

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on September 21, 2021 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN. Call to order by Chair Ed Popp was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A roll call showed Commissioners Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, Jared Gapinski and Steve Heinen present.

Public Works Director Chris Byrd requested to add a revised Resolution authorizing the purchase land for gravel operations under his Regular Agenda Item Request at 9:15 AM. Gapinski requested to add Broadband discussion under Commissioner Concerns. Motion by Heinen and seconded by Johnson to approve the amended agenda. 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 September 7, 2021; 2) accept and file the Management Team Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021; 3) approve the application for a Special Event Permit requested by Deanna Rosa, d/b/a Rollies, LLC; 4) approve the application for a 1 – 4 day temporary On-Sale Liquor License to St. Elizabeth Church for a special event to be held on October 16, 2021 and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) accept and file the Veterans Service Officer's Quarterly Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, each quarter Benton County recognizes Benton County employees that go above and beyond in their daily work. The Financial Assistance Unit (Eligibility Specialists and Lead Eligibility Specialists) were nominated by Financial Assistance Supervisors Lindsey Knosalla and Janel Sczublewski under the category of "Customer Service" for their extraordinary job of staying on top of the changing policies since the beginning of 2020 when COVID started where they endured consistent policy changes that needed to be implemented almost immediately. This unit has taken every day in stride to serve our population with ease, confidence, compassion and patience. The awards were presented by Human Services Director Robert Cornelius.

Next, Benton Economic Partnership (BEP) Director Amanda Othoudt requested the County Board to consider and agreement with Stantec for Brownfield Assessments. The BEP recommends an agreement with Stantec to apply for a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to identify and assess sites in Benton County that may contain hazardous materials and substances. Should Stantec secure the grant, it would complete the site assessments. Stantec's compensation will be derived from the grant at no cost to the County. BEP has been working with Stantec and the County Attorney's Office to finalize an agreement. Othoudt added that there have been a few modifications to the grant which include the total amount Benton County could receive would be \$500,000 instead of \$600,000, and we would need a community coalition instead of a task force. As of September 16, 2021, an agreement was not in final form for inclusion. To meet grant deadlines, County Board approval would be required at today's meeting. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve the Stantec Agreement for Brownfield

Assessments upon approval of final documents needing approval by Benton County's Attorney and Stantec's Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Headley introduced Clifton Allen Larson (CLA), the County's independent auditor, to present a summary of the 2020 audit results. Kristen Houle, on behalf of CLA, provided the County Board with a summary of the audit; an unmodified or "clean" opinion was issued on the financial statements which is the best rating for Counties. In 2020, new accounting standards were implemented in accordance to GASB No. 84 - Fiduciary Activities. New future accounting standards to be implemented include GASB No. 87 regarding leases and right-to-use assets. GASB 68 and GASB 71 regarding pension liability were implemented in 2015 and continue to have a big impact on the County's financial statements. This agenda item was for informational purposes only. No action or motion was required.

Next, Byrd requested the County Board approve a resolution and award a construction contract for tied projects SAP 005-603-033, SAP 005-605-013, SAP 005-622-015, and CP 005-070-002. These projects are full depth reclamation on CSAH 3, CSAH 22, and CR 70 and the mill and overlay on CSAH 5. Three bids were received and Knife River Corp, in the amount of \$5,566,147.60 was the lowest responsible bidder. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to adopt the resolution and award a construction contract to Knife River Corp for tied projects SAP 005-603-033, SAP 005-605-013, SAP 005-622-015, and CP 005-070-002. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Byrd requested the County Board approve a revised Resolution Authorization to purchase land for gravel pit operations. At the July 27, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the Board authorized and approved the purchase of the Eisenschenk gravel pit. Benton County is currently working toward a closing and discovered that the legal descriptions of the land were not matching. There is an additional parcel of land (0.5 acres) that the Eisenshenks own that was not considered. There is no change in the purchase price with the additional land to be included. Byrd noted the purchase price of \$1.2 million would be paid in full at closing instead of in installments as originally discussed. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Heinen to approve the revised Resolution authorizing the purchase land for gravel pit operations for \$1.2 million to be paid in full at closing.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:45 AM to conduct a Human Services Board Meeting.

The Regular Board meeting reconvened at 10:01 AM.

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

Under Commissioner Concerns, Gapinski wanted to discuss the possibility of paying Committee members of the Broadband Committee a mileage per diem. There was a consensus by the County Board to approve paying a per diem to the community members of the Broadband Committee.

Heinen/Johnson to set Committees of the Whole: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 Vetter Johnson Architects on potential building occupants and design costs at the Benton County Boardroom, Foley at

9:00 AM; Thursday, October 28, 2021 CARE Touching Tables for Seniors at New Life Church, 931 Norman Ave, Foley, MN 56329 at 12:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

ATTEST:

Edward D. Popp, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator