

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 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: Gail Lange, Angie Taylor, Lucas Darling, Paul Jackson, Mike Budreau, Jason Fisher, Natalie Kidd, Kathy Sarault, Matt Hull, Larry Schellenberger, Ron Shoup, Andrea Bowman, Kyle Brost and Jennifer Greenberg

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Raub – the house is almost completely demolished. Hiltz removed the septic and highway removed the pipe, and got it capped by Matt Hull.
- Bridges – Mike asked the board if they had reached a decision. Commissioner Berry said that he spoke with Nick. He said that the last two bridges done the labor was more expensive than the bridge itself. Nick has not done a composite bridge so he was not sure what it would be. Commissioner Cox added that no one wants to buy the bridge that was tore out either. Commissioner Freeland said that some counties keep them and use them for walkways and other projects. The bridge we have on hand was a historical bridge so it must be kept for 5 years before it can be sold.

Mike then presented quotes for labor and bridges for Bridges for #28 and #36. Commissioner Freeland clarified that the costs include them to remove and haul off.

The bridges were presented and awarded as follows:

Bridge #28

E3 Bridge - \$173,000.00

EH Bridge - \$202,361.00

Leuck Dirt works - \$49,500 (labor)

Bridge #36

E3 Bridge - \$134,855

EH Bridge - \$156,000.00

Leuck Dirt works - \$49,500 (labor)

Commissioner, Bryan Berry said that even though E3 are quoted less with labor it will be more overall. He continued by stating that if they accepted the E3 bridge it would be completely new for Nick and they cannot depend on Brad Conner to get them done, he does not know who else to trust to get the work done. Commissioner Freeland said that bridge #28 was much higher, that is due to the new one being much longer than the current one. Commissioner, Bryan Berry then motions to accept the EH Bridge quotes for both bridges (#28 & #36) and Leuck Dirt works for labor, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

- Mike presented the annual highway report for approval and signatures. It was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.
- Drags – should be in by the end of the month. The highway will pick up
- Mack – no update at this time

Jason Fisher – DHS / EMA Supervisor

- New hire – Austin has begun working on getting into the paramedic schooling so he will need the updated tuition reimbursement agreement. Austin will know within 60 days if he is accepted. The known costs is \$7500. Attorney Ahler will send that to Jason. Commissioner Berry asked if he has been an EMT long, yes approximately 6 years
- Staffing – they have hired Josh Satchell as a full time EMT so they are only down the one paramedic position. Jason has someone from Sheldon who might be interested.
- Hire on bonus - Jason asked if there was going to be anything established for this or what needs to be done. Auditor Freeland stated that it has been approved within the capital improvement plan. Jason said that some places are splitting those incentives out to ensure they stay for a while. Commissioner Cox added that they should sign an agreement.
- Medic sign on bonus – Jason said that he has had a full time position for over 3 months and has advertised it with a sign on bonus. Commissioner Berry asked if there had been any responses, no but there are over 100 openings within the state. Jason asked what the limit is set at. Commissioner Berry said that within the capital improvement plan it is \$2500. Jason replied that most places are doing \$5-10,000 for paramedics. Jason went on to say that he is almost to the threshold where the overtime would be less than another full time position but he would still prefer to fill that spot so employees do not get overworked. Commissioner Berry agreed and asked there was any complaints, not at this time. Jason said with the new staffing there has been very limited overtime. Jason asked if the board was willing to amend it to \$5,000 at least. The board did not approve any changes at this time to the hire on bonus limits but are willing to adjust in a meeting if they so choose, and will amend the plans.
- Lightning protection – Jason said that the board might want to hire an electric engineering company to handle this. Commissioner Berry wants this to be pushed for insurance purposes. Jason will reach out to Dave Buck to see if he has any recommendations on who may be able to assist with this.
- Remodel – moving along and the biggest delay has been with NIPSCO
- IN Digital – Commissioner Berry asked if they just don't want to do the move or are the IT guys just waiting on something. AT&T did their section so he believes that In Digital is just waiting on that to be done
- Advance EMT's – There will be 3 individuals who will be "Advanced" within the next couple of months which will help with the ALS stuff. He is asking if there is still the extra pay in place. Commissioner Berry asked what everyone else is doing. Jason said that it is about \$1,200-\$2,500 per person.
- Pay at Once – Jason asked the board for approval to pay a few claims through the pay at once process to avoid delays. The invoices were for IN Digital and the radios. Auditor

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Freeland stated that she did resend Kylee the claim and payroll schedule since the original issue was because it was submitted late for timely payment. They could not determine who originally received the invoice. The request to pay the invoices as a pay at once was approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

- Annex – the projector at the annex has not been working properly and they feel it will need to be replaced. Epsom will replace it but stated that he can only do this with a credit card transaction. Commissioner Freeland asked what happened, it just quit working and is completely dead.
- Jason wanted the board to know that he personally wanted to give Mike Budreau a kudos for coming in and opening the highway afterhours for the fatality accident. Jason and all involved greatly appreciated that.

Larry Schellenberger – Richland Township Fire

Larry (Volunteer Firefighter for 34 years) wanted to come before the board today to discuss the possibility of the county providing them so funding to purchase some much needed equipment. Over the years they have gotten their equipment, trucks, tankers, training and etc. through grants and fundraising. Most recently they purchased 16 sets of turnout gear (they have 21 firefighters).

They are working with the Foundation for some funding and sent out letters which helped raise 16,000.00 that allowed them to qualify for the Foundations matching grant.

He is today to request assistant purchasing 12 new SCBA (Self-contained breathing apparatus), the total project is \$109,540.00. They have reached out to other departments to work and possibly order together because if they order 20 sets they can get more of a break in price. Commissioner Berry asked how many are currently outdated, all 12 of them. Larry described how the tanks and recertified and lifespan. Larry said that if they take the difference of where they are currently they will be short \$77,000.00 and then as of April there will be a 10% price increase. Commissioner Berry asked if that was just Earl Park's, yes it is but there are three departments who received the same quote. Commissioner Freeland asked which three departments; Ambia, Boswell and Earl Park. Commissioner Freeland asked if they would need assistance also, Larry could not speak on that. Larry also spoke about the mutual aid agreement those departments have and how that works for all of them. Commissioner Freeland asked if the old tanks have any value, he is not really sure.

The quote presented today is for 20 sets to assist the 3 different departments. After further discussion the board asked Larry if they could wait until they speak with the other departments and see what they are requesting also. Larry asked what the procedure would be moving forward. Commissioner Berry stated that once they receive the invoice to bring it to the Auditor's office to be paid out of the capital improvements. Berry then asked Larry if he was ok with purchasing a lower quantity depending on what the other departments are requesting. Larry just wants to get the 20 sets so they receive the discounted information.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Andrea Bowman – Benton Community Foundation

Andrea provided the board with some information on the Promise and how it is working since they began in 2014-15. The Promise (529) has 692+ kids who have something established for them for further education.

Commissioner Berry asked Andrea how much she was looking to request. Andrea said that they have always been so generous with their support. Commissioner Berry said that they have been giving \$10,000 in the past years. Commissioner, Mike Freeland then motioned to approve the \$10,000 to the Foundation, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Kyle Brost – Boswell/Grant Township Fire department

Kyle is here today requesting a funding request for help in replacing their air pack systems. They have hosted some fundraisers and have raised around \$10,000 and also are a recipient of the Foundations matching grant this year also.

Kyle presented quotes to the board and they were as follows:

5 Alarm –
Proair – \$39,000
MES - \$91,197.12

Kyle is not sure where Ambia plans on purchasing theirs from. Commissioner Berry asked what the difference is. The MES has 20 masks so they will not have to share and the Proair is for 12 masks. Commissioner Berry stated that these quotes are just for the masks and does not cover the costs for the tanks that is correct. Commissioner Berry asked if they had a preference, not really but the MES is the most common ones used. Commissioner Berry asked how long the quote is good for, 30 days.

The board asked Kyle to get a hold of Ambia and Earl Park and see about them working together to purchase items together and get a consolidated quote. The board said that they might not be able to cover all the expenses but are all very willing to assist them.

Natalie Kidd & Jennifer Greenberg – Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Natalie asked the board if they had made any decisions. Commissioner Berry said that after speaking with the others on the election board and a few others they are going to leave the absentee voting on the second floor for now. He continued and said that if there are too many issues they will revisit it then. Natalie said that they would work to get everything to fit up there.

Natalie said something that came to her attention was regarding the construction and whether or not the parking lot would be closed or affect entry to the building. The board said that they will work around that and there are other areas they can work during that time. Natalie then asked if any other doors would be unlocked, no they will not they will all need to enter through the handicapped entrance.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Business:

The March 1st, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

The Executive session minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Commissioner Berry asked about the Sheriff retirement and if that was always a pay at once. Auditor Freeland said that yes it has been and it is an interest bearing. Pay at once claims were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, and motion carried.

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

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

Auditor Freeland asked that the capital improvement plan be amended. The amount allotted for the courthouse has already be exhausted. Commissioner Berry asked her to send it out to them and he would review it.

Auditor Freeland then had the County Attorney sign the ordinance approved at the last meeting for Commissioners to be able to carry on grounds.

Auditor Freeland asked about a bill to Dispatch Products Company sent an invoice in the amount of \$29,195.00 the amount designated in the ARPA plan does not have sufficient funds to cover those costs. She asked the board for their advisement on how to move forward. Commissioner Berry said that with the amendments being approved the board can sign the changes.

Kathy Sarault & Matt Hull – Health Supervisor & Building Inspector

Commissioner Berry asked them to come up today to discuss when Next ERA had come before them to discuss increasing the permit fee by \$500; changing it from \$2250 to \$2750 to which all parties agreed too. The change did not get sent to the Advisory Plan so he was just wanting them to come in today so they were all on the same page. Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to keep the fee at \$2750 per megawatt with a minimum of \$35, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. Commissioner Berry asked Kathy to update that information on the website.

Business continued:

Auditor Freeland received a bill from dispatch. The invoice is from WTH for the address range layer creation and 911 dispatch layer in the amount of \$25,660.00. Kylee said this was to be paid through a grant and Auditor Freeland was not sure which grant that was. Jason Fisher and

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Commissioner Berry stated that was reimbursable grant we were awarded when C. Keener was still supervisor. Auditor Freeland stated that she did receive the contract agreement from Kylee but will have to get a fund set up. Auditor Freeland said that she would need to get a non reverting fund ordinance for that as well. Attorney Ahler will get that typed up as soon as he has the fund number.

Auditor Freeland presented the documents Attorney Ahler had sent over to allow the county to opt back in to the Opioid Settlement. The board signed all of the documents and they were given to Attorney Ahler to send over to the firm.

Auditor Freeland presented a GIS/Data request from Erin Digiovanni on behalf of Ryan LLC. The board reviewed the request in which they request the 2022 real estate assessment roll. They prefer to receive an electronic format so that they can upload data into the client's computer system to eliminate manual entry. The board had a brief discussion then a motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, second by Commissioner, Steve Cox and motion carried.

Auditor Freeland said that she reached out to KONE elevator about the sign preventive maintenance the board had previously approved but found out it had not been submitted. Eric who does the maintenance was on site for some troubleshooting and he will get in touch with Nate Neal to make sure it is scheduled soon.

Auditor Freeland presented a notice from LCC Telecom services who would like to install a wireless communication tower and have proposed a lease. Commissioner Freeland asked where they planned to do this, it did not give location but is asking the county if interested. Commissioner Berry took the information and said that he would reach out to them.

The historical society sent a letter to thank the board for their continued financial support through the sharing contract.

Auditor Freeland then discussed the Ambulance billing documents that are requiring a signature, and since the board is the signatory for the county she needs to be removed. Auditor Freeland will still receive the reports but needs section 6 and 15 filled out by who will be the contact from the county. Commissioner Berry reviewed and signed the documents.

Commissioner Cox asked Jason if he had anything else. Jason said that the Judge would like to outfit the back up security officer (Paul Griner) the same as Duane. Commissioner Berry said that he did speak with him about it and wasn't sure if he wanted a uniform or not. Commissioner Berry then asked if there was a waiver or something if he carried his own firearm. Attorney Ahler said also they would need to see if there are any current policies on talks about providing a firearm or not. Commissioner Berry is not sure that there is anything unless there is something for the sheriff's office. Jason will reach out to Paul and see exactly what he would like.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Commissioner Berry asked Gail what was going on at the school corporation. Gail stated that they started a student of the month and that was last night. She said that they did hire a new choir director.

Auditor Freeland asked about a request from Cintas regarding the blanket ST-105. She was hesitant because she did not want to list something if it was not needed and omit something. She stated the county has implemented some changes to the account now there is a new custodian.

Retirement Village has some invoices to be presented/paid through their ARPA plan which will also be another amendment. Commissioner Cox asked what all needs to be done. Auditor Freeland stated that she is working but has not finished citing all the plan items from the interim final rule (147 pages of law)

Auditor Freeland asked where the KUBOTA was to be paid from. Commissioner Berry said that the lease will be paid for from MVH funds.

Auditor Freeland presented a claim to Davis Comfort Solutions in the amount of \$139.74. Commissioner Freeland asked if that was another one for the jail, yes it is. Commissioner Berry said that he needs to come before the board before they will approve paying it.

Mulhaupt's invoice was presented and Auditor Freeland is waiting to hear where to pay it from. Commissioner Cox asked how much it is for, it is \$9,066.00. Jason stated that it is probably for the fire panel from the lightning strike. Auditor Freeland agreed but said that the claim was closed so she is not sure where to pay it from. Commissioner Berry will reach out to Jim Schoen and get back with her.

Auditor Freeland presented all of the county's charge accounts with Menards. The following departments have accounts

1. Highway
2. EMS
3. Sheriff
4. County Home

Since the accounts payable clerk has received a few checks back stating that there are duplicate payments Auditor Freeland reached out to Menards. Menards front end manager informed Auditor Freeland that changes to who has permission to charge on the accounts can be changed by someone who is listed as an authorized purchaser. The board reviewed who had access and will have Attorney Ahler draft a letter stating that only the board of Commissioners have the right to make changes to these accounts.

Auditor Freeland then asked about a claim to Menard's and if she was ok to move forward with payment. Commissioner Cox said yes, the materials purchased was for the dog kennel for Kilo.

Angie Taylor spoke to the board about KIRPC stuff, and said that she has some highlighted businesses. Commissioner Berry said that he briefly reviewed and had some additions and will have a few more.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
March 15th, 2022

Commissioner Cox asked Kyle if they had applied for any state grants to help with the getting the tanks, not yet he has not. Commissioner Cox asked Jason if there was any that he knew of, maybe the US Fireman grant

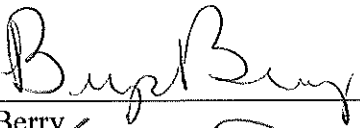
Attorney Ahler gave a quick update on the following;

1. C Keener – nothing received since he sent a letter
2. Opioid settlement which they covered earlier in the meeting

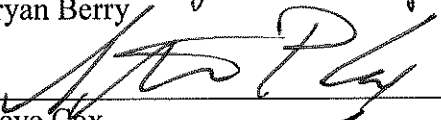
Commissioner Berry asked Angie if she had questions on which business to choose or are the highlighted ones she has already talked too. Angie said that the highlighted ones are the businesses that have the criteria they want them to focus on (employees 10-99). Paul added that they advise to choose 15 and from there they will approve 12-15. Commissioner Berry will help make those determinations and asked when it has to be submitted, it is towards the end of April. It has to be submitted by March 23, 2022.

Commissioner Berry presented a quote from premier for the ramp and after some discussion they will table until the roof is completed.

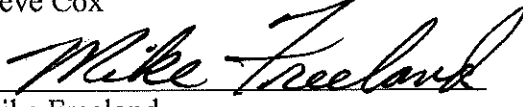
With no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:48 with a motion by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry, motion carried.



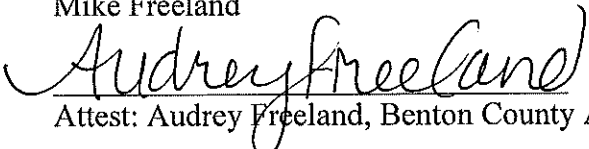
Bryan Berry



Steve Cox



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor