

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
February 1st, 2022

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. in the Commissioners room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Bryan Berry, Mike Freeland, Steve Cox, County Attorney, Jacob Ahler and County Auditor, Audrey Freeland

Others in attendance were: Mike Budreau, Walt Wilson, Gail Lange, Randy Miller, Paul Jackson, Ron Shoup, Lucas Darling, Angie Taylor, Aaron Cobb, Dave Fisher, Beth Budreau, Nancy Pitstick, Kyle Brost, Jim Turner, Walter Smith, Rod Green, Don Munson, Judge Wright, Jose Diaz – Rep for Senator Young, Don Zickmund and Brandon Jones

Mike Budreau – Highway Supervisor

- Pipe replacement quotes; for #197 located at 600 W 290 N and #110 located at 200 E and 720 S
 - #197 / Debco - \$10,120.00
 - #197 / E3 Bridge - \$7,056.72
 - #110 / Debco - \$11,375.00 or \$13,650.00
 - #110 / E3 Bridge - \$9,477.00 plus 330.00 (1 band)

A motion to accept both E3 Bridge quotes was made by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

- Trimming brush, cleaning out ditches
- Raub – Commissioner Berry the house in Raub now has a signed order by the Judge for demolition. He then asked if they would need to do locates, yes. Mike Budreau will reach out to NIPSCO to have them remove the trees or shut off power so the highway can do it. Commissioner Cox asked if there was a well on the property and if there is just cap it. Commissioner Berry asked Attorney Ahler if they could cap the well per the order to demolish, yes they can. The Benton County Highway will be removing all structures.

Business:

Auditor Freeland stated that Jason, Jonathon and herself updated the code red list with the forecasted upcoming weather.

Commissioner Berry spoke about approving an ordinance to allow the county to charge a fee/rate for any stranded motorists during travel advisories. There was an ordinance presented and discussed about charging \$300 per hour for any emergency rescue motorists. The ordinance was then approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried. The board will review any violations on a case by case basis.

The January 19th, 2022 regular scheduled meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland and motion carried.

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
February 1st, 2022

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

The monthly claims were approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

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

The Commissioner appointments for 2022 was reviewed and the board tabled signing until it add the addition of the County Appointed Plan Commission member, Brent Cox.

The 2022 sharing contract for the Fowler Senior Center was signed

The board signed the 2022 appointed employee contracts that had been returned to Auditor Freeland.

The Commissioners closed their regular scheduled meeting at 8:35 a.m. for a Drainage Board meeting. They reopened their regular scheduled meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Walt Smith – Earl Park Food Pantry

Walt wanted to come and personally thank the board of Commissioners for their continued support to their food pantry. He said that their generosity has been very much appreciated and assisted many have ample food. The board thanked him for their continued efforts to serve the community members.

Aaron Cobb – NORRA Contracting

Aaron came before the board to follow up with the handicap ramp remodel. He presented two quotes, they were reviewed and approved as follows:

PASCO - \$36,750.00

Premier - \$24,225.00 he verbally asked Aaron to request increase to \$26,000.00.

Aaron stated that he did put in about \$3,000.00 for extras that may have increased.

Commissioner Freeland again stressed that they want Aaron and all contractors to shop local as much as possible. Aaron stated that based on this Aaron is not self-performing anything to avoid conflict of interest. Aaron has already paid Dan Kiser who is the architect on the project.

Commissioner Cox asked if they are going to remove the existing ramp, yes they are.

Commissioner Freeland said that they understand that and asked how far out until this project starts. Aaron will get new estimates and share with the board. The group then discussed the actual remodel and reviewed blue print sketches. Aaron said hopefully work will begin in about 2 weeks. Commissioner Cox said that the additions will be ok and to move forward.

Commissioner Berry said that the security officer would like a small wall and roof installed so the public is not waiting outside in the elements of the weather. Aaron suggested maybe some

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
February 1st, 2022

aluminum so it looks more like a store front or airport vestibule structure. It will require an amendment to what is being presented today.

Don Munson - Sheriff

Don is asking to request the dryer at the jail, last year when he had discussed it they had to replace the water heater that went out instead. The dryer is now on its last leg and they cannot justify parts and repairs when it is almost as much as a new one. He presented quotes for a 50 lbs. gas dryer, they were reviewed and awarded as follows.

1. Gold Coin recommended Laundry One - \$5366.00
2. Fire penny - \$5,995.00
3. Unimac - \$6,65.69

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the estimate from Laundry One in the amount of \$5500.00 to be paid from the sheriff/jail budget, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motioned carried.

Don then requested approval to move forward with ordered a new Dodge truck since it was approved by Council during the budget process. The current wait time is about 10 months so he wants to make sure they get it ordered now. To keep the current quote they need to order by 02.18.2022 because they are discontinuing the 1500 model. Previously they were able to get them for \$33,500 but they are now \$38,580.00 and will increase again.

Commissioner Berry asked about any issues with the trucks versus the Durango's. Don replied that the only issue has been the exhaust manifolds bolts but with the Durango's they have lots of issues including water pumps. The Tahoe is just trouble altogether.

Commissioner Cox asked if he hired another deputy. Don said yes he has been down a deputy since Zach Waltz left the force, and he has since hired a new deputy, Brandon Jones. Brandon was a deputy in Fargo, North Dakota. Commissioner Berry asked if he was able to get qualified yet, not yet. He will need to qualify at the gun range and they are waiting to hear if he will be getting a waiver from the academy to exclude him from having to retake everything.

Commissioner Berry said that the board will need an updated inventory sheet.

Commissioner, Steve Cox motioned to approve the purchase of the Dodge Ram truck and to be paid from the cumulative capital approved budget, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motion carried.

Jose Diaz – rep. for Senator Young

Just wanted to come by today on behalf of Senator Young and to let the board know that they can contact him with any issues and/or concerns.

Ron Shoup – Town of Otterbein

Benton County Commissioner Meeting
February 1st, 2022

Ron asked if it is true that the county supplies 30 yard dumpster services for the Towns. The County does not provide this service. Commissioner Cox stated that waste management has a few placed so when they are not allowed on the roads their customers can still have their trash hauled away.

Jacob Ahler – County Attorney

Provided the board with some quick updates

1. Lawsuit filed by Speedway is gone
2. Lawsuit filed by Keener – still on going. Brief recap given and Jacob presented his recommendation to the board.
3. Office conduct ordinance was presented and the disciplinary actions required. The ordinance was then approved with a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Bryan Berry and motioned carried.

Don Zickmund – BCSD

Don brought new deputy, Brandon Jones to introduce him to the board.


Business continued:

Commissioner Berry said that the insurance RFP's are out and that once the information is received, Andy Brown will review and give his recommendation to the board.

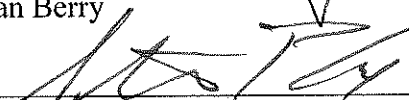
Commissioner Berry said that custodian, Michelle Ford asked about a snow contract since her husband is not able to take the position offered by the board. Berry said that he spoke to her about snow removal and her responsibility. At this time the board will not be hiring any outside vendors as this has always been handled by the custodian.

The board then discussed the possibility of changing their meeting start times so that the doors are not unlocked prior to the security officer reporting to work. After a short conversation it was tabled until a later date.

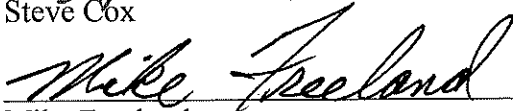
With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m. With a motion by Commissioner, Steve Cox, second by Commissioner, Mike Freeland, motion carried



Bryan Berry



Steve Cox



Mike Freeland



Attest: Audrey Freeland, Benton County Auditor