Benton County Commission
October 19, 2026

Convene

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

Approval of Prior Minutes

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to approve prior minutes dated October 13, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Visitors

The following citizens were present: Rosa Valentine, Ava Aabak, Patty Richardson, Jeff Sims, Peggy Crabtree Berry, Sharon Guess, Cynthia Smith, Kat Tye, and Matt Sergent.

Rosa Valentine

Rosa Valentine addressed the Commission regarding the possibility of drafting an ordinance that pertains to prohibiting data centers from locating here. She had several questions pertaining to telephone service and internet service for County offices, questioning bills that were paid.

Drug and Alcohol Testing Program

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented the annual contract agreement for random drug and alcohol testing services, as received from Midwest Collection Services, Inc. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to renew the contract with Midwest Collection Specialists, Inc., at an annual cost of $800, for drug and alcohol testing to be in effect from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Dalseke (Yes).

County Clerk

County Clerk Susan Porterfield discussed the upcoming 2027 budget cycle; she will schedule budget meetings with other County officials, beginning November 9, 2026. Bills were presented for approval and payment.

Patty Richardson

Patty Richardson questioned Commissioners about the status of the lawsuit.

Jeff Sims

Jeff Sims addressed Commissioners, requesting that a second attorney be retained, to obtain as much information as possible in the lawsuit. Mrs. Valentine stated that legal counsel should be conferring with Commissioners on a regular basis in this matter.

Peggy Crabtree-Berry

Peggy Crabtree-Berry addressed the Commission, stating that she had heard a rumor that Commissioners met with Trent Overhue on June 18th; Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske indicated that this was untrue; the meeting on that date was between himself, Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane, and representatives from Co-Mo Electric Company.

Visitors exited the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Jeff Sims

Jeff Sims spoke to Commissioners, requesting to be put on the agenda next week. He asked Commissioners to seriously consider placing a planning and zoning question on the April, 2027 ballot.

Adjourn

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until October 26, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Signature



Steve Daleske
Presiding Commissioner