

# **Benton County Commission**

## **July 18, 2022**

### **Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 18, 2022 at the Board Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present: Scott Harms, Present: Steve Daleske, Present.

### **Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated 7/11/2022, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

### **David Malecki**

David Malecki is present at today's meeting.

### **Treasurer and County Clerk Report**

The Treasurer gave his weekly financial report; the County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

### **Jackson Avenue**

Henry Coslet met with Commissioners to discuss road conditions on Jackson Avenue.

### **Board of Equalization**

The Benton County Board of Equalization convened at 9:30 a.m. Those present for the Board were: Steve Daleske, Larry Berry, and Scott Harms, Commissioners; Jim Hansen, County Assessor; Liz Blankenship, Deputy Assessor; Susan Porterfield, County Clerk; Pam Grobe and Josh Sater, Appointed Members; and David Malecki, Commission assistant. A telephone conference call was conducted with T-Mobile representative Dimitri Matsyshen, to discuss valuations placed on personal property equipment that is owned by T-Mobile Central, LLC. Scott Harms made the motion to uphold the Assessor's 2022 valuations for this property. Larry Berry seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken: Steve Daleske (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Larry Berry (Yes), Josh Sater (Yes), and Pam Grobe (Yes), motion carried.

### **Adjourn Board of Equalization**

Scott Harms made the motion to adjourn the 2022 Benton County Board of Equalization. Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Steve Daleske (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Larry Berry (Yes), Pam Grobe (Yes), and Josh Sater (Yes).

### **Fuel Bid**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve the bid from Warsaw Oil Company for diesel fuel for Road District #2 at a cost of \$4.505 per gallon. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Scott Harms (Yes), Larry Berry (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$4.54 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

## **Courthouse Roof**

Commissioners discussed necessary repairs to the roof at the Courthouse; Septagon has been contacted for this work.

## **Excess Vacation**

Commissioners discussed that several County employees have accumulated more vacation hours than they have been able to use based upon COVID-19 restrictions and associated workload requirements. The Benton County Employee Handbook dated January 2021 (Page 26) advises that unused vacation will be forfeited if not used by the employee. To clear away excess vacation time, employees are urged to use this time before October 2022. At that time, any employee that still has excess vacation will be paid for that time. Between now and October 1, employees with excess vacation hours can request that they be paid for this time as it is unlikely that they will be able to take this amount of time off before October 1st. Each employee's supervisor will submit vacation pay-out requests to the Benton County Clerk. Effective October 1, 2022, the Employee Handbook procedure will be followed, which will automatically remove any excess vacation time.

## **Fiscal Year Expenditures**

Commissioners discussed the inflation rate throughout the United States and indicated that the County's sales tax revenues have decreased by approximately 10%. Commissioners encourage fellow officials and department heads to closely examine budget expenditures and forego purchases that are not absolutely necessary. Although salary increases due to longevity policies outlined in the current Benton County Employee Handbook can still be processed, no additional salary increases will be considered until the Fiscal Year 2023 budget is prepared.

## **Globe Life Insurance**

Globe Life Insurance representative Justin Harper met with Commissioners to discuss insurance benefits offered by his company.

## **Benton County Economic Development**

Benton County Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane met with Commissioners to present the quarterly report of the Enhance Enterprise Zone grant.

## **Resolution for Training**

Commissioners discussed new regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation that requires road and bridge employees to have a Commercial Driver's License in order to operate county equipment. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to adopt a resolution to allow for the payment of salary for the duration of the training period for road and bridge employees. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

## **Adjournment**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms Ordered that the commission adjourn until 7/25/2022. Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

## **Signatures**



Steve Daleske, Presiding Commissioner