

January 2, 2024

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in special session with Supervisors Seeman, Primmer and Bierschenk present. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Benton County Service Center. Members of the public are invited to join in during open session or watch the 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](http://www.bentoncountya.gov)*

Primmer questioned if "Approve Agenda" can be added to the agendas. All the Boards he is on have that listed on the agenda. Edler stated she would have that added to the agendas.

**Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To approve the minutes of Tuesday December 26, 2023. Motion carried.

**Bierschenk moved/Seeman seconded:** To appoint Rick Primmer as chairman for 2024. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Primmer seconded:** To appoint Gary Bierschenk as vice-chairman for 2024. Motion carried. Bierschenk abstained.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To approve Resolution #24-1, Authorize Auditor to issue Warrants per Iowa Code 331.506 and execute ACH and financial agreements for 2024.

#### RESOLUTION #24-1

##### AUTHORIZING THE BENTON COUNTY AUDITOR TO ISSUE CHECKS AND SIGN ACH AGREEMENTS FOR 2024

**WHEREAS:** Iowa Code §331.506 sets forth the auditor's duties relative to the issuance of checks; and

**WHEREAS:** Iowa Code §331.506(3) allows the auditor to issue checks under the authority of the Board of Supervisors without prior approval, and

**WHEREAS:** Benton County conducts part of this activity through the use of ACH deposits and other electronic means; and

**WHEREAS:** It is necessary for the auditor to have the authority to execute agreements on behalf of Benton County when necessary to allow for the use of electronic banking, including but not limited to ACH deposits, and other financial activities, and

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the auditor and/or her designee to issue checks in accordance with Iowa Code Section 331.506 and specifically Iowa Code Section 331.506(3).

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the Benton County Auditor and/or her designee is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements on behalf of Benton County for the purposes of ACH deposits and other financial activities of Benton County.

**IT IS RESOLVED** that this authority may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

**IT IS RESOLVED** that this authority is granted beginning this date and shall remain in effect until revoked by the Board of Supervisors.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024.

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Richard Primmer, Chairman

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Gary Bierschenk

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Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

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Gina Edler, Benton County Deputy Auditor

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To approve Resolution #24-2, Authorize Treasurer to sign ACH Agreements for 2024. Motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION #24-2

##### AUTHORIZING THE BENTON COUNTY TREASURER TO SIGN ACH AGREEMENTS FOR 2024

**Whereas:** Iowa Code 331.552(29) sets forth the treasurer's duties relative to the issuance of direct deposits of tax revenue, special assessments, and other moneys collected for each tax-certifying or tax-levying public agency in the county; and

**Whereas:** Benton County conducts part of this activity through the use of ACH deposits and other electronic means; and

**Whereas:** It is necessary for the treasurer to have the authority to execute agreements on behalf of Benton County when necessary to allow the use of electronic banking, including but not limited to ACH deposits, and other financial activities; and

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the Benton County Treasurer and/or her designee is hereby authorized to execute all necessary agreements on behalf of Benton County for the purpose of ACH deposits and other financial activities of Benton County.

**IT IS RESOLVED** that this authority may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the authority is granted beginning this date and shall remain in effect until revoked by the Benton County Board of Supervisors.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024.

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Gary Bierschenk, Chairman

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Tracy Seeman

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Rick Primmer

Attest:

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Gina Edler, Benton County Deputy Auditor

Grace Schmidt, Public Health Director, discussed out of state training for NACCHO in March from 25-28 in Cleveland, Ohio. Air fare, hotel, meals and registration will all be reimbursable with the PHEP grant.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** Approve out of State Training for Grace Schmidt, Public Health Director in March 25-28 to Cleveland, Ohio for NACCHO Conference. Motion approved.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To Adopt Resolution #24-3 RESOLUTION #24-3 amending resolution #12-61 Which amended RESOLUTION #10-58, AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION #10-72 BENTON COUNTY EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #24-3 amending resolution #12-61  
Which amended RESOLUTION #10-58, AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION #10-72  
BENTON COUNTY EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that the early retirement incentive program which is offered to retiring employees of the non-bargaining unit, including elected officials and their deputies, is hereby amended subject to the following conditions:

1. The employee shall be a full-time employee of Benton County at the time of retirement.
2. The employee shall be covered under the county's health insurance plan at the time of retirement.
3. This benefit will be offered to eligible employees aged 58 through 64, who may elect to participate in this benefit by notifying the Benton County Auditor in writing that they are retiring. This notice shall be given six months in advance of the employee's anticipated retirement date.
4. An employee seeking this benefit shall have a minimum of twenty years of full-time employment with Benton County.
5. Those who wish to participate in this plan must enter into a bona fide retirement, which means the employee is drawing from a retirement benefit fund. Further, the employee must provide written proof to the Benton County Auditor that they are drawing from a retirement benefit fund or will be drawing from a retirement fund within 60 days of the start of this benefit.
6. Employees who have met the years of service requirement set forth in paragraphs 1 through 5 above and are at least age 55 may remain on the county's health plan at their own expense until they reach the age requirements set forth in paragraph 3. Once the employee reaches the age requirement they may participate in the incentive program. Employees must remain on the county's insurance plan continuously from the time they retire until the time they meet the requirements in order to participate in the incentive program under this paragraph. Premium payments made under this paragraph are due in the auditor's office no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> day of each month. The first payment is due by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the retirement date. Failure to pay the premiums by the date required will result in immediate termination of coverage. Employees whose coverage is terminated under this paragraph shall not be eligible to participate in this incentive program.
7. The County shall pay \$75% of the monthly premium for single coverage. Future changes shall have no effect on the amount of the incentive being provided to those persons already participating in the program. Employees must provide payment of the difference in premium of a single plan to the auditor's office no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The first payment is due by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the retirement date. Failure to pay the premium by the date required will result in immediate termination of coverage. Coverage terminated under this paragraph shall not be reinstated.
8. The County reserves the right to change health plans at any time, but the plan provided to retirees will be the same as that provided to current county employees.

9. Retiring employees who desire a family plan may purchase it from the County. The retiring employee is responsible for 100 percent of the additional premiums for a family plan that is above the amount set forth in paragraph 7. Employees electing family plan coverage must provide payment of the additional premium to the auditor's office no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. The first payment is due by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month preceding the retirement date. Failure to pay the premium by the date required will result in immediate termination of coverage. Coverage terminated under this paragraph shall not be reinstated.

10. This benefit is only available to retiring employees remaining on the county's health plan and will not apply towards policies obtained elsewhere by the employee. This is the sole incentive being offered and it cannot be converted to a cash payment to the employee or to any other type of incentive payment.

11. Employees who terminate their participation in this incentive program at any time for any reason are no longer eligible to participate in the program.

12. In the event any employee participating in this retirement benefit ever works for Benton County in the future in a part-time employment capacity, they shall be paid for no more than 400 hours of work in any given fiscal year. If an employee covered under this benefit is paid for working more than 400 hours in a given fiscal year they shall no longer be eligible to participate in this benefit.

13. This incentive automatically ends when the employee becomes Medicare eligible.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that this early retirement resolution is adopted as set out above.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024.

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Richard Primmer, Chairman

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Gary Bierschenk

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Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

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Gina Edler, Benton County Deputy Auditor

Scott Hansen commented that the County should look into additional plans. Open market plans are cheaper when it is just for husband/wife instead of family plans.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To Adopt Resolution #24-4 Hiring Collections Officer. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 24-4  
Hiring Collections Officer

WHEREAS: Benton County Attorney's Office has an opening to fill for a Collections Officer; and

WHEREAS: Applications were accepted for this position and

WHEREAS: These applications have been reviewed and evaluated.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY The Benton County Board of Supervisors that Angela Becker be hired to fill the position of Collections Officer at a salary of \$35,750 starting January 8, 2024.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2024

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Rick Primmer, Chairman

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Gary Bierschenk

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Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

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Gina Edler, Benton County Deputy Auditor

Sue Wilber, Human Resources Director, discussed a Wellness Day and Health Insurance incentive with the Board. Wilber stated she recommended the Board keep the wellness day and increase the Health Insurance incentive amount from \$15 to \$20. There is currently 2% participation, she is confident we can reach above 2% and she is wanting the incentive to be more attractive to the employees.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To approve Wellness Day and increase Health Insurance incentive from \$15 to \$20. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged Scott Hansen, EMA Director's, retirement. Hansen turned in his resignation letter on December 28, 2023. Effective July 1, 2024 last day of work being June 30, 2024.

Wilber requested approval of out of state training for PELLA National Conference in Georgia from April 7-10, 2024.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To Approve out of State Training for Sue Wilber, Human Resources Director in April 7-10 to Savannah, Georgia for PELRA Conference. Motion approved.

**Bierschenk moved/Seeman seconded:** To opt out of the Construction Evaluation Resolution for 2024. Motion carried.

**Bierschenk moved/Seeman seconded:** That the general schedule for regular meetings of the board of supervisors will remain the same and be each Tuesday throughout the year at 9:00 a.m. This schedule is general in nature and may be altered at any time throughout the year, including but not limited to the lack of agenda items, courthouse closings, meeting conflicts, or for any reason. Motion carried.

**Bierschenk moved/Primmer seconded:** To appoint the following members to the respective boards for 2024. Motion carried.

North Benton Family Resource Center (HACAP) - Supervisor Primmer

Regional HACAP –Supervisor Primmer

Emergency Management Commission - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Primmer, Alternate

Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) - Supervisor Seeman

Solid Waste Disposal Commission Advisory Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Primmer, Alternate

Supervisor Bierschenk, Alternate

County Conference Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Primmer

Supervisor Bierschenk

6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Department of Corrections – Supervisor Primmer

Workforce Development - Supervisor Bierschenk

Eastern Iowa Tourism – Supervisor Bierschenk

Supervisor Primmer, Alternate

Supervisor Seeman Alternate

North Central Iowa Juvenile Detention – Supervisor Primmer

Supervisor Bierschenk, Alternate

Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) – Supervisor Bierschenk

Benton County Conservation – Supervisor Seeman, Ex-Officio

East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund-Supervisor Seeman

Public Health Board-Supervisor Primmer

Regional Mental Health-Supervisor Bierschenk

Decat-Supervisor Primmer

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To Authorize Chair to sign new statement of non-issuance of certificate of occupancy for 2024. Motion carried.

**Bierschenk moved/Seeman seconded:** To appoint Hayley Rippel and Myron Parizek as ADA Coordinators for 2024. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To table to appoint members to the Board of Health. Motion carried.

**Bierschenk moved/Seeman seconded:** To re-appoint Greg Walston, Jay Herman, Marlyn Jorgensen, Janelle Jack and Heather Rinderknecht to the Benton Development Group Board to a 1 year term. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To re-appoint Doug Stein to the Benton County Land Use Adjustment Board to a 5 year term. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Samantha Hunter to the Conservation Board to a 5 year term. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint the following members to East Central Iowa Council of Governments' Boards. Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Bruce Visser-3 year term

REGION 10 TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Myron Parizek, Engineer-3 year term

REGION 10 PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dean Vrba-2 year term

REGION 10 TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy Seeman, Rick Primmer (alternate)-2 year term

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint the following persons to the Benton County Eminent Domain for 2024. Motion carried.

Licensed Real Estate Sales Person or Real Estate Broker

Danny Kaestner

Tami Timm

Shannon Feuerbach

Alan Michael  
Dave Wessling  
Scott Schlarbaum  
Melissa Lennie

Persons Having Knowledge of Property Values by Reason of Occupation

Brian Bierschenk  
Dave Coulter  
Melissa McBride  
Denise Weeda  
David Redlinger  
Gary McKenna  
Harold Knaack Jr.

Owner-Operator Agricultural Property

Elaine Harrington  
John David Rhinehart  
John Elwick  
Todd Hennings  
Brenda Schanbacher  
Wayne Seila  
Connie Barnes

Owners of City or Town Property

Darold Sindt  
Jeff Kelly  
Kathy Van Steenhuyse  
Janice Eldred  
Larry Weeda  
Connie Ogier  
Gary Benson

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To re-appoint the following persons to the Benefited Fire Districts for three-year terms. Motion carried.

Van Horne Benefited #1 – Dean Werner  
Keystone Benefited #2 –Steve Kromminga  
Newhall Benefited #4 –Duane Rinderknecht  
Ben-Linn Benefited #3-#5 – Allan Schanbacher

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To table appointing members to the Benton County Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To table appointing members to the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Committee. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To table appointing Weed Commissioner for 2024. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Brenda Sandburg and Clint Sandburg to Pioneer Cemetery Commission. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Nancy Jensen, Jon Kaestner, Amy Boddicker, Terry Hertle, Jennifer Zahradnik, Mike Seeck and Supervisor Tracy Seeman to the Solid Waste Commission. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To reappoint Dan Kaestner, Nancy Jensen, Steve Thompson, and Larry Koster to the Zoning Commission to a 3 year term. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To table appointing members to Airport Belle Plaine Regional Zoning Board. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To appoint John Stiegelmeyer and Myron Parizek to Airport Eastern Iowa Zoning Board to a 3 year term. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To appoint Deb Christianson and Dave Cornell to Airport Vinton Adjustment Board to a 5 year term. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Seeman seconded:** To appoint John Stiegelmeyer to Airport Vinton Zoning Board to a 6 year term. Motion carried.

**Primmer moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint First deputy Sheriff John Lindaman as the Civil Rights Coordinator for 2024. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To designate the official newspapers for Benton County for 2024 as The Cedar Valley Times, The Vinton Eagle and The Gazette. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Rick Primmer as Heartland Insurance Risk Group and Hayley Rippel as the alternate. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Myron Parizek and Doug Kearns as the Heartland Safety Coordinators for 2024. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Sue Wilber as Heartland Safety Coordinator as long as Heartland Insurance allows a 3<sup>rd</sup> member. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To appoint Myron Parizek as the County Engineer pursuant to Iowa Code 309.17. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Primmer seconded:** To authorize Gary Bierschenk to sign USDA FSA documents on behalf of Benton County. Motion carried.

**Seeman moved/Primmer seconded:** To set FY24 Budget Amendment Hearing date to February 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Seeman gave an update on Towers, they inspected towers at all 5 locations, Mike Day, Scott Hansen, Ron Tippett, Dan Rammelsberg and Seeman were there for the inspections. Towers are all lit up.

Doug Cook stated he couldn't get the complaint for the vicious animal complaint like stated in the board meeting without a subpoena, so he is working on that. He could only get a copy of the call for service.

**Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded:** To adjourn. Motion carried.

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Richard Primmer, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Gina Edler, Benton County Deputy Auditor