

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 17, 2021

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 17, 2021 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, Jared Gapinski and Steve Heinen present. Commissioner Beth Schlangen was present at 9:01 AM. Call to order by Chair Popp was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2021 as written; 2) approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2021 as written; 3) approve the request for a Resolution to appoint Benton County Attorney Philip Miller as the “authorized signer” for Benton County’s Attorney’s Office to apply for a \$70,000 Victim Services Grant; 4) approve Certificate of Correction to the plats of Country Hillside Acres and Country Hillside Acres 2 and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) approve the Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Benton Economic Partnership (BEP) Director Amanda Othoudt gave a brief introduction of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Brownfield Assessment Grant proposal. Benton County and BEP, through a Request for Proposal (RFP) sought out qualified environmental consulting firms to provide grant application assistance to obtain federal funding to further the County and BEP’s efforts with brownfield redevelopment throughout the County. A proposal was received from Stantec, Inc. Project Manager Heidi Peper from Stantec, Inc. provided information about Stantec, Inc., and on the grant application assistance and coalition formation, environmental inventory enhancements, community involvement, grant implementation related to the US EPA brownfield grant, including but not limited to the application for the US EPA Community-wide Assessment (CWA) grants for Hazardous Substances Brownfields and Petroleum Brownfields as part of the US EPA Brownfields Grant Competition for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The maximum amount allowed for the grant could be \$700,000. The final agreement will be negotiated by BEP and reviewed by the County Administrator and County Attorney before final approval by the County Board. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to move forward with selected consultant Stantec, Inc., and to approve the second option for costs where Stantec will provide grant application assistance and coalition formation at no cost to the County , and, should a FY 2022 US EPA CWA grant be awarded, the environmental inventory enhancements, community involvement and grant implementation will be provided on a time-and-materials basis using the fee schedule and according to the workplan submitted in the grant application. Motion carried with a four to one vote, with Schlangen voting nay.

Next, the Department of Development Director Roxanne Achman requested to conduct a public hearing to consider Ordinance # 482 to rezone 2.78 acres from the "R-1" Single Family Residence District to the "A" Agricultural District in accordance with Section 11.9 of the Benton County Development Code for the purpose of using the lot for the site of their concrete contracting business. The Public Hearing opened at 9:42 AM. Kristina Dierkes of 9950 NE River Rd Rice, MN, the owner of the property, was present. Achman noted that parcels to the North and East of the subject parcel are currently zoned Agricultural. Also, the applicants own the adjacent residential parcel to the South and the agricultural parcel to the East. No members of the public were present for the public hearing. The public hearing closed at 9:43 AM. There were no emails, letters or other communications to be read into the record. Achman stated their department has not received any comments or concerns from any State agencies or cities on this agenda item. Achman stated that Watab Township discussed this at a previous board meeting and is supportive of this request. Commissioner Johnson stated the Planning Commission was unanimous in their approval and are in favor of this request. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve Ordinance # 482 to rezone 2.78 acres from the "R-1" Single Family Residence District to the "A" Agricultural District for the purpose of using the lot for the site of their concrete contracting business. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Tri-County Humane Society (TCHS) Manager of Fund Development Crystal Cory gave a budget presentation on behalf TCHS to the County Board. Cory was not able to attend the 2022 Budget Presentations last week due to a prior commitment. This item was for informational purposes only.

Then, Land Services Director Michael Harvey gave a budget presentation and policy request to the County Board for the Land Services Department. Harvey was not able to attend the 2022 Budget Presentations last week due to a prior commitment. This agenda item was for informational purposes only. Popp had an additional comment for Harvey. Popp stated that he had received a complaint that Harvey was not at the Special Board of Equalization Meeting this past June. Popp also stated that Harvey was not here for the 2022 Budget presentations and felt both meetings are very important that he attend. Gapinski stated he was in agreement with Popp.

The Regular County Board Meeting was recessed at 10:16 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 10:25 AM.

Next, Veteran Service Officer George Fiedler requested that the County Board approve a Resolution from the State of MN providing Benton County \$10,000 to spend on veteran services activities such as marketing, travel expenses to trainings and software maintenance. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve the Resolution for the County Veteran Service Officer Minnesota Operational Enhancement Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Public Works Director Chris Byrd provided the County Board an update on Sales Tax for Transportation. This agenda item was for informational purposes only.

Then, Byrd provided an update on the ditches. Byrd is waiting for the Viewers Report and once that is received and reviewed, they can set up public hearings for the ditches. Johnson would like to get the public hearings scheduled sooner than later. Popp was in agreement especially with the dry weather to have these contracts awarded before winter.

Next, County 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/Gapinski to set Committees of the Whole: an additional Work Session on Proposed 2022 Budget and Levy at the Benton County Boardroom at 9:00 AM on Monday, September 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Heinen and seconded by Johnson to recess the Regular County Board meeting at 11:06 AM to conduct a closed session meeting of the County Board under MN Statute §13D.05, Subdivision 3 to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase of sale of real or personal property on parcels 130112300 (the property adjacent to the Courts facility) and parcel 130030201 (old High School property). Motion carried unanimously.

Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 11:28 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 AM.

ATTEST:

Edward D. Popp, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator