

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 2019

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 5, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Warren Peschl, Steve Heinen, 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.

Peschl/Heinen unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Gerald Wruck (1017 Garden Brook Drive, Sauk Rapids) was present under Open Forum, inquiring why Benton County had discontinued the foot clinics at the Whitney Center.

Popp/Heinen unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2019 as written; 2) accept and file Committee of the Whole Minutes of October 22, 2019 as written; 3) accept and file Management Team Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2019 as written; 4) approve Application for MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit—*MN Dark House & Angling Association-Central Chapter*—to conduct a raffle at Henry's Catering & Banquet Center, 6774 Highway 25 NE, Foley, on February 7, 2020; 5) approve Application for MN Lawful Gambling Exempt Permit—*Pheasants Forever Inc.*—to conduct a raffle at Henry's Catering & Banquet Center, 6774 Highway 25 NE, Foley, on March 14, 2020; 6) approve 2020 License Renewal for On & Off Sale of 3.2 Malt Liquor for *Silver Corners*; 7) adopt Resolution 2019-#35, accepting donation to Benton County Sheriff's Office K-9 Program from *Backing the Blue Line*, and authorize the Chair to sign; 8) approve contract with *CentraCare* for 2020 jail medical services, and authorize the Chair to sign; and 9) approve 2019 SCORE Grant Applications Round III as recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Troy Heck, County Sheriff, explained that, in December of 2000, the Benton County Board adopted the Minnesota State Archives General Records Retention Schedule for Counties; new statutes have created data retention periods that conflict with those listed on the schedule and new technology has produced new forms of data not included on the retention schedule. Heck stated that recordings from squad car cameras and body-worn cameras were never envisioned when the currently-adopted schedule was assembled; the proposed resolution adds these categories into the schedule and creates retention periods in line with state law and digital storage capacity. Buerkle/Peschl unanimous to adopt Resolution 2019-#36, updates to the county retention schedule, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Jackie Traut, Chair of the Benefits Advisory Committee, presented the Committee's recommendation to streamline and enhance employee benefit plan options:

- Effective 01/01/2020, Colonial Life supplemental insurance will be removed from the benefit options. Current enrollee premiums will no longer be managed through payroll deductions; employee premiums would be invoiced to the members directly by Colonial Life.
- Beginning 01/01/2020, the Pre-Tax 457(b) plan offered by John Hancock will begin a schedule to sunset the plan. Effective 01/01/2020-12/31/2020, John Hancock, Pre-Tax 457(b) payroll deductions may continue for existing plan members only. No new enrollees will be accepted after 01/01/2020. Effective 01/01/2021, contributions are no longer managed through payroll deductions. Effective 12/31/2021, Benton County discontinues contracted services with John Hancock and Wenzel Financial Services; employee accounts must be transferred to a different plan.

- Effective 1/01/2020, Benton County pursues the option of adding a Post-Tax 457(b) plan through the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), managed through payroll deductions. Heinen/Popp unanimous to approve the Employee Benefit Plan changes as recommended by the Benefits Advisory Committee.

Roxanne Achman, Department of Development Director, explained that staff, including the Assistant County Attorney, has been working with the consultants (HKGi) on preparing development code revisions to ensure that it meets the vision of the recently adopted 2040 comprehensive plan. She detailed topics which will be further discussed with the Planning Commission on November 14<sup>th</sup> including solar, protection of aggregate resources, accessory storage structures, feedlots, septic, and administrative plat/subdivisions.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:37 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:41 AM.

Monty Headley, County Administrator, reported that the remodeling of the Eastgate Offices in east St. Cloud for Human Services is about 95% complete; furniture installation and I.T. connectivity will occur in the next 5-6 weeks. He stated that one of the next steps will be developing a specific phased moving plan; it will likely be late December or early January before movement occurs. Headley stated he will schedule a tour of the remodeled offices for County Board members in a few weeks.

Engineer's Update by Chris Byrd, County Engineer:

- CR 78 construction project—all gravel is in place, but will likely need to rework some areas before paving; calendar completion date is the first Friday in June
- Future project: City of Foley received a transportation alternatives grant to build some trails/sidewalks in the city; a portion of the construction is part of a 2022 MnDOT project; Benton County will need to be the project sponsor/fiscal agent to receive Federal dollars in 2020—two agreements will be forthcoming, one between Benton County and the State, and one between Benton County and the City of Foley
- City of Rice intends to apply for a transportation alternatives grant to build a trail that connects to the Fox Meadow subdivision—connecting to the sidewalk along CSAH 2 that was constructed as part of the Rice Interchange project; Benton County would need to be the project sponsor/fiscal agent to receive Federal dollars and an agreement between Benton County and the City of Rice would be needed
- Proposed Reduced Conflict Intersection at Highway 23 and Benton County Road 8; Benton County's estimated cost participation in the signalization system at the two locations is \$108,000 (will use State Aid allotment); project agreements will be forthcoming
- Bridge inspections continue—bridges continue to decline in condition; one of particular concern is the bridge on CSAH 13 which crosses the Elk River which is experiencing significant deterioration and corrosion; staff will put together a repair project and, in the interim, will post for maximum load
- Byrd recognized Jack Brosh, one of Benton County's plow operators, who recently took first place in the MN Fall Maintenance Expo; Brosh placed first out of 86 city-county-state competitors at the expo that was held in St. Cloud. Brosh now advances to Nationals at the Western Snow & Ice Rodeo in Colorado next summer. Byrd commented "...this is the second year in a row that Benton County

has been represented...we are pretty proud of our snow plow guys...rest assured, we have some of the best snow plow drivers in the state..."

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

No Commissioner Concerns were noted.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: October 30, Open House for Future Reduced Conflict Intersection at Highway 23 and Benton County Road 8; November 12, Open House—Future Interchange and Pedestrian Improvements on Highways 10 and 23 in East St. Cloud; November 13, Public Information and Environmental Assessment Scoping Meeting in the Matter of the Applications of Regal Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the up to 100 MW Regal Solar Project in Benton County; December 4, Final Budget Review/Elected Official Salaries/Fee Schedule Review/Proposed Veterans' Memorial in the City of Foley; and December 9-11, AMC Annual Conference.

Buerkle/Heinen unanimous to adjourn at 10:28 AM.

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A. Jake Bauerly, Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator