

February 20, 2024

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in special session with Supervisors Seeman present. Primmer called in and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Benton County Service Center. Bierschenk reported at 9:10 a.m. Members of the public are invited to join in during open session or watch the livestream at <https://www.youtube.com/bentoncountyiowa>. *Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountytia.gov*

Primmer moved/Seeman seconded: To table the item listed under Sue Wilber in regards to the discussion on the electronic payroll/time system. Primmer and Seeman voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve the Agenda as listed minus the discussion for the payroll/time system. Voting aye were Primmer and Seeman. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve the minutes of Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Voting aye were Primmer and Seeman. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To set the FY 25 Budget Hearing for Tax Proposal for Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. Primmer and Seeman voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve the Veteran's Affairs Quarterly Report for period ending January 31, 2024. Primmer and Seeman voting aye. Motion carried.

Bierschenk joined the meeting.

Primmer moved/Seeman seconded: To set land use hearing date of Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 9:15 a.m. for Dave and Paula Weber in part of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of 10-85-10. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To set the terms for the new Board of Health Members as follows:

Karl Holmes term ending 12/31/2025

Tai Burkhart term ending 12/31/2025

Jessica Fairbanks term ending 12/31/2025

Lori Mott term ending 12/31/2024

Jean Ohlen term ending 12/31/2024

Voting aye were Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve and authorize vice chairman to sign law enforcement contract with City of Newhall for a total yearly sum of \$25,350 to be paid quarterly and not to exceed 15 hours a week. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve Resolution #24-New Hire in the IT Department.

Insert Resolution Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #24-18

APPROVING HIRE OF Information Technology Systems Administrator

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Benton County has a vacancy for the position of Information Technology Systems Administrator, and;

WHEREAS: Applications were accepted for the position, and

WHEREAS: These applications have been reviewed and evaluated, and

WHEREAS Chris Wagner has been selected to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Chris Wagner be hired for full-time Information Technology Administrator, effective March 4, 2024, at a salary of \$70,000.

Date this 20th day of February, 2024.

Rick Primmer, Chairman

Gary Bierschenk

Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Sue Wilber, Human Resources Director explained the renewal rates with Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) and the Group Benefits Insurance Renewal Forms.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve and authorize vice chairman to sign all the insurance renewal forms with the following rates:

Dental is \$42.95 single, \$122 Family

Vision-\$6.18 single, \$15.78 Family

Health-\$777 single, \$1746 Family

Voting aye were: Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk. Motion Carried.

The time of 9:15 a.m. having arrived, and this being the time and date for a land use hearing for Jeremy and Brooke Higgins in part of the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 10-85-10. Higgins would like to change approximately two acres of land to allow for a single-family dwelling. The land is currently owned by Birker, Inc. The Higgins were present along with the Birker's. Matt Even presented some of the technical information. This ground is mainly used for cattle pasture with an average CSR of 43. There is an existing driveway to access this site off of 27th Ave. Drive but the applicant desires to install a new driveway off of Iowa HWY 150. Higgins will have to seek approval for this from the DOT. If they are not successful in securing a permit, Randy Sherwood with Secondary Roads has reviewed the existing drive and found it to be complaint. A private sewage disposal system has already been permitted, and a private water will need to be installed. Seven notices were sent out to adjacent property owners along with legal notices published. Benton County Land Use office did not receive any public input regarding this prior to today's hearing. This proposal should not have any negative impacts on the area. No other comments were heard, so the hearing was closed.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve the land use hearing for Jeremy and Brooke Higgins in part of the SE ¼ SE ¼ of Section 10-85-10. Voting aye were Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Primmer seconded: To approve and authorize chairman's signature on the C.D. B. G. funding for Contract Number: 13-NDRI-002 in regards to certify that there is a single audit required. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve the Flood Insurance Renewal Policies with Holmes Murphy & Associates, LLC. For property at 111 E 3rd Street, 205 2nd Ave. and 111 E 4th Street all located in Vinton, Iowa. Choosing Option A for a total combined amount of \$9,215. Voting aye were: Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve Resolution #24-19, General Assistance Policies and Procedures Manual. All members voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Resolution #24-19

Benton County

General Assistance

Policies and Procedures Manual

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the following Benton County General Assistance Policies and Procedures Manual is hereby adopted, thus rescinding all previous versions and policies.

Benton County

General Assistance

Policies and Procedures Manual

Section I – General Provisions

A. PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORIZATION: The guidelines and procedures set out in this manual implement the provisions of General Assistance Resolution # of Benton County. Together, the Resolution and this Manual are an expression of the humanitarian nature of the people of Benton County and their desire to assist those in need. It is also the intent of this document to fulfill statutory obligations imposed on the county by Chapter 252 of the Code of Iowa. The General Assistance Program shall be administered by the Benton County General Assistance Director and/or Designee, who is appointed by, and responsible to, the Board of Supervisors.

B. DEFINITIONS:

1. **Applicant:** The person making application to the Department shall fall under the description of one of the following categories:

a. **Family Unit:** The individual applying and all members of the immediate family, i.e., spouse including common law, children under eighteen (18) years of age, children over eighteen (18) years of age who are dependent upon the individual, and anyone else who is a dependent of the individual for federal tax purposes as long as they currently reside with the individual.

b. **Unrelated individual:** A person who is not living with relatives. Examples may include a roommate, lodger, foster child, ward, or an employee.

c. Household living unit: All persons who live in a residence where there are shared common kitchen, dining or bedroom facilities or there are shared utilities or rental payments or lease.

2. Awaiting Approval and Receipt: Means a poor person who has applied for assistance under any state or federal law; who has pursued that application with due diligence; and who has not had that application denied. It does include a person who has had an application denied, has appealed and is awaiting the final decision.

3. Board: The Benton County Board of Supervisors

4. Completed Application: The application form completed, signed and all necessary supporting documentation completed and filed with the Department.

5. Department: Benton County Social Services, 811 D Ave Ste 34, Vinton, Iowa

6. Designee: Department staff member who accepts applications and issue decisions based on Manual guidelines.

7. Director: The Benton County General Assistance Director who is appointed by the Benton County Board of Supervisors.

8. Emergency: A combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or, something arising unexpectedly calling for prompt or urgent action.

9. General Assistance: County payment made on behalf of poor or needy persons for basic needs of rent, utilities including heating fuel, and food (only if food pantry is not available). General Assistance also includes limited cremation/burial expenses.

10. Gross Income: Income includes the following: money, wages and salaries before any deductions; net receipts from non-farm self-employment (receipts from a person's own unincorporated business, professional enterprise, or partnership, after deductions for business expenses); net receipts from farm self-employment (receipts from a farm which one operates as an owner, renter, or sharecropper, after deductions for farm operating expenses); regular payments from Social Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, public assistance (including Family Investment Program or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Supplemental Security Income; training stipends; alimony, child support, and military family allotments or other regular support from an absent family member or someone not living in the household; private pensions, government employee pensions (including military retirement pay), and regular insurance or annuity payments; college or university scholarships, grants, lump-sum payments such as Social Security, tax refunds, rent reimbursements and rebates; and dividends, interest, net rental income, net royalties, periodic receipts from estates or trusts, and net gambling or lottery winnings.

11. Liquid Assets: Cash or any other item of property of the applicant that can be readily converted to cash within seven (7) days with or without penalty.

12. Needy Person(s): A person who is lawfully residing in Benton County, Iowa, or who is a transient in the County, and who, because of circumstances which are not attributable to that person, needs emergency assistance.

13. Poor Person(s): A person who has no property, exempt or otherwise who is lawfully in Benton County, Iowa, and, who because of a physical or mental disability, is unable to engage in gainful employment and otherwise cannot earn a living.

14. Resources: The value of all real and personal property of the applicant including assets from any source which includes but is not limited to items such as cash, checking and savings accounts, stocks, bonds, real estate, cash value of life insurance policies, jewelry, and art work. Exempt items include clothing, wedding rings, necessary and usual household furnishings, tools and similar equipment used for home and family maintenance or support, one vehicle for each legally licensed driver 18 years of age or older, and principle place of residence with an assessed value not to exceed \$70,000.00.

15. Vendor Payment: County Auditor's check to the supplier of goods or services.

SECTION II – ADMINISTRATION

A. PERSONNEL: The Benton County General Assistance Director shall administer the general assistance program. If additional staff is needed, they will be designated to assist in accepting applications & issuing decisions based on manual guidelines.

B. DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT:

1. Accept applications for General Assistance from persons legally residing within Benton County, and supply standard application forms for this purpose.
2. Determine eligibility of each applicant according to the guidelines set out in this Manual and notify the applicant of the decision to either deny, approve or request further information.
3. Arrange for vendor payments to be made on behalf of applicants determined eligible for General Assistance.
4. Verify the factual statements presented on each application for General Assistance to determine their accuracy and reliability under the guidelines of this Manual.

5. Any other duties as assigned by the Board of Supervisors in administration of this program.
6. Present appeals to Board of Supervisors and represent Board of Supervisors in any proceedings.

C. APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

Applications for assistance shall be submitted to the Department during normal business hours Monday-Friday. If, because of undue hardship, an applicant cannot come to the office to complete application, the Department shall mail, email, or fax an application or make necessary arrangements for delivery of the form.

If the applicant is or appears to be eligible for assistance from any other federal, state, or local source, the Department shall immediately refer the applicant to that source. It shall be the obligation of the applicant to immediately make application to that source and pursue such application with due diligence as a condition to be eligible for further assistance under this Manual.

It shall be the obligation of the applicant to establish his or her eligibility and need for any category of general assistance. The applicant shall provide the Department a verified statement of earned or unearned income, (e.g. payroll check stubs, self-employed income statement, Social Security Administration statement of benefits, etc.) resources, medical reports, medical authorization, and anything else requested that bears upon the person's eligibility and need for assistance.

The Department shall also receive anything that the person applying desires to submit to establish his or her need including statements or letters, medical reports, and other written documents as well as the verbal statements of the applicant.

D. INITIAL DETERMINATION

The Department shall make an initial determination of the eligibility and needs of an applicant within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the application. Upon that determination, the Department shall notify the applicant of the decision by ordinary mail at the address shown on the application. The Department's written decision will show the reasons for the determination, and the applicable manual section, together with the specific benefits and their amounts to which the applicant is entitled.

If an emergency or immediate need is present, the Department may verbally authorize a supplier or vendor to furnish any item of assistance for the benefit of the applicant and the amount allowed for such benefit. The Department shall inform the applicant and vendor by issuing a written decision as provided above.

The Director shall submit a quarterly report to the Board identifying the number of applications received and the disposition of such.

SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for General Assistance, an applicant must comply with the following established requirements:

A. Complete the Application for General Assistance form and provide all additional required documentation to the Department. If two or more unrelated individuals are residing at the same address and share expenses equally, each person must complete a separate application, and, if determined eligible, assistance may be granted for their portion of the monthly expense.

B. Eligibility of a Needy Person:

1. Meet income guidelines: To be eligible for General Assistance the applicant's gross income for the month prior to the month assistance is being requested shall be at or below 100% of the poverty level established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services as adjusted annually. (Example: May income is considered for June rent request.)
2. Meet resource guidelines.
3. Liquid assets of the applicant shall be deducted from the amount of general assistance requested and the amount of general assistance approved shall be the remainder.

C. Eligibility of a Poor Person:

Assistance is to be provided to a poor person who is in need of immediate assistance, cannot obtain assistance from any other source, who has no liquid assets, and who may be eligible for, and awaiting approval and receipt of benefits provided by state or federal law.

D. Agree to use the applicant's own resources to meet their needs. All income of the applicant will be considered. Exhaust the resources of those persons charged by law to provide for the needs of the applicant. (See 125.78, 230.15, 252.2 and 252.5, Code of Iowa).

E. Because General Assistance is an assistance of last resort, persons must exhaust all other resources by applying for and complying with all other public assistance programs including but not limited to Food Assistance Program, FIP, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans assistance, LIHEAP, Medically Needy, Medicaid, Iowa Care, patient assistance programs, etc., and fulfill

all program requirements to provide information to determine eligibility and to remain eligible for those programs. Persons receiving income from any other governmental agency in the month prior to the month of application are ineligible for General Assistance.

F. Applicant must be a legal resident of the United States of America and reside in Benton County to be eligible for assistance. For a poor person located in Benton County who has legal settlement in another county of the state of Iowa, the Department shall bill applicant's county of legal settlement for any assistance provided.

G. Employment:

1. Any applicant who voluntarily withdraws from the workforce to attend post-high school education/training is not eligible for general assistance. Consideration for assistance may be granted by the Director on a case by case basis if applicant is a student and suddenly becomes unemployed due to a unique or life-altering circumstance.
2. Applicants and adult members of the applicant's household who may be unemployed shall be referred to Iowa Workforce Development, shall cooperate with that agency in seeking employment and shall accept employment when available.
3. Applicant is not eligible for General Assistance for two months from the date they voluntarily quit a job unless the applicant quit due to a documented unlawful working condition.
4. The requirements of this section shall not be enforced when, in the determination of the Director or Designee, any of the following conditions exist in which documentation is provided:
 1. The person suffers from an illness or injury which temporarily prevents employment.
 2. The person is unemployable due to physical or mental handicap.
 3. The person is caring for a dependent family member who requires home medical care that is not available from any other source.

H. Frequency:

The intent of General Assistance is that it be provided to a needy person (not mentally or physically handicapped) or that person's household living unit, on an emergency basis; therefore, assistance will not exceed one (1) month service in a calendar year.

I. Applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age or legally emancipated.

J. General Assistance may be denied at any time if:

1. The applicant or recipient refuses to rely on his/her resources,
- 2.
3. The applicant or recipient refuses to answer any relevant questions, willfully withholds any pertinent information, or falsifies their application.

Section IV – DISBURSEMENT OF GENERAL ASSISTANCE

If applicant is determined eligible, the Director shall approve disbursement of any General Assistance granted according to the following categories of need.

A. RENT:

1. Rent payment shall only be made to owners of property or their management designee. Rental property is property that has a separate kitchen, bathroom and outside entrance separate from other parts of the dwelling. Rent shall not be paid to any relative.
2. Rent shall only be paid for housing that is currently being occupied by the applicant.
3. Rent may be paid for temporary housing such as a motel in emergency situations, i.e., fire, tornado, or other natural disaster, or, to avoid homelessness. Payment for temporary shelter shall not exceed \$300.00 or five (5) days shelter, whichever is less.
4. Rent payment is limited up to a maximum of \$500.00, per address, regardless of number of unrelated applicants. Landlord must agree to accept General Assistance payment and guarantee 30 days shelter from date of application. Rent shall not be approved unless all necessary utilities are guaranteed for 30 days from date of application.
5. Rent verification form must be completed by the landlord.
6. Rent must be due for the current month or due within 5 days for the next month. Application must be received before the 25th day of the current month for assistance to be considered for the current month.
7. Mobile home lot rent may be considered for assistance.

8. Mortgage payments are not eligible for assistance.
9. For persons who are applying only for themselves, rent payments shall be made on an equal basis relevant to the number of persons in the household (e.g. roommate applying for assistance with his/her share of the rent).
10. Any account that is considered past due is ineligible for assistance.

B. UTILITIES:

1. Utility assistance is limited to a maximum of \$300.00, per address, regardless of the number of unrelated applicants. Utility assistance includes vendor payments for: gas, electric, water, sewer, garbage, as well as deliverable fuel such as fuel oil, propane, and wood.
2. Cable, internet, and cell phone (unless cell phone is primary telephone service) are considered non-essential services and are ineligible for assistance.
3. Vendor must agree to 30 days service with General Assistance payment. Utilities shall not be approved unless shelter is also guaranteed for 30 days from date of application.
4. Deposits, late fees, reconnect fees, and taxes will not be paid.
5. Utilities must be in the name of the applicant at the current address.
6. For persons who are applying only for themselves, utility payments shall be made on an equal basis relevant to the number of persons in the household (i.e.: roommate applying for assistance with their share of the utility bill).
7. Any account that is considered past due is ineligible for assistance.

C. FOOD:

1. Requests for food assistance may be granted by referral to Benton County Food Pantry in Vinton and Belle Plaine, and, in accordance with their agency rules. The applicant must provide referral form from the Department of Human Services that they are receiving, or, are in the process of applying for the Food Assistance Program.
2. In the event the Benton County Food Pantry is not accessible, and, at the discretion of the Department in emergency situations, a food voucher may be provided to applicant.

D. TRANSPORTATION:

Eligible transportation expenses include only:

1. A voucher for one-way transportation to return to place of legal settlement or residence. Recipients of this benefit shall be ineligible for any other assistance under the provisions of this Manual for a period of one year from the date the transportation benefit is received.
2. Verification of need for transportation shall be provided to the Department.

E. CREMATION:

Benton County may provide funeral, burial, grave opening, and/or cremation assistance as follows:

- Funeral expense reimbursement- not to exceed \$1,500.00
- Cremation, including urn- not to exceed \$1,500.00

If more expensive merchandise or additional services are desired and the Funeral Director charges for them, Benton County will be relieved of any and all obligations for payment; thereby making the expenses the sole responsibility of those making the funeral arrangements.

Eligible merchandise or services are as follows:

1. Funeral Director fees including preparation for cremation only; use of staff, equipment and facilities; and, removal and transportation within forty miles.
- 2.
3. Crematory expense, cremation tray, sheet bronze urn.

4. Medical examiner's fee for cremation permit.
5. Minister stipend at Funeral Directors request when family or friends cannot provide this courtesy.
6. Indigent Patient cemetery lots may be provided at several Benton County cemeteries. Family may provide for a lot at other locations, but such lots will be at family's expense.
- 7.

Any money received by the Funeral Director from the deceased's assets, from pre-arrangement trusts, Governmental benefits or from family or friends shall be deducted from the above expenses.

Section V – APPEAL

Every applicant, whether granted assistance or not, shall be informed in the Department's written decision of the applicant's right to have such decision reviewed. The applicant shall be informed:

- (1) of the method by which a review may be taken, and
- (2) of the rights of representation at the hearing

To initiate a review, the individual must send a written request for review within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the decision to: Director, Benton County General Assistance, 811 D Avenue, Suite 34, Vinton, IA 52349.

Within five (5) working days of the receipt of the written request for review, the Director shall notify the individual of the date and time set for the review.

The review will be held with the Director within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the written request for review.

The individual shall have the right to appear in person at the review and present any evidence or documents in support of his/her position. If an individual fails to appear for the scheduled review, the Director may proceed and issue a decision.

Within ten (10) working days of the review, the Director shall issue a written decision which shall include a statement of the reasons supporting or repealing the initial decision.

The written decision shall inform the individual of their right to further review by the Board of Supervisors.

Any written appeal and/or communication of the Director's decision must be made to the Director within ten (10) working days of the Director's determination. The Director shall place the applicant's appeal on the Board of Supervisors' agenda at the earliest date and time available. The applicant shall be informed immediately by telephone if possible and by ordinary mail of the date and time of the hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors shall hear applicant's appeal at the time scheduled on the agenda unless continuance is requested by the applicant. Applicant shall be permitted to present whatever evidence desired in support of the appeal including testifying, having other witnesses testify, offering documentary evidence and reasonable cross examination of other witnesses, if present. The applicant's file may be admitted into evidence. The Board may question the applicant, and the Director shall present the Board with the reason for the determination. The hearing before the Board will be conducted in closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 since the confidential files of the applicant will be in evidence.

The Board shall make a decision on the appeal within 10 working days. The Board's decision shall be only on basis of the evidence submitted before the Board. The applicant shall be informed immediately by telephone, if possible, of the decision and within 5 working days thereafter, the Board shall mail to applicant at his or her last known address, by ordinary mail, its decision in writing. The decision shall state the reasons for the action, together with any statute or ordinance applied. The Board's decision shall also state that an appeal may be taken from the Board's determination, as provided below, and the method by which such appeal may be taken.

Any appeal to the district court shall be allowed by the applicant from the Board's decision within the time and by the manner and procedures established under the Iowa Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 17A, Code of Iowa.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that any resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed.

Adopted this 20th day of February, 2024.

Richard Primmer, Chairman

Gary Bierschenk, Vice-Chairman

Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Auditor Rippel explained the needs for two Service Area Amendments. Realizing we just did a FY 24 Budget Amendment, these are things she felt that could be moved around within the various line items within the budgeted amounts. The areas that need adjustments are service area 1: Re-arranging spending authority within the Sheriff's budgeted line items. Service Area 9 needs adjustments for the Supervisors and HR department. There is continued bills coming in for outside legal council that if we don't shift the spending authority around, they won't have enough spending authority to cover the costs.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve Resolution #24-20, Service Area Amendment to FY 2024 Budget. Voting aye were: Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #24-20

SERVICE AREA BUDGET AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2024 budget on April 18, 2023;

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to amend said budget within service area(s) to reallocate funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that the FY2024 county budget is hereby amended within the following service areas:

Service Area 1) -\$77,000 0002-05 (General Supplemental)
 +\$77,000 0001-05 (General Basic)

Service Area 9) -\$17,700 moved from 0001-99 (General Basic)
 +\$12,700 to 0002-50 (General Supplemental)
 +\$5000 0001-01 (General Basic)

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that said funds are hereby appropriated.

The auditor is directed to make the necessary changes.

Signed this 20th day of February, 2024

Rick Primmer, Chairman

Gary Bierschenk

Tracy Seeman

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Auditor Rippel discussed the scheduled flight from Pictometry to do the aerial imagery on the county. We had originally mentioned wanting the HWY 30 project all done. The original contract was approved in March of 2021 with a plan to do it again after three years. Rippel had talked with the Assessor and he felt strongly about moving forward with it so that the change-finder can clean up all the areas from the last improvements done from the most recent derecho. Rippel explained in the past we have transferred funds from Local Option Sales and Service Tax Fund into the GIS budget to cover this. Rippel will talk with Ben Turnis.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To approve budgeting for the new flight from Eagleview/Pictometry for a spring flight in 2024. Per total contract amount of \$182,070 will be split out over three years with a payment amount of \$60,690. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Seeman Moved/Bierschenk seconded: To confirm the bids received from February 13, 2024 letting for Bridge Replacement Project on 16th Ave. (L-CE-0028-73-06) and award the lowest bid to Peterson Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$559,457.50. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk seconded: To table hearing an update from Steve Meyer regarding the EMA Director Position. Primmer, Seeman and Bierschenk voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

The Board decided to have another meeting for Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The Auditor also reminded them of the EMS Advisory Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. that same night at the EOC.

Seeman moved/Bierschenk Seconded: To Adjourn at 9:51 a.m. Voting aye were Primmer, Bierschenk and Seeman. Motion carried.

Richard Primmer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor