

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2019

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on November 19, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Steve Heinen, Spencer Buerkle, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp and Warren Peschl 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 amended: add items—closed meeting to consider strategy for labor negotiations; closed meeting to discuss not-public medical data.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Popp/Buerkle unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2019 as written; 2) accept and file Administrator's Report/Monthly Financial Report as written; 3) approve Resolution 2019-#37, a resolution of support for the joint application with Stearns County to designate *Bend in the River Park* and *Stearns County Mississippi River Park* as regional parks, and authorize the Chair to sign; 4) approve agreement with *Hildi, Inc.* for a January 2020 OPEB Actuarial Study, and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) approve Resolution 2019-#38, amending the 2019 Highway Department road project budgets in Fund 13 and Fund 30, and authorize the Chair to sign; 6) approve Resolution 2019-#39, accepting donation to Benton County Parks, and authorize the Chair to sign; 7) annual approval of the County Emergency Operations Plan; 8) approve *NemoQ* contract for customer service queueing system, and authorize the Chair to sign; 9) approve application of *North Crest Athletic Association* for a temporary on-sale liquor license for special events held on November 23-24 and November 27 at Hinkemeyer Tree Farm, 12675 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, Rice; 10) approve Application for Exempt Permit for *St. Elizabeth Church* for a raffle, bingo and pull-tabs to be held at the church basement, 16454 – 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Foley, on March 13, 2020, March 27, 2020, June 28, 2020 and October 18, 2020; 11) approve Application for Exempt Permit for *Master National Host Committee 2020* for a raffle to be held at Molitor's Quarry, 3517 – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Sauk Rapids, on October 1, 2020; 12) approve Purchase Money Security Agreement for S.C.O.R.E. Grant—*City of St. Cloud*—for eleven by-the-yard, five-foot long, horizontal gray, plastic recycled park benches, and authorize the Chair to sign; 13) approve amendment to the County Jail Food Service contract with *Summit Food Service, LLC* and authorize the Chair to sign; 14) approve Joint Powers Agreement with the *Bureau of Criminal Apprehension* for reimbursement grant related to NIBRS (National Incident-Based Reporting System) transition, and authorize the Chair to sign; and 15) approve Snowmobile Safety Enforcement Grant contract for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Sheriff Troy Heck stated that the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud provides care and shelter to stray animals from Benton, Sherburne and Stearns Counties. He explained that Benton County does, on occasion, need to place animals that are found in surroundings which mandate their removal and impoundment; Tri-County Humane Society is the only shelter in the area available on a 24/7 basis that offers impound services. Heck noted that the Humane Society was approached about making a number of changes to their service agreement as suggested by the County Attorney's Office; however, they are unwilling to make any significant modifications to their agreement. Heck stated his belief that the liability exposures are quite small as the Sheriff's Office only uses this service one to two times a year. Buerkle/ Popp unanimous to approve the contract with Tri-County Humane Society, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Roxanne Achman, Department of Development Director, presented the minor final plat of *Blank Addition* in Gilmanton Township, submitted by property owner, Gregory Blank. She stated that the request is to split 2.74 acres off a 29.81 acre lot in order to sell the lot with the existing buildings and maintain the farm land. Achman noted that MnDOT has approved the shared access to Highway 23; Gilmanton Township has approved the preliminary plat. Peschl/Heinen unanimous to approve the final plat of *Blank Addition*, as recommended by the Planning Commission, and authorize the Chair to sign the final plat.

Steve Stang, I.T. Director, explained that the county's Microsoft licensing is aging out and is in need of updating across office suites, computer operating systems and security platforms. He presented a proposed licensing agreement which is part of the State of MN Cooperative Purchasing Venture with Microsoft; it is a three-year agreement that locks in the lowest pricing for Microsoft licensing. Stang noted that this contract would allow the county to keep up to date with Microsoft Office, email, security, computer, etc. on an annual payment basis; this is a 25-user licensing start that will be implemented and tested--additional licensing and features will be added as upgrades are implemented. Popp/Buerkle unanimous to approve the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Software Licensing Contract, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Michelle Meyer, Assistant County Attorney, detailed the escrow requirement for the community septic system at "the Cove" development in Watab Township.

Jay Wittstock appeared before the Board to provide a County Surveyor update; topics included work programs, plat checking, county right-of-way platting and section corner perpetuation/remonumentation. Wittstock reported that monuments have been set on approximately 1,310 corners of the 1,331 public land survey corners in Benton County; certificates of location have been recorded on about 1,270 of the corner locations.

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:44 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 9:54 AM.

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

No Committee of the Wholes were set.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to conduct a closed meeting of the County Board (at 10:26 AM) pursuant to MN Statutes §13D.03, Subdivision 1, to consider strategy for labor negotiations.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 11:06 AM.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to conduct a closed meeting of the County Board (at 11:07 AM) pursuant to MN Statutes §13D.05, Subdivision 2, to discuss not-public medical data.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 11:12 AM.

Popp/Heinen unanimous to adjourn at 11:13 AM.

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A. Jake Bauerly, Chair  
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator