

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 3, 2022

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on May 3, 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 Scott Johnson, Steve Heinen, Jared Gapinski and Ed Popp present. Commissioner Beth Schlangen was absent at the time of roll call.

County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested to amend the Regular Agenda to consider an agreement with SRF to provide grant application services to the Park Commission as the third item under County Administrator at 9:20 AM, and to consider a Proclamation declaring the week of May 15 – 21 as Emergency Medical Services Week under Comments by Commissioners at 9:40 AM. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Popp to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Motion by Popp and seconded by Gapinski to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 - 12: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the revised Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of April 18, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) accept and file the Management Team Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022; 5) approve a Resolution supporting the DNR grant application by Benton County Snowmobile Club and authorize the Chair to sign; 6) accept and file the Benton County's Notice of Pay Equity Compliance; 7) approve an application for County Combination On-Sale, and Off Sale & Sunday Sale Liquor Licenses and authorize the Chair to sign; 8) approve the Assessing Contracts with the following jurisdictions: Maywood Township, St. George Township, the City of Sauk Rapids and the City of Gilman and authorize the Chair to sign; 9) approve the maintenance agreement with Motorola and authorize the Chair to sign; 10) approve the 2022 Boat and Water Safety Grant and authorize the Chair to sign; 11) approve the Resolution accepting grant funding from Benton Telecommunications Foundation for PAL program and authorize the Chair to sign; 12) approve the Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant contract and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Sheriff Troy Heck requested to approve the Proclamation for National Police Week in Benton County. Heck stated May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> has been designated as National Police Week. This designation honors the men and women of our nation's law enforcement agencies who work to ensure citizens may live their lives without fear of harm or loss. These dedicated men and women work under difficult and dangerous conditions dealing with violent, mentally ill, and dangerous individuals. These law enforcement officers also work with citizens and community groups to act as a positive force in their communities. Benton County has a talented and dedicated group of professional peace officers serving our County. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to approve the proclamation for National Police Week in Benton County from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Land Services Director Roxanne Achman requested to approve a contract for the cleanup of 9450 Hwy 10 NW, Rice, MN (the former King's Inn site) due to a fire. Achman stated that the original company set to do the work (All State Companies) can no longer complete the work. Achman stated that Landwehr Construction, Inc. had initially supplied a bid of \$69,165.00 to complete the work. Landwehr's cost decreased from the initial bid and is now \$66,500 for the cleanup of the former King's Inn site. Achman requested the County Board approve the contract with Landwehr to complete the clean-up contingent upon property owner Mr. Thomas Ranallo signing and returning the contract to Benton County. Achman added that Landwehr can start the cleanup efforts the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>, instead of June as was agreed upon with All State Companies. Johnson added that he is in favor of this, however a news article stated that they anticipate the County Board approving this changed contract, and Johnson had no knowledge of this and stated he "does not appreciate the news talking about something they may be taking action on before they act on it." Heinen stated he shared his same concerns. Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to award the contract to Landwehr contingent on receiving the signed contract by Mr. Ranallo for the sum of \$66,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Kurt Hunstiger, Mayor of Sauk Rapids and Benton County appointee to the St. Cloud Regional Airport Authority, along with Brian Myers, Airport Authority Chair provided an update on the County Board activities of the Authority and future plans for the airport. This item was for informational purposes only. No action was taken; no motion was made.

Next, County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested the County Board consider approving supplemental funding to complete the installation of the playground equipment at Benton Beach. The estimated cost to install the donated playground equipment is approximately \$28,000. Parks Commission Committee member Greg Bruestle stated that there have been pledges made to help cover the costs of installation. Rice Sportsmen's Club will donate up to \$3,000 and Langola Township will donate up to \$10,000 (\$4,000 from Park Dedication/\$6,000 from Township funds). Bruestle plans on going to other Townships and businesses to request donations to help cover the costs of installation. Property Management Director Jeff Dingmann added that the installer is ready to install the playground equipment and anticipates it will take approximately 3 – 4 days to be fully installed. Heinen requested that Dingmann look into applying for a SCORE grant to help cover costs of wood chips or sand for the playground, and to look into which would be better suited at the playground. Motion by Heinen and seconded by Gapinski to approve supplemental funding up to \$15,000 to complete installation of the playground equipment at Benton Beach to come from the County's Contingency fund. Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:42 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:44 AM.

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

Under Comments by Commissioners, Gapinski requested the County Board consider a proclamation to declare the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup> as Emergency Medical Services Week. Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to approve the proclamation to declare the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 21<sup>st</sup> as Emergency Medical Services Week. Motion carried unanimously.

Popp/Johnson to set Committees of the Whole: Friday, May 20, 2022 D.A.R.E. Culmination Ceremony for Foley Intermediate School Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Students, Foley High School Auditorium, Foley, MN, 1:30 PM; Monday, June 13, 2022 AMC District 5 Meeting, Wright County Government Center, 3650 Braddock Ave NE, Buffalo, MN 55313, 8:00 AM; Road Tour starting at the Benton County Board Room, Foley, 8:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beth Schlangen was present at the Regular Board Meeting at 9:59 AM.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Popp to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 10:02 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Steven J. Heinen, Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator