

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 4, 2022

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 4, 2022, in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN. Call to order by Vice-Chair Scott Johnson was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A roll call showed Commissioners Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Jared Gapinski and Ed Popp present. Chair Steve Heinen was absent. Vice-Chair Johnson noted the absence excused.

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

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

Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Schlangen to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 2: 1) approve the Special Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2022 and authorize the Vice-Chair to sign; 2) approve the application for County Combination On-Sale & Sunday Liquor License for Oak Hill Golf Course and authorize the Vice-Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, County Administrator Montgomery Headley invited Human Resources Director Johanna Mattson and Client Director Tim Hanson from Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA), (Benton County's broker) to share the recommendation for employee health insurance funding (premium rates) for 2023. Hanson reported that we have paid 82% of our net claims so far this year and anticipates we will be sitting at 85% to 90% by year end. Hanson stated that MMA conducted a market search as PreferredOne was acquired by United Health Care and we were no longer able to stay with PreferredOne as our third-party administrator. Blue Cross & Blue Shield was selected from the request for proposal process after MMA's independent analysis. Hanson stated that in order to fund at what is anticipated for 2023 and add \$166,000 to our reserves, a total funding increase of 12% is needed. This will add 1.4 months to the current reserve of 1.5 months for a total of 2.9 months of claim reserves. The target reserve is 6 months of claim costs, or \$1,531,065. Motion by Popp to approve the recommendation of MMA to increase the funding factor by 12% for 2023. Seconded by Gapinski. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Finance Director Jackie Traut invited Kristin Houle of Clifton Larson Allen, LLP to present a summary of the results of Benton County's 2021 audit. It was noted that Benton County had a clean or unmodified audit. This agenda item was for informational purposes only.

The Regular County Board meeting recessed at 9:26 AM.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:30 AM.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:30 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:34 AM.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) trip to Washington, D. C. this coming October. The APO will be traveling to Washington, D. C. to seek federal funding for regional transportation projects. The County may wish to send representatives on this APO trip to bring attention to the CSAH 29 Corridor Project. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Popp to approve the APO Trip to Washington, D. C. in October to seek federal funding for regional transportation projects, and that either Gapinski or Heinen would attend, and to allow a maximum travel expense of \$2,000. Motion carried unanimously. Gapinski added that if this event did not look to be beneficial to attend, Gapinski or Heinen would not attend the event.

Next, County Administrator Montgomery Headley provided the Administrator's Report. Headley reported on the agreement with GLT Architects on space study, bond scenarios from Northland Securities, Labor negotiations, the County Board Policy Handbook, MICA Legislative Conference in January, and the 2022 Board goals update at a Committee of the Whole. This was for informational purposes only.

Next, County Engineer Chris Byrd requested the County Board to approve MNDOT Agreement No. 1050707 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation. This agreement would provide for payment by the County to the State for the County's share of the costs for the signal construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 23 from 0.1 mile west of Lincoln Avenue to 0.1 mile west of County Road No. 1 within the limits of the City of St. Cloud. As part of MNDOT's TH 23/TH 10 interchange project the traffic signals at Benton CSAH 8 are being reconstructed. We have a cost-participation obligation of \$105,036.19. This agreement stipulates our cost and maintenance responsibility during and after construction. The funds for this will come from our State Aid allotment. Byrd added that this would be a one-time cost to Benton County and the City of St. Cloud would be responsible for any maintenance and monthly payments thereafter. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Popp to approve the MNDOT Agreement No. 1050707 to adopt the Resolution and Agreement for the reconstruction of traffic signals in the amount of \$105,036.19. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Under Comments by Commissioners, Gapinski asked Headley about the contract with GLT Architects, and when can we look at the next steps? Headley stated he did not have an answer at this time but is hopeful that we can begin soon than later.

Johnson/Popp to set the Committees of the Whole: Monday, October 31, 2022 Human Services Committee of the Whole Meeting, Human Services Third Floor Conference Room, Foley, 9:00 AM; GSDC All Investors/Partners Meeting, Iron Street Distillery & Harvest Square, 539 St. Germain St. E., St. Cloud, MN 11:30 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.

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Scott Johnson, Vice-Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator