

August 5, 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*

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the agenda with a correction to change listing Historical Society to be Historic Preservation. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve minutes from July 29, 2025. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve farm exemption application for Dan and Megan Diehm in part of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of 24-84-9. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the change for Historic Preservation Commission to move from the conference room into the Mental Health Office space. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-64, LOSST Gift to Blairstown Fire Department. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-64

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 Blairstown Fire Department has requested a gift of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Fire Department provides emergency services to areas of Leroy, St. Clair, Union Townships and mutual aid to other surrounding townships;

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Fire Department has provided an invoice totaling \$45,000 for purchasing a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado;

WHEREAS, the Blairstown Fire Department agrees that the vehicle obtained with the proceeds of this gift shall be used when necessary for providing services 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 Blairstown Fire Department in the amount of \$4,500. which represents ten percent of the total purchase price for all equipment.

Adopted this 5th day of August, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve continued intern hours for Priyal Patel in the County Attorney's office for up to 6 hours per week. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Ronald Tippett to the Iowa Decategorization (DECAT) Board. Seeman, Volz and Tippett voting aye. Motion carried.

The time of 9:15 a.m. having arrived, and this being the time and date set for a land use hearing for Jeremy and Stacy Koopman in part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ Section 33-85-9. Jeremy Koopman was present. Matt Even presented the technical information with the Benton County Agricultural Land Use Preservation Ordinance. Koopmans would like to change the use of approximately two acres to allow for a single-family dwelling and shop. This site has a CSR of an average of 42. There is an existing driveway for this site that was approved and reviewed by secondary roads to be compliant with county policies.

A private sewage disposal system and private well will need to be installed. The applicant's existing dwelling is located west of this site and another dwelling owned by the applicant's is located northwest of this site also one south of this site. There are row crops located north and east of this site. Three notices were sent out to adjacent property owners and legal notices were published. No comments were heard regarding this request prior to today's hearing. This proposal should not have any negative impacts on surrounding farm operations. Hearing no other further comments, the public hearing was closed.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the land use change for Jeremy and Stacy Koopman in part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ Section 33-85-9. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-65, hiring full-time communications specialist. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-65

Hiring a Communication Specialist at the Sheriff's Office

WHEREAS, applications for the position of Communication Specialist have been reviewed, interviews conducted, and background checks completed;

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has recommended the hiring of Shelby Dodson as a full-time Communication Specialist,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Shelby Dodson is hereby employed in this union position at an hourly rate of \$22.80, effective August 20, 2025.

Signed this 5th day of August, 2025.

Tracey Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve hiring Cassie Riha, part-time cook/custodian in sheriff's office at an hourly rate of \$20.10 effective August 13, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-66, FY 26 Budget Amendment. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-66

BE IT REMEMBERED on this, the 5th day of August, 2025, the Board of Supervisors of Benton County, Iowa, met in session for the purpose of hearing on an amendment to the current operating budget adopted on April 29, 2025. There was a quorum present as required by law. Thereupon, the Board found that the notice of time and place of the hearing had been published. Thereafter, and on said date the amendment was taken up and considered. Thereafter, the Board took up the amendment to the budget for final consideration and determined that said budget be amended as follows:

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amendment</u>
Public Safety	\$ 135,000
Physical Health & Social Services	\$ 0
Mental Health	\$ 0
County Environment & Education	\$ 10,430
Roads & Transportation	\$ 159,971
Government Services to Residents	\$ 0
Administration	\$ 245,890
Non-Program	\$ 0
Debt Service	\$ 0
Capital Projects	\$ 0
Operating Transfers Out	\$ 0

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Intergovernmental	\$ 90,890
Licenses & Permits	\$ 0
Charges for Services	\$ 0
Use of Money & Property	\$ 0
Miscellaneous	\$ 0
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	\$ 0
Operating Transfers – In	\$ 0
Proceeds of Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Operating Transfers In	\$ 0

Dated this 5th day of August, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Jill Marlow, former county auditor came to re-address issues she asked about during the FY 26 budget hearing. She had asked about where they were cutting spending, and what measures were implemented to reduce? She also made a public records request on the collections department and wanted to be sure the county wasn't subsidizing other counties' collections. Supervisor Volz stressed to Marlow that they can't discuss any department or individual specifically. He cautioned that this should have been listed under public comments. Marlow told him that is why she got put on the agenda, so that it wasn't just a public comment. Volz explained that the Board did cut 2.5% spending from the budget and warned departments to be ready to have more cuts next year. Supervisor Tippet stressed that the county is service-oriented, and their biggest expense is employees. Tippet also said that they have asked

department heads to conserve. Marlow warned them about the DOGE committee at the state level, and if Benton County doesn't get ahead, they will lose.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-67, Wage and Classification change for Jakob Long in Secondary Roads. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-67

WHEREAS: Benton County Secondary Roads Department has an employee that has been employed by Benton County for a year, and

WHEREAS: Upon the completion of the year period the base wage will be increased from the intermediate wage (per bargaining unit agreement)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED By the Benton County Board of Supervisors that the hourly wage for Jakob Long be set at \$29.91 per hour effective August 7, 2025. This position (equipment operator) carries a Labor Grade classification IVC.

Signed this 5th day of August, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve and authorize signature on commercial lease agreement between Squiers Storage Rentals, Belle Plaine and Benton County, Iowa for the transportation department. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Mark Erickson requested his employee evaluation be done in closed session.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)i: to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and the individual requests a closed session. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried at 10:06 a.m.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To exit closed session at 10:23 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

No action was taken after closed session.

The Board also discussed some of their committee meetings such as Volz meeting with the wellness committee. Stressing the importance of getting the employees to do the online assessment's and get their physicals. The county can qualify for savings off the health insurance premiums if we meet a certain threshold. He would like a department head meeting scheduled for the following week. Supervisor Tippett had a mental health regional meeting, things will be separating there soon. Tippett also attended the Central Iowa Juvenile Detention meeting in Eldora, IA.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn meeting at 10:37 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor