

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 20, 2019

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on August 20, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Steve Heinen, Warren Peschl, Spencer Buerkle, Jake Bauerly and Ed Popp present. Call to order by Chair Bauerly was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Buerkle/Heinen unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 6, 2019 as written; 2) approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2019 as written; 3) authorize one new full-time Office Support Specialist position for the Human Services Eastgate Office at Grade 4; 4) approve up to 20 weeks of unpaid leave for employee from 07/08/19-11/04/19 as long as medical restrictions prevent them from fulfilling their duties at Benton County; 5) approve Resolution 2019-#26, authorizing change funds in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office, Sheriff's Office and Land Services, and authorize the Chair to sign; 6) approve Resolution 2019-#27, establishing loans from the Revenue Fund to the Ditch Fund for Ditch #13 and Ditch #15 repair and cleaning projects, and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) approve Amendment to Department of Corrections Work Release Contract, and authorize the Chair to sign; 8) approve amendment extending Contract for Services with *Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.* to February 29, 2020, and authorize the Chair to sign; 9) Board certification of the Benton County Solid Waste Fee Assessment to the County Auditor-Treasurer for tax year 2020, and authorize the Chair to sign; and 10) approve Purchase Money Security Agreement for S.C.O.R.E. Grant—*City of Foley*—for eight Hampton recycled park benches and twelve recycled flower planter boxes, and authorize the Chair to sign.

George Fiedler, Veteran Service Officer, reported that, during the 2013 legislative session, the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs County Veteran Service Officer grant program was modified and the state funding increased; the total provided to Benton County for 2019-2020 is \$10,000. Fiedler explained that the grant dollars can only be spent for specific items; he is recommending the money be spent for marketing, conference/travel expenses for training, and software maintenance for VIMS. Buerkle/Heinen unanimous to adopt Resolution 2019-#28, approving a contract with the State of MN providing Benton County \$10,000 to spend on veteran services as outlined in the list of approved items from the State of Minnesota, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that the Public Works Department has been working with the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Office to prepare a grant application to repair the streambank and protect the CSAH 3 Bridge over the Elk River. He stated that, to submit the grant application, SWCD would like to include a resolution of support from the County Board; the resolution states that Benton County is a partner in this project and would provide financial support in terms of a local match. Byrd noted that the local match is at least 25% of the total project cost; estimated project cost is \$46,000-\$60,000. He stated that the proposed repair would include adding riprap and toe wood. Byrd noted that if the grant is approved, Benton SWCD would like to enter into a contract with Benton County, stipulating that the County is the project owner and would be responsible for maintaining the project once it is completed. He stated his intent to have a conversation with

adjacent landowners regarding maintenance/mowing in the project area outside of the public right-of-way. Bauerly stated "...you may wish to research...if the landowner owns down to the water line, you might need his permission...if he owns to the edge of the bluff, then you wouldn't need permission... perhaps run by legal and research landowners' rights along the river...get something that gives the county the right to ingress/egress...to get in there and construct and maintain it...outside the public right-of-way..." Byrd stated "...this is in the best interest of the landowner too...if we don't do anything, they are going to continue to lose land..." Popp/Peschl unanimous to adopt Resolution 2019-#29, a resolution of support for the grant application and commitment to local match of the grant funds, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Chair Bauerly commented that there is still some confusion regarding the County Engineer's ability to enter into contracts; he requested that Byrd research the practices of neighboring counties in this regard.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:19 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board Meeting was reconvened at 9:25 AM.

Board members reported on recent meetings they attended on behalf of the county.

Under Commissioner Concerns, Chair Bauerly commented "...before we go into the budgeting process...after discussions yesterday about reserves...I would like to know a total of all the reserves that Benton County has...not only in our own county, but in all our joint powers...if we are pulling \$10-\$15 million out of Benton County's economy and it's just sitting there...maybe getting 1% interest...it's a reverse stimulus...I don't think it is government's role to be sitting on this money and making it non-productive...the money should stay in the taxpayers' pockets as long as possible...they will invest it in machinery and jobs or spend it in a restaurant...that's my wish...get a total of all our reserves and of all our associations..."

Popp/Peschl unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: August 29, Meeting of All Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation Investors and Partners; September 4, Budget; and September 12, Benton County Association of Township Officers' Meeting.

Buerkle/Heinen unanimous to adjourn at 9:52 AM.

A. Jake Bauerly, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

