

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 20, 2021

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 20, 2021 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, and Steve Heinen present. Commissioner Gapinski was absent due to a prior pre-approved commitment. Commissioner Beth Schlangen was present at 9:02 AM. Call to order by Chair Popp was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

County Administrator Montgomery Headley requested to pull the discussion and possible direction on Broadband Fiber to AIM Sartell Paper Mill Site at 9:05 AM. Also, Heinen requested to add the APO Grant discussion under County Engineer Chris Byrd's topics at 9:09 AM. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Schlangen requested to "pull" Consent Agenda item # 5 for further discussion. Motion by Schlangen and seconded by Heinen to approve the remaining Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 6, 2021 as written; 2) approve the Letter of Understanding with AFSCME Council 65 Representing Human Services Employees to implement the 2021 Classification and Compensation Study and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve the Letter of Understanding with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local No. 49 representing Highway Maintenance Employees to implement the 2021 Classification and Compensation Study results and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) approve the Resolution to accept the donation from the Friends of Graves Farm and authorize the Chair to sign; 6) approve a motion to rescind the Benton County Local State Emergency in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) approve the unpaid leave request for a part-time Transport Officer. Motion carried unanimously. Regarding Consent Agenda item # 5 (to consider a motion to re-appoint David Rixe and Mary Kivi to the Benton County Parks Commission for three-year terms ending June 30, 2024) Schlangen stated that she had not gotten confirmation from Kivi that she would continue serving on the Parks Commission. Headley stated that he felt confident that Kivi will continue to be on the Parks Commission and Kivi informed Headley that she will be at the next meeting in August. Schlangen also asked about David Rixe and Headley stated he got confirmation that Rixe will be serving on the Parks Commission. Motion by Schlangen and seconded by Johnson to approve Consent Agenda item # 5 to re-appoint David Rixe and Mary Kivi to the Benton County Parks Commission for three-year terms ending June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Byrd asked the County Board to conduct a public hearing on the minor alteration of County Ditch No. 11 replacement of Bridge L5806 – CR 80 over Mayhew Creek. The County Board discussed this at the June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and adopted a Resolution at the Special Meeting held on June 23, 2021 for the purposes of informing the public and to proceed with the plans. The public hearing started at 9:10 AM. No one from the public was present at the public hearing. The public hearing closed at 9:11 AM. Byrd stated there were no emails, letters or other communications to be read into the record. Also,

the Department had not received any comments or concerns from any State agencies, cities or townships on this agenda item. No motion was made. No action was required.

After the public hearing on the minor alteration of County Ditch No. 11 replacement of Bridge L5806 – CR 80 over Mayhew Creek, Byrd asked the County Board to award a construction contract for tied projects SAP 005-598-023 and SP 005-598-025. These projects pertain to the bridge replacement on CR 50 in St. George Township and the bridge replacement on CR 80 over Mayhew Creek in Minden Township. Byrd stated that Landwehr came in as the lowest responsible bidder, however, they were about \$90,000 over the original estimated cost of the tied projects. Byrd stated that material costs and availability of materials played a major role as to why the cost went up significantly. Byrd is recommending the County Board to award the construction to Landwehr. Byrd anticipates the project will start on or around November 1, 2021. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Schlangen to award construction contract for tied projects SAP 005-598-023 and SP 005-598-025. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Byrd discussed the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) Grant. Byrd has applied for an APO grant, and if awarded, he would like to use those funds for a study on Mayhew Lake Road (CSAH 1) from Highway 23 to CSAH 29. Byrd stated he has gotten feedback from Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, the city, members of the public and the Benton County Sheriff's Office that there are concerns about the entrances to the school. Byrd added that there has been an accident as well as a lot of near misses reported on that road. Byrd would like to extend the study out to Highway 23 because of the addition of multi-family housing, plus the industrial park and other factors that affect traffic on CSAH 1. Heinen wanted to bring this forward today because Gapinski and Heinen have been getting inquiries from the city and the school on how to lower the traffic speeds on CSAH 1. Byrd hopes that by doing a study on this we will have a plan on how to address these issues in the future. Heinen requested that the study be done while school is in session. There was a consensus from the County Board to have Byrd give the County Board updates on the APO Grant. No action was needed.

The Regular County Board Meeting was recessed at 9:34 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 9:55 AM.

Next, Headley asked the County Board to approve a Resolution Proclaiming July 27, 2021 as County Staff Appreciation Day to recognize the work of County employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. July 27, 2021 was also proclaimed County Staff Appreciation Day by Governor Walz and the Association of Minnesota Counties. The County Board would like to say thank you to all County employees by preparing and hosting a lunch on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Benton County Property Management building. The County Board funded this event with their own monies and no County funds were used for this event. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve the Resolution Proclaiming July 27, 2021 as County Staff Appreciation Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Then, Headley asked the County Board to consider a proposal from Vetter Johnson Architects for space needs studies at hourly rates described in the proposal. At the June 16, 2021 Committee of the Whole

Meeting, the County Board reached a consensus to ask Vetter Johnson to study options for new construction on the site of the old Highway Building. In response, Vetter Johnson provided a proposal. Headley was also directed at the Committee of the Whole meeting to obtain asking prices for two parcels of land in Foley as possible locations of County offices. Vetter Johnson has structured this proposal as an “hourly rate” agreement so it has the flexibility to look at those two sites as well should the County Board so direct. Headley would like to have a closed session meeting regarding this at the next Regular Board meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 to discuss the asking prices of the parcels that are of interest to Benton County.

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

There were no Commissioner concerns to report at this time.

Heinen/Johnson to set Committees of the Whole: County Staff Appreciation Day Luncheon provided by the Commissioners at the Property Management Building, Tuesday, July 27, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Drone demo by the Benton County Sheriff’s Office at the Benton County Public Works building at 10:30 AM or upon conclusion of Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.

ATTEST:

Edward D. Popp, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator