

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 5, 2022

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 5, 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.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

No one was present to speak at the Open Forum.

Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 7: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the Resolution to Disband the Region 7W CEDS Joint Powers Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve a Resolution to amend the 2022 Property Management budget and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) approve the application for 1 Special Event Permit request by Deanna Rosa, d/b/a Rollies, LLC and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) approve two applications for MN Lawful Gambling with Resolution to conduct Off-Site Gambling for Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club and authorize the Chair to sign; 6) approve a contract with RT Vision for a Campground Reservation System and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) accept and file the Administrator's Report; Monthly Financial Report through May 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Human Services Director Robert Cornelius requested to hold a public hearing on the proposed changes to the Human Services Fee schedule effective July 5, 2022. Cornelius noted that the fee schedule reflects revisions as proposed by Public Health. The proposed changes include:

- Removing the Child Passenger Safety Training – Group fee of \$57 per person billed to insurance
- Removing the car seat inspection fee of \$10 per seat
- Change the SKILLED NURSING Home Visit fee from \$140 to \$200 per visit billed to insurance
- Change Postpartum Depression Screening from \$35 to \$120 billed to insurance
- Change Child Development Assessment from \$35 to \$120 billed to insurance
- Change Disease Prevention and Control – Case Management from \$35 to \$120 billed to insurance
- Change Disease Prevention and Control – Direct Observed Therapy from \$35 to \$120 billed to insurance
- Remove the Radon Test Kit fee of \$5 short term/\$10 Long Term

The public hearing on the proposed changes to the Human Services Fee Schedule opened at 9:04 AM. No one was present in-person or virtually to speak. The public hearing closed at 9:05 AM. There were no emails, letters or other communications to be read into the record. The Department did not receive any comments or concerns from State agencies, cities or townships. Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to adopt the revised Benton County fee schedule with changes effective July 5, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested the County Board to consider Resolutions to commit American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to broadband projects as proposed by Benton Communications per the recommendation of the County’s Broadband Committee. Also, the Resolutions are requested by Benton Communications as part of its application for State of Minnesota Border to Border grant funds. The following are the project areas and a separate Border to Border Grant applications:

<u>Project/Resolution</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Provider Share</u>	<u>County Share</u>	<u>Grant Sought</u>
Golden Spike Road Project	\$2,806,021	\$930,196	\$893,718	\$982,107
NE Benton County	\$136,799	\$45,349	\$43,570	\$47,880
<u>Oak Park (Ronneby)</u>	<u>\$385,306</u>	<u>\$127,729</u>	<u>\$122,720</u>	<u>\$134,857</u>
Total	\$3,325,126	\$1,103,274	\$1,060,008	\$1,164,844

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to adopt the first Resolution to aid in the construction of a broadband network and committing \$893,718 from its allocation of ARPA funding as a local match for a State of Minnesota Border to Border grant for project “Golden Spike Road/Mayhew Lake”. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to adopt the second Resolution to aid in the construction of a broadband network and to commit \$43,570 from its allocation of ARPA funding as a local match for a State of Minnesota Border to Border grant for project “Northeastern Benton County”. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to adopt the third Resolution to aid in the construction of a broadband network and to commit \$122,720 from its allocation of ARPA funding as a local match for a State of Minnesota Border to Border grant for project “Oak Park (Ronneby)”. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley requested discussion and possible direction regarding the organizational structure and staffing level for the Emergency Management function. Headley noted that with the retirement of our Emergency Management Director James McDermott, we have the opportunity to consider our options with this position. The position is currently a Full-Time position (35 hours/week) and Headley suggested to make this a Part-Time position. Headley also suggested that this position be housed either in Human Services or the Sheriff’s Office, or we could partner with Stearns County and enter into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for an Emergency Management position. Headley noted that if we entered into a JPA with Stearns County, there would not be much cost savings to the County. Headley also stated that we can cover things for the next couple of months until we either get the position filled or join a JPA with Stearns County. The County Board was in agreement that it would be better to be “over-prepared” than “underprepared” and suggested to keep this position a Full-Time position in Benton County. There was a consensus by the County Board to keep this position in Benton County and to have Cornelius and Fiscal Services Supervisor Peggy Koscielniak provide information regarding costs and job duties at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Next, Deputy Auditor Heather Bondhus provided information regarding the election procedures put in place by the Auditor-Treasurer at the beginning of June due to having two internal candidates for the position:

1. The two internal candidates will not be performing election judge duties such as assisting in-person voters, sending ballots by mail, processing absentee ballot applications, serving on the absentee ballot board, processing voted ballots, or tabulating election results. This is in accordance with Minnesota Statute §204B.19, Subdivision 2(4) which prohibits candidates from serving as an election judge.
2. On June 2nd, the Auditor-Treasurer's office reached out to the Benton County Attorney, Philip Miller via email to request that a staff member from the Attorney's office be present during results tabulation at the Auditor-Treasurer's office for both the August 9th State Primary Election and the November 8th General Election to observe the procedures.

Popp also suggested having a Deputy Sheriff present when Townships and Cities are bringing in ballots. This item was for informational purposes only. No action was taken; no motion was made.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:51 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:53 AM.

Next, Kendra Sommerfeld from Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) requested the County Board approve a Resolution adopting the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Sommerfeld stated that the Benton SWCD adopted the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 22, 2022. Sommerfeld stated that the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan's top priorities are to restore degraded waters, protect high water quality resources, protecting groundwater quality and restoring/protecting upland and aquatic habitat. Sommerfeld added that there will be a major emphasis on outreach. Sommerfeld stated the total estimated costs for the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan over the next 10 years is \$34,947,325. Sommerfeld noted they will receive a grant for \$1,011,327 in 2023 that needs to be used by 12/31/2025 and will also receive approximately \$2 million every two years from the Board of Soil and Water Resources (State funding), and the SWCD and partners will be responsible for applying for additional funding for the remaining costs of this plan. There were three motions made regarding the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan: the first was a motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to approve the Resolution which adopts the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Motion carried unanimously. The second was a motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to adopt the Joint Powers Agreement for the implementation of the Rum River Comprehensive Water Management Plan. Motion carried unanimously. The third was a motion by Gapinski and seconded by Schlangen to appoint Popp to serve as the standing representative of Benton County and Johnson as the alternate representative on the Rum River Watershed Implementation Partnership. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Achman requested approval of the MOU for the Mississippi St. Cloud Watershed water management planning process. Assistant County Attorney Michelle Meyer stated that the MOU is ready for signatures, however, on page 6 of the MOU, letter c, they are waiting for final verbiage with the last

sentence stating: "Each party will need to indicate in its resolution whether the plan will be supplemental to the party's water plan or will replace its water plan". Meyer stated the contract has been approved by the SWCD's both ways, therefore the MOU could be approved by the County Board today. Johnson asked if we could table this until the next Regular Board Meeting to have a "clean" contract without any discrepancies. Meyer stated they could. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Schlangen to table the MOU for the Mississippi St. Cloud Watershed water management planning process until a future Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Board members reported on recent meetings they attended on behalf of Benton County.

Under Comments by Commissioners, Gapinski wanted to make sure we are keeping the Committee of Townships, Cities and the County for overall updates on the forefront.

Johnson/Gapinski to set the Committees of the Whole: Budget Presentations on Monday, August 8th from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Tuesday, August 9th from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the County Boardroom in Foley. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to adjourn the Regular Board meeting at 10:25 AM.

ATTEST:

Steven J. Heinen, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator