

April 4, 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>)*

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve Resolution #23-19, Proclamation for April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 23-19
PROCLAMATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects women, children and men of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, depression, homelessness, eating disorders and suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can be devastating not only to the survivor, but also for the family and friends, and community of the survivor; and

WHEREAS, since no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault on their own, we must work together to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support victims/survivors and their significant others and support those agencies providing services to victims/survivors.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED we the Benton County Board of Supervisors in and for Benton County, on behalf of all staff and citizens of Benton County, that the Month of April 2023 is hereby proclaimed as: "SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"

Signed this 4th day of April, 2023.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Rick Primmer

Gary Bierschenk

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve the minutes of March 27, 2023. Motion carried.

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve farm exemption application for Otto Nobis, in the SW ¼ of the NE ¼ of section 21-85-9. Motion carried.

Bierschenk moved/Primmer seconded: To acknowledge Kirsten Nelson's resignation as Human Resource Director effective April 14, 2023. Motion carried.

Primmer recommended that we keep the department going and that the director also have an assistant. Auditor Rippel said this wasn't on as an agenda item for discussion at this time, but adding her two cents. She would like to see it go back to how it previously was adding that she originally suggested outsourcing things on an as needed basis but keeping the day to day activities and paperwork in her office and save tax payers money.

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve utility permit for USA Communications along 23rd Ave. Drive in St. Clair Township. Motion carried.

Bierschenk moved/Primmer seconded: To approve resolution #23-20, Wage and Classification Change for Cody Mattison. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 23-20
WAGE and CLASSIFICATION CHANGE**

WHEREAS, Benton County has an employee that has been employed by Benton County for six months, and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of the probationary period the base wage is to be increased from the starting wage

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that the hourly base wage of Cody Mattison be set at \$25.30 effective April 10, 2023. This position carries a Labor Grade IVB classification.

Signed this 4th day of April, 2023.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Rick Primmer

Gary Bierschenk

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Primmer moved/Seeman seconded: To approve Resolution #23-21, Benton County supporting keeping Local Option Sales Tax revenue at the local level. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 23-21

- WHEREAS, the voters of Benton County and cities within the county have voted to enact a 1 cent Local Option Sales Tax in accordance with Iowa Code 423B, and
- WHEREAS, the revenue derived from the tax is used for secondary road improvements, conservation parks, libraries, emergency services, and property tax relief, and
- WHEREAS, the residents of Benton County have grown to rely on these revenues as a means to reduce property taxes, and
- WHEREAS, the 2023 legislative session has seen the introduction of SF 550, which proposes to convert the Local Option Sales Tax efforts into a statewide sales tax and impose the local option sales tax in every jurisdiction, thereby triggering the constitutional amendment to require an allocation of 3/8th of a cent to the Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWLL) trust fund, and
- WHEREAS, SF 550 proposed to backfill revenues lost due to the proposal, there are concerns of the Legislature ability to continue backfilling revenues, and
- WHEREAS, voters across Iowa who have voted to either implement a local option sales tax or not to do so, and
- WHEREAS, voters across Iowa who have voted to utilize the local option sales tax have approved revenue purpose statements (RPS), and
- WHEREAS, SF 550 also sunsets these provisions on January 1, 2025, after which no jurisdiction will have the authority to take either a LOST proposal or revenue purpose statement to a vote, essentially deleting the local government's ability to have local option sales taxes.

THEREFORE, the Benton County Board of Supervisors would like to express their support of the current Local Option Sales Tax. The current law best represents the interest of voters and furthers the reduction of property taxes, which is a common goal of the County and the Iowa Legislature. The Board of Supervisors unanimously supports the Iowa Water and Land Legacy (IWLL) trust fund; however, SF 550 as currently written, would not only strip the County of control over Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenues, but would effectively disregard the will of the Voters.

Passed and approved on this 4th day of April, 2023.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Rick Primmer

Gary Bierschenk

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Engineer Myron Parizek also provided an update on the Urbana roundabout so the Department of Transportation can finish the construction that wasn't complete. The work starts April 17th and with hopes to be done in two weeks. Parizek is also getting the dust control program stuff finalized and will have it on April 11th agenda along with the DOT's five-year plan. Committee Reports were had including Seeman's update on communications tower. They are currently working with the Federal Communications Commission to obtain a private channel name for Benton County.

Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded: To recess until the Grand Jury arrives. Motion carried.
The County Attorney Ray Lough was leading a tour of county facilities to the Grand Jury which included a brief meeting with the supervisors who then provided an overview of county activities. There was also time for other questions and discussions that arised.

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

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor