

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2019

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 15, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Ed Popp, Warren Peschl, Steve Heinen, Spencer Buerkle and Jake Bauerly present. Call to order by Chair Bauerly was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Peschl/Heinen unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Duane Walter (7665 Ronneby Road NE, Foley) and Gary Gruba (253 Birch Drive, Foley), appeared before the Board under Open Forum, representing the American Legion. Walter stated the Legion's desire to build a Veterans Memorial in the City of Foley, referring to a potential site by the Benton County Courts Facility near the southeast corner of the parking lot. He commented "...we would like to either get it donated...or we would lease it...or buy it"; the Legion would maintain the site and pay for associated costs such as electric and liability insurance. Walter stated the Legion's plan to open the project up to a design contest with designs due by the first of the year; their hope is to start construction in April/May with project completion by Memorial Day. He invited Board members to a public informational meeting to discuss the proposed Veterans Memorial to be held October 28th at 7:00 PM at the Legion; the Legion has currently raised \$4,500 toward a goal of \$30,000. Several Board members stated their support for this concept and Chair Bauerly thanked Walter and Gruba for their service.

Popp/Heinen unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2019 as written; 2) approve Agreement with *David Drown and Associates* to conduct a Classification and Compensation Study, and as-needed Job Classification Reviews, and authorize the Chair to sign; 3) approve *KnowInk* Contract for purchase of electronic poll books, and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) approve Renewal Application for On-Sale & Sunday Sale Liquor License—*Oak Hill Golf Club*, 8852 Indian Road NW, Rice—and authorize the Chair to sign; and 5) approve OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) Grant with the State of Minnesota, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Roxanne Achman, Department of Development Director, explained that the plat of "*Renkus Calm Waters*", submitted by property owner, Russell Pikus, and applicant, Mitchell Rengel, is located along the Mississippi River and County Road 55 in Watab Township; the plat consists of replatting three platted lots within Stanley's Addition into two single family lots. She stated that Mr. Pikus would create a 1.55 acre lot where his home is located and create a 1.08 acre lot just to the south; both of the newly-created lots would exceed the minimum lot requirements. Achman noted that Watab Township has provided their preliminary approval of the plat; an easement on the property will need to be defined before the County Attorney will sign off on the plat. Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve the final plat of "*Renkus Calm Waters*" as recommended by the Planning Commission, and authorize the Chair to sign, with the condition that the easement on the property be defined.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, reported that the Trunk Highway 23 Coalition is asking members to provide input on what they believe should be priority projects for the upcoming legislative session. He presented a listing of potential Highway 23 projects as prepared by the Coalition last fall; the Coalition is asking that Benton County rank their top three projects. Byrd referenced the four Benton County projects on the listing. Following brief discussion, the Board reached consensus on project rankings. Peschl/Popp unanimous to prioritize TH 23 Coalition projects as follows: #1, Construct Undivided 4-Lane

through City of Foley (1 mile); #2, Foley to Foreston 2 to 4 Lane Conversion (11 miles); #3, Highway 23 Passing Lanes between Foley to Foreston; and #4, Three-Lane Roadway 9th to 13th Avenue; New Bridge in Foley (this project is already in motion on the MnDOT side).

Engineer's Update: 1) CSAH 2 Reconstruction Project (99% complete); 2) CR 78 Project (has been impacted by rain, but are near final grade; may need to extend contract completion date); and 3) Routine Bridge Inspections Underway (using an inspector from WSB; Benton Highway closed a township road bridge October 8th due to safety concerns—bridge is located on 105th Street NE in Maywood Township between CR 67 and CR 7—this bridge will remain closed indefinitely; another bridge of safety concern is located on CR 22 at the west branch of the Rum River in Granite Ledge Township—the next step is to load rate and post this bridge and, for the longer term, develop a repair for this bridge).

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:38 AM to conduct a meeting of the Ditch Authority.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:48 and recessed to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:53 AM.

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

Under Commissioner Concerns, Commissioner Popp brought up a landowner issue along CR 78; the landowner was concerned about possible erosion near a bridge just south of CR 12. Administrator Headley stated he will bring this issue to the attention of the County Engineer.

Under Commissioner Concerns, Commissioner Peschl referenced the request of the American Legion (under Open Forum) to build a Veterans Memorial in the City of Foley. Headley stated his intent to gather additional information from Duane Walter on the Legion's request and any legal considerations of the County Attorney's Office; he will bring this item back to the Board for possible action.

Popp/Heinen unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: November 7, GSDC 2019 Innovation Awards.

Peschl/Buerkle unanimous to conduct a closed meeting of the County Board (at 10:13 AM), pursuant to MN Statutes §13D.03, Subdivision 1, to consider strategy for labor negotiations.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 11:16 AM.

Heinen/Peschl unanimous to adjourn at 11:17 AM.

A. Jake Bauerly, Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

