

**Benton County Commission**  
**July 6, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 6, 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 June 29, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Executive Session**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to go to Executive Session at 9:05 a.m., pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

At 9:12 a.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to reconvene in regular session, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Rich Chiles**

Rich Chiles is present at today's meeting.

**Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine**

Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine met with Commissioners to state opposition to any potential data centers being located within the County.

**Rosa Valentine**

Rosa Valentine remained at today's meeting.

**Rich Chiles**

Rich Chiles exited the meeting at 10 a.m.

**Southwest Electric Cooperative**

A telephone conference call was conducted between Commissioners, Southwest Electric Cooperative representative Nick Seiner, and Congressman Mark Alford's office to discuss possible funding options for a bridge replacement in the southern part of the County.

**Benton County Economic Development**

Benton County Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane met with Commissioners to present her monthly report of economic development efforts within the County.

**Rosa Valentine**

Rosa Valentine exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

**David Malecki**

David Malecki is present at 11 a.m.

**Community National Bank/Payment Validation**

Treasurer Rebecca Minks spoke with Commissioners pertaining to checks that were not properly validated through the bank last week as required by the bank's new Positive Pay procedures; it was noted that fees will be assessed by the bank for returning these checks, which will be re-issued as needed. Commissioners discussed the process to reimburse for these additional expenses; the Treasurer will ensure that, in the future, these payments are processed in a timely manner.

**Board of Equalization - Rescheduled**

Commissioners discussed the date of Board of Equalization, noting that Presiding Commissioner Daleske and Associate Commissioner Berry will be absent on that date. Since it is impossible for the Board to meet without a quorum, the Benton County Board of Equalization has been rescheduled to July 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to appoint Pam Grobe and Michael Schnakenberg to serve as the two at-large members for this Board. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**County Clerk Report**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented monthly budget reports for each department, and monthly tax abatements were presented for approval and signature. Bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**2024 Audit**

Commissioners, County Clerk, and County Treasurer discussed the 2024 audit draft that has been received from auditors Stopp and VanHoy, LLC. Responses to this audit will be discussed and sent to the auditor.

**Fuel Bid**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #2 from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.61 per gallon; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$3.81 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until July 13, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

**Signature**

Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**July 13, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 13, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**David Malecki**

David Malecki is present at today's meeting.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated July 6, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior executive session minutes dated July 6, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Foley Equipment**

Foley Equipment representative Cody Painter met with Commissioners to discuss equipment and services offered by Foley Equipment.

**Data Centers**

Ava Aabak and Rosa and Gerald Valentine met with Commissioners for further discussion of potential data centers being located within the County. Mr. Valentine read information that he has gathered, indicating the damage such centers could produce. Commissioners again stated that they have no knowledge of data centers being located here and indicated that they continue to obtain information, and research will continue in this matter.

**Bid Opening – Tower and Antenna Work**

The bid opening was held for tower and antenna work at the 911 Dispatch Center. 911 representatives Ron Cobb and David Dunford were also present. The following bids were received: Second Sight Systems in the amount of \$42,614.73, Warner Communications in the amount of \$57,750.00, and Alt, Inc. in the amount of \$63,180.00. Bids were reviewed, and upon recommendation of Mr. Dunford, District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to accept the bid from Second Sight Systems. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Treasurer/Semi-Annual Report**

Treasurer Rebecca Minks met with Commissioners to present her monthly financial report and a report of interest-by-month for each fund. She also submitted the Treasurer's semi-annual report of County funds, as required by Statute.

**2024 Audit**

Commissioners, County Clerk, and Treasurer discussed the 2024 audit; responses have been drafted and will be sent to the auditor.

**Assessor**

Assessor Jim Hansen met with Commissioners to report that he has received a letter from the Missouri State Tax Commission, indicating that, in response to state-wide budget cuts, the STC has decreased the per-parcel reimbursement for the Assessor's Office for this coming fiscal year; which will result in a decrease in funding of approximately \$21,000.

**District Valuations and Form 11**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented district valuation totals for 2026 and reported that the Form 11 has been sent to the Missouri State Tax Commission as required. Districts have been notified of their assessed valuations.

**County Clerk**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter property insurance schedule for review; she will follow up with pertinent information to Mike Keith Insurance. Bills were presented for approval and payment.

**Fuel Bids**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #1 from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.66 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$3.935 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid for unleaded gasoline for Road District #1 Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$3.335 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.42 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until July 27, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

**Signature**

Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**July 27, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, July 27, 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 July 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).

**David Malecki/Rebecca Minks**

David Malecki and Rebecca Minks are present at today's meeting.

**Data Centers Discussion**

A concerned citizen met with Commissioners to present information about data centers, noting such things as energy demand, water consumption, and pollution associated with such facilities and requested that Commissioners act on this subject before a data center locates here. Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that Commissioners are currently reviewing what can be done, noting Statute must be followed; he also suggested that contact be made with officials in Jefferson City.

**Collector**

Collector David Brodersen met with Commissioners, noting that he has received documents from Bent Tree Harbor Homeowners Association, outlining an order they have received from the Department of Natural Resources. This order specifies that new holding tanks in this development are prohibited and would make future development of full-time residences no longer viable. Collector Brodersen stated that there are several lots in this development that are on the 2026 tax sale, and this information will be passed along at the tax sale, which could make these lots unsaleable. Contact can be made to the Bent Tree Harbor Homeowners Association at (660) 438-7163, for further information.

**Co-Mo Connect**

Co-Mo Connect representative Janie Biggs met with Commissioners to present information about telephone and internet connectivity options; discussion will continue in this matter.

**E-911**

E-911 Director Brenda Hilburn and Ron Cobb met with Commissioners to provide an update on recent tower and radio upgrades.

**Benton County Board of Equalization**

The Benton County Board of Equalization convened at 10 a.m. Those present for the Board were: Steve Daleske, Scott Harms, and Larry Berry, Commissioners; Jim Hansen, County Assessor; Susan Porterfield, County Clerk; and Pam Grobe and Michael Schnakenberg, Appointed Members. No appeals were heard. There being no further business for the Board of Equalization, District 2

Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to adjourn the 2026 Benton County Board of Equalization, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion, all aye, motion carried.

**Mike Keith Insurance, Inc.**

Mike Keith Insurance, Inc. representatives Christian DeLozier and Jake Farnsworth met with Commissioners to discuss property and liability insurances, and to present a mid-year review of claims that have been presented to insurance.

**Cintas Services**

Cintas Services representative Emma Baynham met with Commissioners to introduce products and services available through the Cintas company.

**County Clerk**

The County Clerk submitted bills approval and payment.

**Clyde Bridge**

Commissioners discussed the condition of Clyde Bridge, which has been damaged by flood waters during recent storms. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry has contacted companies to complete this work due to the emergency nature of this necessary repair and made the motion to accept the bid for repairs from Bruce Woods Construction. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Data Centers**

Ava Aabak met with Commissioners for follow-up discussion of the status of data centers locating, or planning to locate, within the confines of the County. Commissioners again stated that they have no knowledge of data centers being located here at this time. Rosa Valentine was also scheduled on the agenda but was unable to attend. Visitor Kat Tye was present.

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer presented her financial report for July. She also presented her responses to the draft audit that has been received and a corrective plan, as well as her recommendation for a corrective action plan/checklist for future reference.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 3, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 3, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 3, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Absent; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske made the motion to approve prior minutes dated July 27, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**David Malecki**

David Malecki is present at today's meeting.

**Data Centers**

Concerned citizens met with Commissioners to present information and concerns regarding data centers. Commissioners stated that they are reviewing information and have sent letters to State Representatives Rodger Reedy and Jim Kalberloh, Senator Sandy Crawford, and Governor Mike Kehoe, addressing their concerns.

**TT & Singing Bird Lane**

Concerned citizen met with Commissioners to address property concerns caused by a culvert on Highway TT. Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske directed him to reach out to MoDot, as it is a state highway.

**Deerfield Estates**

A representative from Deerfield Estates met with Commissioners to request information pertaining to the road leading to the subdivision; Commissioner Daleske stated that this road is not a County road. Further discussion will be given to this matter at a later date.

**Commissioners in Recess**

Commissioners took a short recess at 9:55 a.m. to go to the local quarry to ascertain the proper preparation of cold mix for Road District #2.

**Commissioners Present**

Commissioners reconvened at the Courthouse office at 11:10 a.m.

**County Clerk**

Deputy County Clerk Samantha Corpening presented monthly abatements for signature and approval. Bills were submitted for approval and payment. Monthly budget reports were presented for each department.

**Data Centers**

Commissioners conducted a conference call with a representative from Senator Josh Hawley's office pertaining to data centers.

**Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 10, 2026; Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

**Signature**A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Daleske', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 10, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 10, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated August 3, 2026. 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.

**Visitors**

Visitors at today's meeting included Rich Chiles, Amber Segar, Rebecca Minks, Veletta Autry, Cynthia Smith, Sharon Guess, and Peggy Crabtree-Berry.

**Moratorium**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske presented a moratorium that he has received from legal counsel, as requested by Commissioners, pertaining to data centers; this moratorium would allow Commissioners time to review information on data centers and their effects on the County, and to meet with citizens who are expressing concerns in this matter. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve the moratorium as presented; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Visitor Exit**

Veletta Autry exited the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

**Fuel Bids**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid from Warsaw Oil Company for diesel fuel for Road District #1 at a cost of \$4.115 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bids were received from Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$4.695 per gallon, and from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$4.31 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid from Warsaw Oil Company for unleaded gasoline for Road District #1 at a cost of \$3.13 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bids were received from Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$3.635 per gallon, and from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.405 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

**2026 Tax Levy Discussion**

Commissioners discussed the 2026 tax levy information as presented by County Clerk Susan Porterfield. Collector David Brodersen was also present. Further discussion will be given to this matter at the levy hearing that will be held on August 24, 2026, at 10 a.m.

**County Clerk**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented monthly tax abatements for approval and signature; bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**Benton County Economic Development**

Benton County Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane met with Commissioners to present her monthly report of economic development efforts within the County.

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Rebecca Minks met with Commissioners to present her financial report; she also noted that "Positive Pay" transactions are now tracking properly within the software system. She also submitted a Corrective Action Plan for 2026 that outlines her intent to correct issues stipulated in the recent audit.

**Cynthia Smith**

Cynthia Smith spoke with Commissioners about several topics, including handicap accessibility in the Courthouse, elevator specifications, and nepotism; she also expressed opposition to any landfill being located in the County. Commissioners again stated that they have no knowledge of any potential landfill being located here.

**Visitors Exit**

Visitors exited the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

**Alpine Bank**

A conference call was conducted with Jacob Going, Investment Manager of Alpine Bank, pertaining to the County's Lease Certificates of Participation related to the jail project.

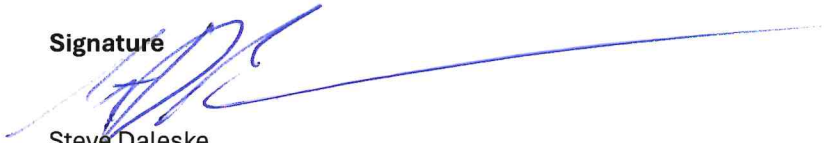
**Fuel Bid**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #2 from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$4.16 per gallon; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$4.16 per gallon; the County accepted the bid most advantageous to the County.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 17, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 17, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 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 August 10, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms 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.

**Red Bud Park Roads**

Troy Kestner and Greg Farmer met with Commissioners to discuss the poor condition of roads in Red Bud Park and requested County aid for repairs; Commissioners indicated that the roads in the subdivision are private and not under the County's jurisdiction.

**Data Centers/Landfills**

Rosa Valentine and Ava Aabak met with Commissioners to express opposition to data centers and/or landfills being located within the County. Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that there is no information at this time to substantiate the rumors of either one being located here. They were given copies of the data center moratorium. Mrs. Valentine also requested that Commission meetings be live streamed.

**County Clerk**

The County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

**Enhanced Enterprise Zone**

Commissioners discussed the vacancy on the Enhanced Enterprise Zone board that exists due to the resignation of Seth Casey. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to appoint Glen Nelson to this Board, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer presented her financial report.

**McClure Engineering**

A telephone conference call was conducted with McClure Engineering representative Aaron McVicker, to discuss future bridge projects and 2027 BRO information, as received from the Missouri Department of Transportation.

**Procom**

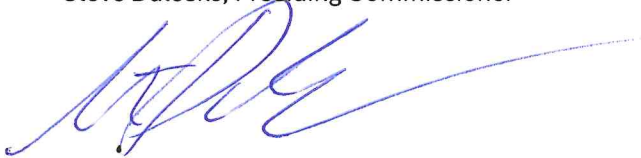
A contract has been submitted to Commissioners by Jim McNaron on behalf of Procom. This contract is for a 5 year lease for radio repeater service and tower rental for Road Districts 1 and 2 at a cost of \$8,000.00. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to renew this contract agreement as presented, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 24, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

**Signature**

Steve Daleske, Presiding Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Daleske', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 24, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated August 17, 2026. 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/Rich Chiles**

David Malecki and Rich Chiles are present at today's meeting.

**Visitors**

Cynthia Smith, Valetta Autry, Erlinda Goodman, Rosa Valentine, Ava Aabak, and Peggy Crabtree-Berry are present at today's meeting.

**Cynthia Smith**

Cynthia Smith spoke to the Commissioners on several issues, including the County tax levy, Senate Bill 190, and the County's 2023 audit. Mrs. Smith stated that she has heard complaints about the Courthouse being closed from 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the lunch hour. She also wanted more information about data centers in the County and landfills that may be planned for the County. She also asked about the turn-around that is being constructed at Dam Access Road and Highway 7, indicating opposition to this turn-around. Commissioner Daleske stated that this is located on a state highway and under the control of the MO Department of Transportation.

**Bauer Road**

Commissioners discussed a letter that was received from the MO Department of Conservation that indicates that a portion of Bauer Road will be closed to public use.

**Smart Town Wi-Fi**

Correspondence has been received from the City of Warsaw pertaining to an agreement that they have signed that allows installation of a Wi-Fi system to serve the downtown area, in cooperation with Co-Mo Connect.

**County Clerk**

The County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

**Ava Aabak/Rosa Valentine**

Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine spoke to Commissioners, expressing opposition to data centers and landfills being constructed in the County. Mrs. Valentine suggested that the Commission appoint a committee to develop guidelines for this type of structures.

**Rebecca Minks**

Rebecca Minks is now present.

**2026 Tax Rate Hearing**

The 2026 tax rate hearing was held. Commissioners discussed the proposed tax rate for General Revenue of \$0.1006. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to set the 2026 tax levy for

General Revenue at \$0.0998 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is the same levy that was utilized in 2025, and to accept the proposed tax rate for Road and Bridge. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Scott Harms (Yes), Larry Berry (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). The 2026 tax rates will be \$0.0998 for General Revenue and \$0.2040 for Road and Bridge, per \$100 assessed valuation.

#### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer presented her financial report.

#### **McClure Engineering**

Aaron McVicker met with the Commissioners to discuss the status of the Indian Creek and Fitzpatrick bridges. Discussion was also given to future bridge projects and 2027 BRO information, as received from the Missouri Department of Transportation. Mr. McVicker advised that he has prepared a Plans/Specifications/Estimate (PSE) for the Jackman Avenue bridge replacement. He also provided the Commissioners with estimated soft match funding requirements of approximately \$200,000.00 for the planned bridge projects.

#### **E-911**

Director Brenda Hilburn met with Commissioners regarding her budget and her desire to add another full-time dispatcher position. Commissioners approved this additional full-time position. Work continues on the radio and tower improvements. Ron Cobb advised that he is working with the local fire departments to update radio frequency licenses. The new licenses will be under the name of Benton County Emergency Operations Director; no specific person's name will be used.

#### **Hazard Mitigation Meeting**

A hazard mitigation meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Lincoln City Hall. Steve Daleske, Scott Harms and Rich Chiles will attend this meeting.

#### **Telephone Call**

Commissioner Scott Harms received a telephone call from a resident stating that a lawsuit has been filed against Benton County regarding the data center moratorium. It was noted that Commissioners have received no notification at this time.

#### **Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 31, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 27, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 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 August 24, 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**

A group met with Commissioners to ask questions regarding the pending lawsuit pertaining to a data center being located in Benton County.

**Executive Session**

At 2:02 p.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to go to executive session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1 Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Reconvene in Regular Session**

At 2:40 p.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to return to regular session, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 31, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**August 31, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated August 27, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Approval of Prior Executive Session Minutes**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to approve prior executive session minutes dated August 27, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms 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.

**Visitors**

A group met with Commissioners to ask questions regarding the pending lawsuit pertaining to a data center being located in Benton County. Commissioners indicated that this situation is under litigation, and legal details cannot be discussed. They remained at the meeting through Mrs. Aabak's presentation, and exited the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m. Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, and Valetta Autry remained.

**Rocky Ledge Road**

A resident on Rocky Ledge Road met with Commissioners to discuss the condition of that road.

**Cynthia Smith/Rosa Valentine/Ava Aabak**

Gerald Valentine and Ava Aabak spoke, giving information that they have obtained pertaining to data centers, including water usage and contamination, air, noise, and light pollution, and increase in utility costs and power outages for local residents. Commissioners again stated that this situation is under litigation, and Commissioners are not at liberty to discuss it at this time; it was noted that a Circuit Court hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, at 1 p.m.

**County Clerk**

The County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

**Cynthia Smith/Rosa Valentine/Valetta Autry**

Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, and Valetta Autry exited the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

**2026 Tax Sale**

The Collector presented a report of the 2026 delinquent tax sale that was held on August 24, 2026.

**Credit Card Applications**

The Treasurer presented credit card applications for E-911 and the Assessor's Office. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve the applications as presented; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 8, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Signature**A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**September 8, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated August 31, 2026. 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.

**Rosa Valentine/Cynthia Smith/Visitors**

Rosa Valentine, Cynthia Smith, and several citizens met with Commissioners to express complaints on several points; they indicated that Commission minutes should be more detailed, and bills and invoice information should be presented to the public for their perusal, so they are aware of how County money is spent, further stating that all budget information and weekly expenses should be posted to the County's website. The group wants planning and zoning enacted NOW; Presiding Commissioner Daleske indicated that this had to be enacted by a vote of the people - this decision is not something that Commissioners can act on alone. Information pertaining to a 2017 court case was presented, and the presenting citizen stated that Travis Elliott, as our legal representative, should not be our legal counsel as he is in direct conflict of interest with someone at his law firm based on this 2017 case. Upon investigation, the incident cited was with another attorney at the law firm of Ellis, Ellis, Hammons, and Johnson, LLC, and had no direct affiliation with Mr. Elliott whatsoever, so no conflict exists.

A complaint was expressed that it was not included in last week's minutes that Mrs. Smith had called for the resignation of Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske and for a recall election of Associate Commissioners Larry Berry and Scott Harms.

Citizens in attendance with Mrs. Valentine and Mrs. Smith included Jeff Sims, Diana Tumm, Kathy Milam, Jamie Warne, Bernie Drisel, Kat Tye, Valetta Autry, Harry Timm, Sharon Guess, Steven Warne, and Floyd Poe, plus others that did not sign the attendance sheet.

**Soft Match Contract**

Commissioners discussed the purchase of soft match from Pettis County, and a contract was presented that states the County's intention. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to sign this contract and move forward with the purchase of soft match for the price of \$132,000 from Pettis County, for \$220,000 of Pettis County's soft match credits. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**County Clerk**

The County Clerk presented monthly budget reports; bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**Commissioner Absent/Appointment of Acting Presiding Commissioner**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske exited the meeting at 9:34 a.m., to attend another meeting in Pettis County. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry was appointed as Acting Presiding Commissioner for the remainder of today's meeting.

**Other Discussion**

The question was raised again about landfills; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms stated again that the Commission has no knowledge of a landfill. Commissioner Harms was also questioned about a data center being located around Cole Camp, he stated that he has no knowledge of any data center locating in that area.

**Visitors**

Visitors exited the meeting at 11 a.m.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 14, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

**Signature**A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'LB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Larry Berry  
Acting Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**September 14, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 14, 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 September 8, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms 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.

**Jeff Sims and Visitors**

Jeff Sims spoke to Commissioners about several issues. He made a motion that minutes be recorded. Rosa Valentine stated that the county website is inaccurate and should be updated. Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated he will reach out to IT about this. Sims then brought up planning and zoning, stating he has reached out to several people, and has found out that cities have planning and zoning and the county should establish it too. He stated that a variance could be enacted to start a committee, so that everyone knows what's going on, be pro-active in this situation and asked that a special election be called and made a motion to be proactive in the subject of a planning and zoning committee. He recommends mayors and county commissioners be on the committee and has names of citizens who have agreed to serve on an advisory committee. Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that citizens can establish such a committee, but it must be outside of the Commission, per statute.

An individual went to Marshfield to learn how they handled their data center. There is a video available online, but it was indicated that the video might not be totally indicative as to how this data center works; it was stated that road noise drowned out any sound from the data center.

Commissioners were questioned if they have/had signed an NDA (non-disclosure agreement). Commissioners each answered no.

The fish hatchery was discussed, and the question was asked if it was currently closed. Commissioner Daleske answered yes, the Conservation Department did close the hatchery, to reach out to schools for educational programs.

Visitors in attendance were Nancy Steward, Ava Aabak, David Banks, Pat Banks, Jamie Warne, Bernie Drexel, Pat Luttrell, Eddie Timm, Steve Warne, Cynthia O'Dell, Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, Sharon Guess, Peggy Crabtree-Berry, and Rich Chiles. Visitors come and go at will, and several did not stay for the entire meeting.

**Budget Amendment**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield submitted information for the budget amendment. Sheriff Eric Knox and E-911 Director Brenda Hilburn will be contacted with questions pertaining to certain funds.

**Benton County Economic Development**

Benton County Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane met with Commissioners to present her monthly report of economic development efforts within the County. Rosa Valentine questioned Mrs. Lane about her knowledge of a data center, and if she had ever met with Trent Overhue about a data center. Mrs. Lane responded that this subject is under litigation, and she is not at liberty to discuss anything about the data center. Furthermore, a big part of her job is confidentiality, as certain business aspects must remain confidential while companies evaluate communities, properties, and other factors.

**Visitors**

Other visitors are now present, including Sharon Eldridge, Rita Legg, Patty Richardson, Jan Bundy, Sam Alexander, Liza White, Herbert Robertson, Renee Robertson, Kat Tye, Michelle McLerran, Tori Barclay, Matt Barclay, Baron Pennington, Sr., Logan Samson, Brian Cris, and Richard Sloan.

**Fuel Bids**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #1 from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$4.385 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bids were received from Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$4.995 per gallon, and from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$4.61 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the bid for unleaded gasoline for Road District #1 from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$2.96 per gallon; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bids were received from Zollicker Oil Company at a cost of \$3.725 per gallon, and from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.72 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

**Budget Amendment**

The budget amendment was discussed; Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that he has received answers from Sheriff Knox and 911 Director Hilburn, that satisfy questions pertaining to their funds. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to accept the budget amendment as presented. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Kris Franken**

Kris Franken met with Commissioners and presented a copy of an ordinance, stating that this ordinance has stopped all data center discussion in Camden County, and that the regulations contained in this ordinance have all the power that Commissioners need to stop data centers from coming to Benton County. He also indicated that Commissioners should exert some control over the situation and have a violation order in place in case a company does not comply with the ordinance. He also stated to visitors that they should work with their Commissioners, as there is no easy answer to this situation.

**Rosa Valentine**

Rosa Valentine stated that she has established a website outlining all information she has obtained about data centers. She also stated that the agenda that is posted for Commission meetings is hard to understand and is not posted accurately on the website.

**Warsaw Chamber of Commerce**

Warsaw Chamber of Commerce representative Dee Dee Hunter met with Commissioners to indicate that the Chamber intends to purchase a Christmas tree and would like to be able to place it on the corner of the Courthouse square. More information will be forthcoming.

**Executive Session**

At 1:15 p.m., District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to go to Executive Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1 Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

At 2:35 p.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to reconvene in regular session, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske.

Visitors are Now Present at the meeting. Presiding Commissioner Daleske read a statement, indicating that the Commissioner's decision is to stand behind the moratorium that is in place, and to retain current legal counsel for ongoing litigation in this matter.

**County Clerk Report**

The County Clerk presented monthly tax abatements for approval and signature. Bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**Consultant Services**

Commissioners discussed an Agreement for Consulting Services that has been received from Aaron McVicker on behalf of McClure Engineering pertaining to the Missouri Regional Bridge Program (BRO) for calendar year 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to enter into this agreement with McClure Engineering for consulting services in this matter, District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 21, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

**Signature**

Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**September 18, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated September 14, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior executive session minutes dated September 14, 2026. District 1 Commissioner seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**Visitors**

The following citizens were present: Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, Kat Tye, Jody Hauser, Patty Richardson, Kristin Taylor, and J. D. Richardson.

**Executive Session**

At 9:35 a.m., District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to go to Executive Session pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1 Legal actions, Causes of Action or Litigation involving a public governmental body. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

At 1:44 p.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to reconvene in regular session, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske.

**Adjourn**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 21, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

**Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**September 21, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 21, 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 September 18, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior executive session minutes dated September 18, 2026. District 1 Commissioner seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

**David Malecki/Major Kelly Lowe**

David Malecki and Major Kelly Lowe are present at today's meeting.

**Visitors**

The following citizens were present: Kat Tye, Cody Wilson, Joby Hauser, Sandy Harris, Kendall Nowack, Brian Smith, Ronald Dent, Valerie Dent, Sharon Eldridge, Patty Richardson, Linda Creswell, George M. Hall, Baron Pennington, Sr., Jeff Sims, Jan Bundy, Liza White, Steve Warne, Kent Campbell, Fred Verstraete, Joan, Ava Aabak, Rita Legg, Sharon Guess, Veletta Autry, Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, Jordan Kauffman, Taylor Banner, Bob D. Smith, and Nola Smith. Some citizens that were present did not sign the roster.

**Fuel Bid**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #2 from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$5.41 per gallon; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$5.62 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

**County Clerk**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield reported that she is in correspondence with a representative from Mike Keith Insurance pertaining to the mid-year insurance review; information will be compiled and sent as requested. Bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**Rosa Valentine**

Rosa Valentine questioned bills that are paid and wants a ledger provided to taxpayers that states what bills are paid each week. She further requested that an ordinance be signed and adopted that will ban data centers from the County. She asked Commissioners collectively and individually if they had signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), each Commissioner responded no. Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that a letter with information has been received from DNR, and Commission continues to research information in the matter of data centers.

**Jamie Warne**

Jamie Warne had an appointment with Commissioners but did not appear.

**Jeff Sims**

Jeff Sims spoke to Commissioners, voicing opposition to data centers but did not provide any new information.

Kat Tye stated that the County has several endangered plants, such as meads milkweed, purple prairie closers, Indian paintbrush, goats rue, and pale purple coneflower; she is worried that a data center will kill these plants and believes that these plants should be protected.

George Hall stated that Commissioners are governed by State statutes and do not have authority to work outside those guidelines.

Most visitors left at approximately 10:00 a.m.; Rosa Valentine, Kat Tye, Rich Chiles, and Rebecca Minks remained.

#### **Benton County Tourism**

Benton County Tourism Director Lynette Stokes met with Commissioners to provide an update of tourism efforts within the County and presented a marketing summary from January 1 through August 31, 2026. Ms. Stokes also requested the reappointment of Brad Blankenship to the Benton County Tourism Board. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to reappoint Brad Blankenship to this Board, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

#### **Treasurer**

Treasurer Rebecca Minks presented a financial report. She also said that she has had no issues since April and reported to Commissioners that the treasurer's books are now reconciled to the penny, and she intends to request that a representative from the State Auditor's Office come to review what she has done.

Rosa Valentine exited the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Rich Chiles exited the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Kat Tye exited the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

#### **Social Media and NDA Concerns**

Commissioners discussed recent social media statements that falsely allege that Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske and Associate Commissioners Larry Berry and Scott Harms, and Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane had signed NDA's (non-disclosure agreements) concerning a potential data center project. Concerns were raised regarding publication of information that is false, and the potential impact such statements may have on the individuals involved, as well as future economic development endeavors within the County. The possibility that the statements could be constituted as defamation of character was noted, and the matter will be referred to legal counsel for review and appropriate guidance.

#### **Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 28, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

#### **Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

**Benton County Commission**  
**September 28, 2026**

**Convene**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 28, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

**Approval of Prior Minutes**

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated September 21, 2026. 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.

**Visitors**

The following citizens were present: Sharon Guess, Sharon Eldridge, Richard Creswell, Linda Creswell, Patty Richardson, Mike Carr, Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, Veletta Autry, Richard Sloan, Rich Chiles, Kat Tye, Maurica Wells, David Neiman, and Peggy Crabtree-Berry. Not all visitors signed the roster.

**County Clerk**

County Clerk Susan Porterfield stated that she has received an invoice for membership in the National Association of Counties; this bill will be paid in 2027; bills were submitted for approval and payment.

**Co-Mo Connect**

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske reported that information has been provided to the representative from Co-Mo Connect; this will begin the process of upgrades to the County's telephone and internet services. There is no projected timeframe for completion at this time.

**Rosa Valentine**

Rosa Valentine spoke to Commissioners on several points. She questioned District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms about his opinion of the meaning of a certain paragraph in the County moratorium, and he responded with his explanation. She stated that livestream of Commission meetings is necessary; Presiding Commissioner Daleske stated that software is not currently in place that will accommodate this. She again requested an information ledger of bills that are paid each week; the County Clerk presented a list of this data from September 21; this information will be posted to the County website in the future.

**Mike Keith Insurance, Inc.**

Mike Keith Insurance, Inc. representative Christian DeLozier met with Commissioners to discuss the renewal of the 2027 property and liability insurance policy; an in-depth review was conducted of property and contents, as well as vehicles and equipment. Follow-up will be continued in preparation of fiscal year 2027.

**Central Hickory Fire and Rescue**

Commissioners discussed boundary lines for the volunteer fire district Central Hickory Fire and Rescue. A meeting with representatives was held in 2021, and an election was held in 2022 for development of a district in this area, but the measure did not pass. Questions have arisen from residents who want this issue re-visited. Commissioners will communicate this information with members of other fire districts in that area.

**Treasurer**

Treasurer Rebecca Minks did not provide a financial report but reported she attended the annual treasurer's conference last week and learned important information from that association. She also obtained

information from CPA firms who might be able to follow-up with the review of her bank reconciliation, and from software systems in preparation of 2027.

A citizen spoke, requesting that an evening town hall meeting be planned, so that Commissioners can attend and answer questions that the public might have pertaining to data centers, and to share their own opinions on the subject. She indicated that the public is terrified about the possibility of a data center locating in the County, and Commissioners should recognize the importance of transparency.

The issue of planning and zoning was discussed, with Treasurer Rebecca Minks noting that zoning might not be the answer, that it would be an ongoing issue that would need an office and staff, money, and would be an ongoing issue that would not stop at data centers only.

Peggy Crabtree-Berry then told the group that they should take some of their energy to the next higher power by speaking to officials in Jefferson City; Commissioners agreed that this is the next step and they are hopeful that the State will step in with guidelines.

#### **Adjourn**

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until October 5, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes) and Scott Harms (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

#### **Signature**



Steve Daleske  
Presiding Commissioner

(Note: visitors come and go at will during Commission session.)