

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2016

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 3, 2016 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Warren Peschl, Jim McMahon, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp and Spencer Buerkle present. Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Peschl/Bauerly unanimous to approve the amended agenda: add items—award construction contracts for projects 005-608-008 (CSAH 8 reclaim) and 005-2016BO (seasonal bituminous patching).

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Popp/McMahon unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2016 as written; 2) accept and file Committee of the Whole Minutes of April 13, 2016 as written; 3) accept and file Management Team Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2016 as written; 4) reappoint Chris Byrd as County Engineer to a four-year term starting June 1, 2016 and expiring May 31, 2020; 5) approve Application for MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit—*Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MN*—to hold a raffle at Territory Golf Club on August 1, 2016; 6) adopt Resolution 2016-#12, approving Application for MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit—*Clear Lake Lions*—to hold a raffle at Jack & Jim's on June 10, 2016, and authorize the Chair to sign; and 7) approve grant with State of MN for congratulate and educate tobacco compliance checks, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Bauerly/McMahon unanimous to approve a proclamation for National Police Week in Benton County (May 15-21, 2016) and authorize the Chair to sign, recognizing the talented and dedicated men and women working in the Benton County Sheriff's Office who work to ensure citizens may live their lives without fear of harm or loss; these law enforcement officers work under difficult and dangerous conditions dealing with violent, mentally ill, and dangerous individuals, and also work with citizens and community groups to act as a positive force in their communities.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that he has received an application from the City of Sauk Rapids for a special road use permit for the Rapids River Days Parade scheduled for June 24th. He stated that, each year, the parade route crosses CSAH 3 on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; this year, the parade could be traveling through an active construction work zone. Byrd pointed out that no work will occur during the parade times, but hazards may exist; to this end, he is recommending that local law enforcement restrict the public from this area (county right-of-way) for the duration of the parade. He added that if this permit is approved, he will issue an addendum requiring the contractor to cease all work and clean up the area before the start of the parade. McMahon stated he fully understands the liability concerns in a construction zone; although he favors restricting the movement of the public from that area, he would like to amend the policy to exempt political subdivisions from the permit requirement (or, at a minimum, waive the permit fee), unless the event is to be held outside of that political subdivision's jurisdiction. Byrd confirmed that the current Special Road Use Policy does not distinguish between a political subdivision and an organized community group. Buerkle stated his belief that the policy was developed with events taking place on rural roads in mind, not for events in urban areas. McMahon/Popp unanimous to approve the Special Road Use Permit for the Rapids River Days Parade and waive the fee for the City of Sauk Rapids; also, to review the Special Road Use Policy at a future date with the idea of possibly exempting political subdivisions.

Bauerly/Peschl unanimous to award a construction contract to *Knife River Corporation*, as lowest responsible bidder, for project 005-608-008 (reclaim and new bituminous pavement on CSAH 8 in east St. Cloud). Byrd will bring a formal contract to the Board for approval.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to award a construction contract to *Knife River Corporation*, as lowest responsible bidder (approximately 20% below engineer's estimate), for project 005-2016BO (seasonal bituminous patching). Byrd noted that there are some Minden Township quantities in the bid as well; he will bring a formal contract to the Board for approval.

Engineer's Report: 1) Report on Engineer's attendance at the National Association of County Engineer's Conference in Tacoma, Washington; 2) Bid opening for "3 Up the Hill" project scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Highway Department; 3) Still in process of recruiting for Engineering Technician position—may not have staffing in place with the required MnDOT certifications to do inspections for Federal and State Aid jobs; Byrd may need to hire an outside consultant to assist with the surveying/testing (could use savings from the good bid prices to offset these costs).

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:24 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:28 AM.

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

Under Commissioner Concerns, McMahon reported that the Central MN Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Region serves first responders, emergency medical technicians and paramedics in Benton County; one part of the programming includes increasing public awareness about the impact EMS personnel make every day in their communities. McMahon noted that all twelve counties in the Central MN Region are being asked to proclaim EMS Week in their county; this week is a collaborative effort by first responder organizations, ambulance services, fire departments, law enforcement agencies and professional organizations to celebrate the dedication of EMS personnel. McMahon/Peschl unanimous to approve a proclamation declaring the week of May 15-21, 2016 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Benton County, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Bauerly/Popp unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: May 10, Geronimo Solar Energy Meeting; and May 11, Quad-County Meeting to Discuss CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) Plan.

McMahon/Popp unanimous to adjourn at 9:43 AM.

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Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator

