

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 6, 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 agenda to add the Management Representation Letter related to the audit of the 2021 Benton County Financial Statements as Consent item number 12. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no one present from the public to speak under Open Forum.

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Popp to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 12: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) accept and file the Management Team Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2022; 4) accept and file the Administrator's Report through July 31, 2022; 5) appoint Kevin Renslow to the Park Commission to serve the remaining unexpired term of Park Commission Member Cindy Voit, representing Commissioner District 3; 6) approve the S.C.O.R.E. City of Foley Purchase Money Security Agreement for eight (8) Kirby built Hampton Benches' 6' bench/brown, item number ABC 1350-BN and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) approve the Board Certification to the County Auditor/Treasurer for Tax Year 2023 Benton County Solid Waste Fee Assessment and authorize the Chair to sign; 8) approve the Professional Services Agreement with Erickson Engineering and authorize the Chair to sign; 9) approve the Special Road Use Permit for the American Legion Car Show and authorize the Chair to sign; 10) approve a contract with Advanced Correctional Health, Inc. for jail medical services and authorize the Chair to sign; 11) accept a donation from Sauk Rapids VFW Auxiliary through the Central MN K-9 Foundation and authorize the Chair to sign; 12) approve the Management Representation Letter related to the audit of the 2021 Benton County Financial Statements and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Sheriff Troy Heck presented the life-saving awards ceremony. On November 10, 2021, Alan Frerich was operating a tractor at his residence in Maywood Township. While working around his home with the tractor, Mr. Frerich fell from the tractor and suffered a severe laceration on his leg, resulting in a wound that was bleeding significantly. Mr. Frerich was able to make a rudimentary tourniquet from items found around him, call 911, and called his neighbor Greg Ransom. Mr. Ransom and a host of first responders arrived on scene to begin caring for Mr. Frerich. Upon his arrival, Deputy Cody Eisenschenk replaced Mr. Frerich's improvised tourniquet with a tourniquet from his medical supplies, significantly slowing the blood flow from Mr. Frerich's leg. Subsequent arriving first responders continued to care for Mr. Frerich and ensure he was transported safely for further medical care. The prompt and professional response from every link in the first responder chain preserved Mr. Frerich's well-being from what was a

serious and life-threatening wound. Present to receive the life-saving awards were Greg Ransom, Benton County Public Safety Dispatcher Joyce Zika, Mark Pappenfus, Todd Foreman, Travis Sweno, Jay Howard, Dan James, Benton County Public Safety Dispatcher Justin Wendland, Benton County Deputy Sheriff Cody Eisenschenk, Jeff Ellingworth, Eric Single, Jake Johnson, Jerry Erickson and Eric Thoerner.

Next, Land Services Director Roxanne Achman requested the County Board to consider the adoption of the proposed assessment of \$67,985.00 for the total cleanup of the property formerly known as King's Inn located at 9450 Highway 10 NW, Rice, MN. On September 12, 2021 a fire destroyed the former King's Inn. All cleanup efforts were completed as of May 20, 2022. In accordance with the agreement signed by Mr. Thomas Ranallo on May 4, 2022 and by the Benton County Board of Commissioners on May 9, 2022, Mr. Ranallo has agreed to repay the cleanup costs and have a special assessment placed on the property under the following terms: 1) the cleanup costs are not to exceed \$70,000; 2) the assessment shall be payable in one installment; and 3) the assessment shall bear an interest rate of 3 percent. Achman noted that a Quit Claim Deed was recorded on May 16, 2022 conveying the subject property from Thomas Ranallo to his brother, Lawrence C. Ranallo. Both Thomas Ranallo and Lawrence Ranallo were present at today's meeting. Mr. Thomas Ranallo asked for an extension of one year to pay off the assessment. Assistant County Attorney Michelle Meyer stated that statute requires that the assessment be paid in a single payment installment and payment arrangements will be made with the Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Meyer stated she is unsure if they could extend the date of the payment, but the Ranallo's could contact the Auditor-Treasurer's Office to discuss options. Motion by Popp and seconded by Gapinski to adopt the Resolution on the proposed assessment of \$67,985.00 for the cleanup of the property formerly known as King's Inn located at 9450 Highway 10 NW, Rice, MN. Motion carried unanimously.

Then, NextEra Energy provided a presentation to the County Board on potential utility scale solar projects. This was for informational purposes only.

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

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:49 AM.

Next, County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested the County Board approve the recommended plans by Marsh & McLennon Agency (MMA) regarding Third Party Administrator (TPA) services for employee health insurance plans. Tim Hanson of MMA was present virtually to provide information and insight on this. Our current TPA for employee health insurance services PreferredOne was acquired by United Health Care in 2021 and has announced they will bring PreferredOne under the UHC fold completely by the end of 2022. As a result of the announcement, a TPA change is inevitable. MMA conducted a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a replacement provider for employee health insurance services. This change will affect all 7 Collaborative members. The results of the RFP were reviewed and voted on by the collaborative board and Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) was selected as the new TPA. The key details leading to this decision were: 1) BCBS total costs were \$1 million under current maximum costs (overall); 2) plan benefits were matched; 3) \$250K was included to offset

additional administration costs for the transition from PreferredOne; 4) Stop Loss rates were capped for 2024 and administrative rates were capped for 2024 and 2025; and 5) no Stop Loss Lasers were applied or ever have been by BCBS. MMA recommends moving TPA services away from PreferredOne to Blue Cross Blue Shield effective 01/01/2023. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Popp to approve the recommendations provided by Marsh & McLennon Agency to move TPA services away from PreferredOne to Blue Cross Blue Shield effective 01/01/2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley requested to select a firm for Benton County Government Center Space Needs Study, and to direct the County Administrator to bring a contract with the selected firm to the County Board for approval. The County Board interviewed five architectural firms on August 29, 2022. These firms had responded to an RFP to conduct a space needs study for the Government Center. Headley stated he was directed by the County Board to contact references on GLT Architects of St. Cloud, MN and Headley stated he received nothing but compliments from the references for GLT Architects. Headley requested to endorse working with GLT Architects and to bring back a contract with the County Board. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to select GLT Architects for a Benton County Government Center Space Needs Study and to direct Headley to bring a contract for County Board approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, County Engineer Chris Byrd requested the County Board to approve an agreement with BNSF for railroad crossing repair. Byrd stated BNSF is planning to replace the rail crossing warning system at the crossing on Benton County Road 40 near TH 10, known as Halfway Crossing. BNSF is expecting Benton County to participate in the costs of replacement including the crossing surfacing material. They have provided an estimate of costs that puts the County participation amount at \$59,200. Assistant County Attorney Michelle Meyer stated that she has reviewed the contract and recommended insurance language which was rejected by BNSF and stated BNSF should be willing to indemnify the County for any potential hazards it may create in the abutting county right of way. Motion by Popp and seconded by Johnson to approve the agreement with BNSF and to use funds from the Wheelage Tax fund to cover the cost of \$59,200. Motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no comments by Commissioners.

Johnson/Popp to set the Committees of the Whole: Monday, October 17, 2022, discussion on Eagle View Commons Septic System and ARPA Funds update, Benton County Boardroom, Foley, 9:00 AM; Monday, October 24, 2022 Fall AMC District 5 Meeting, Meeker County Courthouse, 325 Sibley Ave N Litchfield, MN, 8:00 AM; Monday, October 10, 2022 Human Services Committee of the Whole, Third Floor Conference Room, Foley, 8:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

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Steven J. Heinen, Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator