined the meeting and presented the claims in question to the board.

1. Purdue extension –was a duplicate claim being paid for mileage for Jon and Kelsie. It was determined that they were two separate claims one being from the denied claim from last month
2. Dwenger Excavating –this is not the final payment
3. Silverback-the claim was reviewed and ok as paid

The monthly claims were presented and after review the were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Dan Watson & Morgan Stacy – Beam, Longest & Neff & County ADA Compliance Coord

Commissioner Berry introduced Dan and Morgan, who has recently taken on the County's ADA Compliance Coordinator role. Dan thanked the board for the opportunity to letting him come today and speak with them. He gave a brief background on himself and the company.

Dan stated that they are very familiar with the bridges in Benton County and would like to be considered when they do the next cycle of bridge inspections. Dan spoke about his extensive knowledge on the highway department and local government.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

Ron Shoup – Town of Otterbein

Ron spoke about the upcoming Town of Otterbein Street Festival and the Town's need of assistance with crowd control. The Town has also reached out to the State Police and the Tippecanoe County police departments. They are looking for about three individuals and appreciate everything the county has been in support of.

Ron invited everyone to attend the opening ceremony on Thursday at 5 pm. They will be restricted road access on County Line Road. Warren County is bringing signs and barricades for road closure notice.

Board updates from Attorney Ahler –

1. Security agreement for refrigeration units is done and is working with Jud
2. Settlement agreement for Keener has been finalized.
3. Windfarm setbacks – The APC has an ordinance regarding the windfarm setbacks that the board needs to review. Commissioner Berry said that the board wants to allow the landowners to be compensated even if it is determined to be set in the county's right of way if the land.
4. Town of Oxford - Commonwealth would like a MOU which he has drafted with terms as he understood them regarding the short term loan up to the agreed upon amount, and repayment terms. Commissioner Berry asked if there was a deadline stated, yes there is. Also the board would like the State Grant to be direct deposited into Benton County for repayment. They just need to list the fund which was provided by Auditor Freeland (4907). The repayment deadline will be 30 days. Commissioner, Mike Freeland then motioned to approve per the terms discussed and changes made, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.
5. Keener agreement was revisited and Commissioner, Bryan Berry motioned to accept and pay as stated in the agreement, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried. Auditor Freeland was directed to make the payment per the agreement

Kelsie Muller and Wes Richardson – Extension office

Kelsie asked about the computer lease claim that was denied. Commissioner Berry wanted to know why we are leasing it, they have always. Commissioner Berry asked again why they are leased instead of being owned. Kelsie stated that Purdue has done this and their PC's are replaced every four years. Kelsie's PC is paid for by Benton County and Jon's is paid for by Warren County. A new claim will be presented to the Auditor's office for payment.

Kelsie then asked about getting the hours for her staff that were deducted. She is requesting 9 hours back for Jennifer and 5 hours for Kassidy. Kelsie feels that these cannot/should not be taken away since it has already been worked. Commissioner Berry said that per county policy and federal law it meal breaks have to be taken/provided to staff. Attorney Ahler said that his advisement is that he is unsure did people work outside of what was approved. Auditor Freeland stated that she came before the board for comp time during the fair for anything worked

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

over the normal 6.5 hours. She is here today because they did not take their meal break or figured that in. Commissioner Freeland said that even if the hour break was added in the original hours submitted then how are they now getting more. The board is willing to allow those hours as comp time for this year but next year Kelsie is to schedule breaks. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to give back the hours to staff as listed above as comp time that has to be used within 90 days, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Wes spoke about a recent issue they encountered where they could not use the project building and were told one day before the fair. Wes then asked about some discussions he has heard, and expressed that if the board does plan on replacing the building over at the fairgrounds he would like to be involved. Commissioner Cox asked how much smaller the women's building is than the one they typically use. Wes is not sure of the actual size but it is much smaller, and the new building would need to have restrooms. Commissioner Cox asked what if you took the current building and added 40 feet to the East.

Wes spoke about a fundraiser person he knows that he could put them in touch with. Commissioner Cox and Wes discussed some items that could present issues and when the 4H building will be tore down, hopefully by November. The extension office will need to get their items out of there, and they are not to be stored at the annex. Commissioner Cox asked about the bottle caps. Wes said they will be gone soon, Kelsie said it would be within a couple of months. They will be used to make benches, and it takes 250 lbs. of caps per bench. The extension office is not opposed to having their office moved to the fairgrounds.

Wes asked if the board if they wanted a committee of people to help plan the building he will find the people, no they do not. However, the board did say that if he would like to give them a design for an extension from what is already there they will take a look at it and go from there.

Jason Fisher – DHS & EMA Director

- Handicap access – quote for \$8,986.45 for the Southwest door. Jason can pay for part of this and has found some items online that qualify to be paid for out of the EOC grant. Commissioner Berry asked which doors, it will be the glass door which is currently wide enough for ADA compliant. Jonathan is able to do the work for \$1,500.00 not including labor. By adding these doors and features will allow Josh to carry a fob.
- Communication – Commissioner Berry asked if Jason knows if the recording system is working like they wanted. Jason thinks they got a solution, they did but Berry would like to do a test run before they move dispatch and go live. Jason agrees with that.
- AT&T Network – a lot of the routers have been pushed back so they have not received them yet. The tech has explained to Jason that a lot of them have been delayed in shipping.
- Knox boxes – Jason is just waiting for them to arrive to get them installed. Auditor Freeland stated that Chief Burton stopped in to ask who he needed to get a letter from him for and she stated it would be Jason

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

- Ben's bags – Jason has received a grant/donation from Pattern to put these bags together. Jason will then hold a training for his staff

Business continued;

Auditor Freeland asked about the Data Pit stop quotes that were previously tabled. Commissioner Berry stated that he spoke with Shawn Low and that is something they will be able to provide so the board will not approve the quotes.

The board signed a letter regarding the software conversion and asked it to be sent to all parties.

Commissioner Berry stated that the investments with Farmers and Merchants Bank has been done.

Commissioner Berry spoke about the recent information regarding the certified assessed values and the loss of possible revenues due to Fowler Ridge/BP. He said that the salvage value should be 17 million and they are only claiming their assessed value is 8 million. He spoke with BP and they are wanting to get on the repower project and Bryan told them no. He said that the county will not allow that until it corrected and that the county does not do business that way.

Commissioner Freeland stated that the garage disposal at the annex is out of order again so once they are able to fill the assistant custodian position he will ask them to replace that.

Commissioner Freeland stated that the County Home recently had a power outage and the generator did not kick on. He called Terry Deno who went out and looked at it then determined that the battery was dead and will need replaced. Commissioner Freeland said that Mike Budreau and Joe Vessels got the battery replaced and it fired up.

The Commissioners meeting was temporarily adjourned at 9:49 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Immediately following the Executive Session the Commissioners reopened their regular meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to hire Brian Brown as the Part Time Assistant Custodian, the motion was second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The board asked Auditor Freeland to send all applicants a letter thanking them for applying and that stating that they have found another application to fill the position.

Commissioner Freeland said that he reached out to Ron Tyler and asked him to fix the window at the old jail.

Commissioner Berry discussed the single pipe that Bill Brost mentioned earlier. He said that Bill had stated it is a single pipe not a double pipe like he said. Bill said he was going to remove

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
August 2nd, 2022

it and Bryan told him no. Bryan stated that also it has not been discussed many times as he claimed. They will review and ask Matt Hull to blow it out.

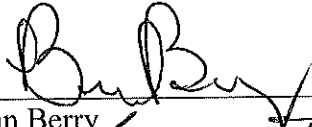
The board asked Auditor Freeland to set up a 90 review for Darren Regnier following their August 16th meeting.

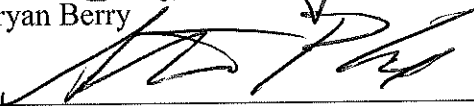
Commissioner Cox then discussed the bank accounts and who was listed on the accounts. Commissioner Berry stated that it has always been the Auditor and the Treasurer and no one was removed. They have never listed names just the offices, and per statute the office holder can dictate who from their office can have access.

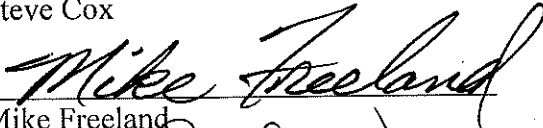
Commissioner Cox asked if there was anything found regarding the hiring/rehiring of individuals after they have left employment numerous times. Attorney Ahler said that if there are other counties that have policies in place stating that if you leave and are not in good standing you do not have to be considered for rehire. Auditor Freeland added that department heads could help in this situation by making sure that they are completing their 90 day and annual reviews on employees. Also when an individual separates from employment the department heads should state if they would rehire or not on their termination notification. Auditor Freeland will direct HR/PR Deputy to add that to the form. Commissioner Cox states that he would like to have a county ordinance put into place that whether another person leaves on good times or not that after two jobs with the county whether they be with the same department or not that the individual is not to be rehired. The board will review if it needs to be a proclamation or policy and get that put into affect.

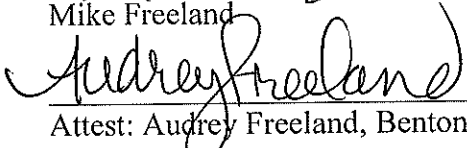
Auditor Freeland shared the offer of employment sheet to be signed if the board chooses to for the part time assistant custodian. The board decided that the part time assistant custodian pay rate will be set at \$14.00 per hour and they approve for Brian to start at his earlier convenience if he accepts the offer.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m. with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and second by Commissioner, Steve Cox at


Bryan Berry


Steve Cox


Mike Freeland


Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor