

April 29, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippet and Volz present. Chairman Seeman called the meeting 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>. *Full Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: [www.bentoncountyiowa.gov](http://www.bentoncountyiowa.gov)*

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve agenda after striking the sheriff's discussion on dispatch and law contract fees. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To approve the minutes of April 22, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Traveling Tapsters for May 23, 2025 through May 27, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Seeman opened the meeting up for more discussion on the FY 26 Budget. Seeman asked Auditor Rippel to point out changes made since last week's budget hearing. Rippel explained how she went over all departments re-estimated amounts mainly in their insurance line items. The 2.5 Percent reduction in spending was factored in along with reducing the transfer amounts from General Basic and Rural Basic into secondary roads. Rippel provided the Supervisors revised levy amounts for them to decide how they wanted to proceed. Overall the reduction for the countywide levy was in the amount of \$0.07931.

Former Auditor Jill Marlow went over her concerns with the budget and how expenses continue to rise in a few service areas and questioned the non-program expenditures which led to an update on the radio communication project from Supervisor Seeman. Marlow commented how Rippel was doing a good job, and stated it is not easy with all the last minute changes to put it all together. She urged the Board to listen to her and to start the process earlier next year.

Rippel commented this board has been diligent in doing the extra work and have sat and went over things more so than previous board has done, and she appreciated that.

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-26, Adopting FY 26 Budget. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION #25-26 ADOPTION OF THE FY26 COUNTY BUDGET

**BE IT REMEMBERED** that on the 22nd day of April 2025, the Board of Supervisors of Benton County, Iowa, met in session for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26 as filed with the Board. There was present a quorum as required by law. The notice and place of hearing had, according to law and as directed by the Board, been published in the Gazette, Cedar Valley Times, and Vinton Eagle, the official newspapers published in Benton County.

The budget was then taken up and considered. The public was provided an opportunity to speak.

The County Compensation Board recommendation for FY26 salaries for elected officials and as set forth and adopted in Resolution #25-13 is included in the FY26 budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a committed fund balance designation of the ending fiscal year fund balance be established for the following purposes:

**General Fund**-\$647,000 equipment/vehicle replacement, Emergency response, infrastructure

**Rural Services Fund** - \$47,000 land use administrator vehicle replacement

**EMS Revolving Loan Fund** – \$125,000 for emergency services loans

**LOSST Fund** - \$115,000 for technology upgrades and GIS re-flight

**FURTHER** the commitment of fund balances indicates that Benton County prefers to use available financial resources for the specific purposes set forth above, and although committed, the funds are to remain an integral part of the spendable or appropriable resources of Benton County.

The budget as adopted will approve the following property taxes for fiscal year 2025-26 (without gas and electric):

General Basic	\$6,185,331
General Supplemental	\$4,327,822
Rural Services Basic	\$4,468,561
Debt Service	\$ 799,542
Voted Emergency Medical Services	\$1,260,912

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED**, by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that the FY26 budget is hereby adopted.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2025.

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald J. Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To authorize Ben Turnis to order the camera system update from Hawkeye Communications in the amount of \$25,135.83 for recording in the jail cameras. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-27, Gifting LOSST funds to Newhall Fire. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #25-27**

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors has established a program for gifting funds to emergency service providers who provide services within the unincorporated area of Benton County; and

WHEREAS, the Newhall Fire Department has requested a gift of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Newhall Fire provides emergency services to areas in Eldorado and Fremont Townships and mutual aid to other surrounding townships;

WHEREAS, the Newhall Fire Department has provided invoices totaling \$510,207.41 for purchasing a new fire truck;

WHEREAS, the Newhall Fire Department agrees that the vehicle obtained with the proceeds of this gift shall be used when necessary for rural fire protection and/or life support operations, consistent with the intended use of the money from the Local Option Sales and Services Fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Supervisors approves an Emergency Services Gift to Newhall Fire Department and in the amount not to exceed \$51,020.74 which represents ten percent of the total purchase price for the new truck.

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2025.

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald J. Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-28, Abatement of Taxes. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #25-28**

WHEREAS, The County of Benton has reported that two parcels of land have been combined with adjoining parcels as they weren't large enough in size for proper use; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 445.16(3) provides that the board of supervisors can compromise by written agreement or abate by resolution, the tax, interest, fees or costs;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2021 tax assessed against parcels listed below as follows are hereby abated in the amounts listed pursuant to Iowa Code 445.16(3): the treasurer is directed to strike the amount listed due from the county system.

Parcel #	Taxes plus interest and costs Due:
190-11210	\$260.00
190-11220	\$260.00

Dated 29th day of April 2025

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-29, Abatement of Taxes. Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #25-29**

WHEREAS, The County of Benton has reported that a structure on a Building on Leased Land parcel has burned down and owner(s) of contract are deceased; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 445.16(3) provides that the board of supervisors can compromise by written agreement or abate by resolution, the tax, interest, fees or costs;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the 2021 thru 2022 tax assessed against parcels listed below as follows are hereby abated in the amounts listed pursuant to Iowa Code 445.16(3): the treasurer is directed to strike the amount listed due from the county system.

Parcel #	Taxes plus interest and costs Due:
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270-01501

\$1239.00

Dated 29th day of April 2025

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-30, Destruction of Noxious Weeds and approve the 2025 notice of the destruction of weeds. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**Resolution #25-30  
DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS**

WHEREAS, The Benton County Weed Commissioner announces that the deadline for destruction of Noxious weeds is **June 1st, 2025**, so as to prevent the production of seed by all varieties of listed Noxious weeds. This includes weeds on farmlands, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands, properties within city limits, and all lands within the limits of the County. Those persons not controlling their weeds in compliance with Iowa's Weed Law, Code of Iowa Chapter 317 Noxious Weeds, and Iowa Dept. of Agriculture & Land Stewardship Administrative Rules Chapter 58 Noxious Weeds will be notified to use appropriate methods to eradicate or control the weed problem. Failure to do so can incur penalties including, but not limited to, daily fines for non-compliance, and the Weed Commissioner or Deputies entering upon the land to control the weed problem, with all costs, including fines and administrative costs, levied against the landowner. Iowa law provides these assessments can be attached to the real estate tax of the land for collection. Weed eradication/control will still be required to be implemented in all cases where penalties are assessed

WHEREAS, The following weeds have been declared Noxious:

**Class A Noxious Weeds for Eradication:** Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*)

**Class B Noxious Weeds for Control:**

- a) Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
- b) Teasel (*Dipsacus spp.*) biennial
- c) Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
- d) Bull Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*)
- e) Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)
- f) European Morning Glory or Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
- g) All other species of thistles belonging in the Genus of *Carduus*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That at all times: Palmer Amaranth must be eradicated. Each owner and each person in possession or control of any lands in Benton County shall seek cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, which may include the department's farm service agency office for that county, the farm service agency's state office, or any other office or official designated by the department, if Palmer Amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is found on lands enrolled in the conservation reserve program as described in 7 C.F.R. pt. 1410

For Noxious weed identification and pictures, control recommendations, etc. visit the Benton County web site at [www.bentoncountya.gov](http://www.bentoncountya.gov) Click on Departments, then IRM. Weeds may be destroyed in any manner appropriate to prevent seed production, and shall include mowing, pulling, burning, spraying, or cutting. Questions should be directed Eric Schares, Benton County Weed Commissioner, 205 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Vinton, IA 52246. (319) 472-2040.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2025.

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald J. Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To approve Resolution #25-31, Amending Service Areas within the FY 25 Budget. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION #25-31

#### SERVICE AREA BUDGET AMENDMENT

**WHEREAS**, the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2025 budget on April 23, 2024;

**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 FY2025 county budget is hereby amended within the following service areas:

Service Area 3) 0001-21-3210-000-390000-000 -\$1,500

0001-19-3110-000-390000-000 +\$1,500

0002-21-3200-000-113000-000 -\$1,000

0002-19-3200-000-113000-000 +\$1,000

Service Area 9) 0001-50-9000-000-100000-000 -\$5,000

0002-99-9230-000-116000-000 +250

0006-60-9230-000-116000-000 +250

0001-02-9010-000-105000-000 +4,500

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that said funds are hereby appropriated. The auditor is directed to make the necessary changes.

Signed this 29th day of April, 2025

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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Ronald J. Tippet

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Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

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Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To approve and acknowledge the SLFRF 2025 Compliance Report submitted for the ARPA Funds. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

**Tippet moved/Volz seconded:** To approve the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) FY 26 Secondary Roads Budget. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Engineer Myron Parizek went over the 5 year construction program with the Board and explained some of the upcoming construction projects. This includes right turn lanes for HWY 30 at 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and also culvert work planned at these intersections too. Parizek also provided an update at the HWY 30 corner with Blairstown and Van Horne and the intersection will be lit up very soon.

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To approve the IDOT FY 26-30 Secondary Road Construction Program. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Bruce Volz virtually attended the ECICOG meeting and reported that he had an upcoming Heartland Insurance meeting. Supervisor Tippet had a HACAP meeting. Supervisor Seeman also attended the ECICOG meeting along with the Eastern Iowa Housing and Trust Fund noting that applications will open up for some of their programs for housing assistance or renovations.

**Volz moved/Tippet seconded:** To adjourn at 10:58 a.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

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Tracy Seeman, Chairman

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

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor