

January 25, 2023

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Primmer and Bierschenk present. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the conference room at the Benton County Service Center. Members of the public were provided the zoom access capability to join in during open session and livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/bentoncountyiowa>. *Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously. Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountya.gov (<https://www.youtube.com/bentoncountyiowa>)*

The Board had an exempt budget work session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.9 from 9-10:00 a.m. The Public Health Board met with the supervisors to go over funding and contract options with upcoming changes. Maggie Mangold and Braxton Morrison along with Barb Greenlee explained how public health has evolved over the past several decades. Population health functions are things that affect everyone in the community, non-population health functions are things that affect one person, such as home health care. Currently the funding goes from the county directly to Virginia Gay Hospital along with a local health public service grant. The funding from the state is based on the aged of the community and other factors. They continue to have strict guidelines on what this can be spent on. The contract currently was drafted in 1994, so it was agreed upon all parties, this should be reviewed. There will be a future tentative meeting set for Friday, February 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Katie Cox, Public Health Director, and representatives from Virginia Gay Hospital along with Public Health Board members will be in attendance. Roxanne Fuller, Executive Director for the Benton County Volunteer Program came to provide an update and also go over their FY 24 Budget funding request. The county contributes \$20,000 annually and City of Belle Plaine provides the office space, and another space in Vinton may be in the near future also.

Bierschenk moved/Primmer seconded: To approve the minutes of January 24, 2023. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve Resolution #23-5, FY 24 Elected Officials Salaries. Voting aye were Seeman and Bierschenk. Primmer nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #23-5

ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES

WHEREAS, the Benton County Compensation Board met on January 9, 2023, and recommended an 8.3% increase in the salaries of all the elected officials pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 331.905 and 331.907; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors reduced that amount down to 7% increase as follows:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Recommended Salary for FY23</u>
Auditor	\$89,321.71.	\$95,574.23
Treasurer	\$84,472.43	\$90,385.50
Recorder	\$84,472.43	\$90,385.50
Attorney	\$127,515.21	\$136,441.27
Sheriff	\$123,664.21	\$132,320.70
Supervisor	\$48,284.68	\$51,664.61
Chairman	\$49,384.68	\$56,664.61
(\$5,000 stipend)		

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopts the salary recommendations for elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, as recommended by the Benton County Compensation Board.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2023.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Rick Primmer

Gary Bierschenk

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve a 5% increase to non-elected, non-union, non-commissioned and non-contracted employees with a few exceptions: Jessica Meyer to \$23 an hour, Deb Cummings-\$44,000 a year, Ben Turnis-\$96,000 a year and Justin Birker to receive 90% of the Maintenance Director's salary. Motion carried.

Ray Lough, County Attorney took up the topic that left off from Tuesday's meeting regarding the hiring of a new paralegal in his office. Supervisor Primmer had concerns about the age and experience the candidate had. Lough handed out an Attorney General opinion regarding hiring employees citing Iowa Code 331.904. The role of the supervisors is only to provide the funding to the departments by controlling their budgets. The elected official has the right to hire and fire its own people. Bierschenk made the motion to enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)j. Primmer stated he was not comfortable seconding that motion without the HR Director present. She was out for the day. Lough expressed why he wanted to move forward with this. This candidate has been volunteering her time because she wants to work and they needed her. Seeman suggested they continue into closed session and hear Lough out and not take any action. Primmer then agreed to second. Motion carried at 11:05 a.m.

Bierschenk moved/Primmer seconded: To exit closed session at 11:28 a.m. Motion carried.

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To adjourn. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor