

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2022

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 18, 2022, in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN. Call to order by Chair Steve Heinen was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A roll call showed Commissioners Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Steve Heinen, Jared Gapinski and Ed Popp present.

County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested to amend the Regular Agenda to add the consideration of the Extension Committee appointments at 9:10 AM, and to remove the Human Resources Regular Agenda item at 9:25 AM regarding the COVID-19 update and to move that item under the Human Services Board. Gapinski requested to add the discussion of a Mediation Class under Commissioner Concerns at 9:45 AM. Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Johnson requested to “pull” Consent Agenda item # 6 for further discussion. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items 1 – 5 and 7 - 8: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 28, 2021 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 4, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2021 and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) approve an exempt permit for Metro Lions of St. Cloud to conduct gambling and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) adopt a Resolution to amend the Delegated County Official to be the Land Services Director to approve Simple Plats and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) approve the amendment to the County Jail Food Service Contract with Summit Food Service, LLC and authorize the Chair to sign; 8) accept and file the Veteran Service Officer Quarterly Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Johnson wanted to discuss the resolution adopting the Benton County Solid Waste Management Plan. Johnson stated that he had just spoken with Sierra Cotter, Benton County’s Wetland and Solid Waste Program Lead regarding the Solid Waste Management Plan. Johnson stated that the Tri-County Solid Waste Commission is in discussion with Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management regarding our ongoing contract and there are issues that are not yet resolved. Johnson would like to see this tabled for now, until the issues have been resolved. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Popp to table the Benton County Solid Waste Management Plan until our next Regular Board Meeting in February, where they anticipate the issue will be resolved. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Achman presented the Planning & Zoning Department 2021 Year End Activity/Revenue Report. This was for informational purposes only. No action was taken; no motion was made.

Next, Headley requested the County Board to consider a Resolution authorizing a purchase agreement that establishes the parameters on two parcels of land in the City of Foley that may be used for future

County space needs. The Resolution establishes two essential conditions that must be satisfied prior to closing: 1) re-zoning approved by the City of Foley from Residential to a B-1 Business District, and 2) completion of Phase 1 and 2 environmental assessments and the determination no soil remediation is required. Headley added that he would be bringing the re-zoning application to the City of Foley today and if accepted, it would be on the February 14th City of Foley Planning Commission Meeting. Headley stated that Braun Intertec has begun phase 1 of the environmental assessment but does not have an expected date for completion. Headley also stated that this process follows the same process used when the Eisenschenk property was acquired. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Popp to adopt a Resolution authorizing a Purchase Agreement for Parcels within the City of Foley for future County Space needs with the two essential conditions that must be satisfied prior to closing. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley requested the County Board to consider revisions to assignments to the various Boards and Commissions. Heinen stated he spoke with Mary Otsby from the Benton County Fair Board, and she stated that it is not in their by-laws yet to have a member of the County Board to be a member of the Benton County Fair Board. They will be having a meeting soon to add this to their by-laws. Then, Headley asked for voluntary appointments to the East Central Regional Juvenile Center Advisory Board with Lino Lakes. After a brief discussion, the County Board decided that it would be appropriate and make the “most sense” to have Gapinski and Heinen appointed to this Board because of other committees they are assigned to that would tie into the East Central Regional Juvenile Center Advisory Board. Schlangen was appointed as an alternate to the Board. Last, Headley requested appointments to the Labor Negotiating Committee. After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep Heinen and Popp on the Labor Negotiating Committee. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to adopt the County Board assignments of Gapinski and Heinen, and Schlangen as an alternate to the East Central Regional Juvenile Center Advisory Board; Heinen and Popp on the Labor Negotiating Committee; and to wait until the Benton County Fair Board has adopted into their by-laws language that states a member of the County Board will be a member of the Benton County Fair Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley requested the County Board consider appointments to the Benton County Extension Committee. Headley stated that after speaking with Lori Vicich, Regional Director, Extension at the University of Minnesota, the following Extension Committee members’ terms have expired and are eligible for re-appointment: Julie Johnson – District 5 (Schlangen); Linda G. Tenneson – District 3 (Heinen); and Rick Gilbertson – At Large Member. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Popp to appoint to the Extension Committee: Julie Johnson – District 5; Linda G. Tenneson – District 3; and Rick Gilbertson – At Large Member. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Gapinski requested to discuss the topic of a Mediation Class through AMC and the League of Minnesota Cities under Commissioner Concerns. Gapinski asked the other County Board members if this class should be paid for privately or if this class could be paid for by Benton County and what they feel is most appropriate. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Mediation Class would be beneficial to Benton County and Benton County would fund this class through the Central Training budget. Motion by Popp and seconded by Heinen to have Benton County pay for the Mediation Class through AMC and the

League of Minnesota Cities from the Central Training budget. Gapinski abstained from the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:36 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:47 AM.

Next, County Board members reported on Commissioner updates and recent meetings they attended on behalf of the County.

Johnson/Popp to set Committees of the Whole: Thursday, February 17, 2022 Township Officers Association Meeting, Minden Township Hall, 7:00 PM; Tuesday March 1, 2022 County Board Recognition of Employee Years of Service Milestones beginning at the Sheriff's Office at 7:00 AM, Public Works Building at 7:30 AM, Human Services 3rd Floor Conference Room at 8:00 AM, and the County Board Room at 8:30 AM; Wednesday, March 2, 2022 through Thursday, March 3, 2022 Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Conference at the InterContinental Hotel, St. Paul Riverfront, St. Paul, MN, start time to be determined at a later date; Tuesday, March 8, 2022 County Board Goal-Setting Session at Jack & Jim's in Duelm, MN at 10:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:24 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Steven J. Heinen, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Montgomery Headley
Benton County
Administrator