

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2016

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 19, 2016 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Ed Popp, Jim McMahon, Spencer Buerkle and Warren Peschl present and Commissioner Jake Bauerly absent (excused). Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Popp/McMahon unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2016 as written; 2) approve Engagement Letter with the State Auditor for the audit of the 2015 financial statements, and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve Master Subscriber Agreement with the State of MN Courts to allow county departments to access electronic court records, and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) accept and file Veteran Services Quarterly Report as presented; 5) approve 2015 Federal Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification as written; and 6) approve Maintenance Agreement with *Motorola* and authorize the Chair to sign.

A public hearing on the County's policy for accepting delinquent tax payments was opened at 9:05 AM. Phil Miller, County Attorney, explained that the proposed resolution would modify County policy regarding the acceptance of delinquent tax payments without penalties or interest by extending the due date for all property tax payments by one business day, starting with payable 2016 property taxes. Miller noted that this proposed change came about as a result of a few instances in which property tax payments were received after the deadline but, according to the taxpayers, the payments were mailed on the due date—it was discovered that mail delivered to local post offices may not be postmarked that same day since all mail is now transported to Minneapolis for processing. Miller stated that this change should help alleviate the number of requests for abatement of penalties/interest. With no one else speaking in support or in opposition, the public hearing was closed at 9:12 AM. McMahon/Peschl unanimous to adopt Resolution 2016-#4, extending the statutory deadline for payment of property tax by one business day, starting with payable 2016 property taxes, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve a contract between Benton County and *Corporation Service Company (CSC)*, for electronic recording, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Joe Janish, Department of Development Director, explained that the City of St. Cloud has been working on updating their comprehensive plan and has asked for comments from the public in regards to the draft plan; at the direction of the Board, Janish has drafted a letter outlining a number of Benton County's concerns with the plan: 1) reduction in commercial property at the intersection of State Highway 23 and County Road 8; 2) encouraging stronger language related to development and redevelopment opportunities in East St. Cloud; and 3) encouraging an expanded definition of "quality of life" to also include health. Buerkle inquired if action on the draft letter could be delayed until all Board members were present; Janish noted that the letter is "time sensitive"; however, the letter could be amended at a later date if desired. Buerkle questioned the intent of the paragraph in the letter which references "Northstar", asking "why are we advocating it if we are not taking an active leadership role"? It was discussed that the intent of that language is to encourage redevelopment in east St. Cloud before

Northstar arrives to address the market value disparities that currently exist between east St. Cloud and west St. Cloud (not advocating for Northstar). Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve the letter to the City of St. Cloud regarding the City's comprehensive plan, and authorize the Chair to sign. Janish announced that the City of St. Cloud will hold a hearing on the draft plan on Wednesday, January 20th, from 6:00-8:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:23 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:42 AM.

Lee Katzmarek, Human Resources Director, explained that, every three years, local government employers are to run and submit a pay equity report; the report measures three areas based on the county's distribution of gender over the job classes. Katzmarek pointed out that pay equity calculations using Benton County's point and wage ranges identified Benton County's Public Health Nursing Supervisor as an underpaid class; adjusting the hourly pay of the employee by \$1.18 per hour will balance out this underpayment amount and allow Benton County to pass the 2015 pay equity report. Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve a pay equity adjustment for the Public Health Supervisor in the amount of \$1.18 per hour to be added to the pay rate, effective 12/31/2015. McMahon/Peschl unanimous to approve the submittal of Benton County's 2015 Pay Equity Report, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Board members reported on recent meetings they attended on behalf of the county.

Peschl/McMahon unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: January 20, DNR Buffer Mapping Webinar; March 10 & 11, AMC Legislative Conference.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to adjourn at 10:07 AM.

Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator