

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

January 2, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippet and Volz present. Supervisor Seeman called the meeting to order at 9:30 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>. *Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyiowa.gov*

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To appoint Tracy Seeman as Chairman for 2025. Tippet and Volz voting aye, Seeman abstained. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the agenda. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the December 31, 2024 minutes. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Ronald Tippet as Vice-Chairman for 2025. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was had on board procedures specifically referring to agenda items and when to put a time on them along with those public comments or department heads addressing the board. They could come to the middle table and state their names.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To approve putting timed items back on the agenda when necessary and ask that people come forward and state their names when addressing the board. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-1, Authorizing the Auditor to Issue Checks and Sign ACH Agreements for 2025. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-1

AUTHORIZING THE BENTON COUNTY AUDITOR TO ISSUE CHECKS AND SIGN ACH AGREEMENTS FOR 2025

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 2nd day of January, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

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Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-1, Authorizing the Treasurer to Issue Checks and Sign ACH Agreements for 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-2

AUTHORIZING THE BENTON COUNTY TREASURER TO SIGN ACH AGREEMENTS FOR 2025

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 2nd day of January, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

Attest:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Discussion was had for the need to transfer funds to Land Acquisition for a grant pass through for conservation. Once the claim is paid, they will get reimbursed. Currently there isn't enough spending authority or funds in Land Acquisition to pay the claim. Auditor Rippel will have this all finalized next week, no action taken and it will get put back on for next week.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To opt out of adopting a Construction Evaluation Resolution for 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz 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. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint the following members to the respective boards for 2025. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

North Benton Family Resource Center (HACAP) - Supervisor Tippett

Regional HACAP –Supervisor Tippett

Emergency Management Commission - Supervisor Tippett

Supervisor Seeman, Alternate

Resource Enhancement & Protection (REAP) - Supervisor Seeman and Shelby Williams

Solid Waste Disposal Commission Advisory Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Tippett, Alternate

Supervisor Volz, Alternate

County Conference Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Tippett

Supervisor Volz

6th Judicial District Department of Corrections – Supervisor Tippett

Workforce Development - Supervisor Volz

Eastern Iowa Tourism – Supervisor Volz

Supervisor Tippett, Alternate

Supervisor Seeman Alternate

North Central Iowa Juvenile Detention – Supervisor Tippett

Supervisor Volz, Alternate

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Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC) – Supervisor Tippet
 Benton County Conservation – Supervisor Seeman, Ex-Officio
 East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund-Supervisor Seeman
 Public Health Board-Supervisor Tippet
 Regional Mental Health-Supervisor Tippet
 Decat-Supervisor Tippet

Heritage Area Agency on Aging-Sarah Wagner

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To authorize signatures on the Statement of Non-Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy for 2025. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Tippet seconded: To appoint Myron Parizek, Hayley Rippel and Ray Lough as ADA Coordinators for 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To re-appoint Lori Mott and Jean Ohlen to the Benton County Board of Health for a three-year term. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint Greg Walston, Jay Herman, Marlyn Jorgensen, Janelle Jack and Heather Rinderknecht for a one-year term to Benton Development Group. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint David Redlinger to the Benton County Land Use Adjustment Board for a five-year term. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To re-appoint Dan Hill to the Benton County Conservation Board for a five-year term. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To appoint or make the following changes to members of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments' Boards. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kate Roberts, Bruce Visser, and Tracy Seeman, Ronald Tippet and Bruce Volz as alternates

REGION 10 TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ben Vierling and Dan McKenna as an alternate

REGION 10 TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Randy Scheel for two-year term

REGION 10 PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mark Erickson and Jessica Meyer-two-year term

REGION 10 TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Tracy Seeman, Gary Benson, and Ronald Tippet (alternate)-2 year term

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To appoint the following persons to the Benton County Eminent Domain for 2025. 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

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

Van Horne Benefited #1 – Larry Hlas
Keystone Benefited #2 –Dale Seeck
Newhall Benefited #4 –Timothy Rathje
Ben-Linn Benefited #3-#5 – James Keiper

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint Allison Hicks and Phil Borleski to the Benton County Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint Tracy Seeman, Becky VanWey, Ann Jorgensen, Jeff Ralston and Luke Hennings for a three-year term on the Integrated Vegetation Roadside Management Board and appointing Shelby Williams to the vacant spot. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint John Kreider, Isaac Harthorn and Roy Schulze to the Benton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission for a three year term. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To re-appoint Nancy Jensen, Mike Seeck, Jon Kaestner, Amy Boddicker, Terry Hertle, Jennifer Zahradnik and Tracy Seeman to the Benton County Solid Waste Commission. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint Mark Happel, Elaine Harrington, Mark Kotouc, Connie Barnes and Deb Christianson to the Benton County Zoning Commission for a three-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.
No action on the Belle Plaine Airport Regional Zoning.

Seeman moved/Tippett seconded: To re-appoint Gary Marlow to the Vinton Airport Zoning Board. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Tippett seconded: To re-appoint Myron Parizek to the Airport Eastern Iowa Zoning Board. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint John Lindaman as the Civil Rights Coordinator for 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To have Vinton Newspapers, Vinton Eagle and The Gazette as the Official Newspapers for 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Bruce Volz as trustee to the Heartland Insurance Risk Group and Hayley Rippel as alternate. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Myron Parizek as the County Engineer pursuant to Iowa Code 309.17. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To authorize Tracy Seeman to sign USDA FSA Documents on behalf of Benton County. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Eric Schares as the Benton County Weed Commissioner for 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Steve Runyan and Paul Zander as Cedar Township Trustees for a four-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Carl Gerhold, Mike Rathje as Fremont Township Trustees for a four-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Dale Seeck and Lindsay Staton as Homer Township Trustees for a four-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Mike Knupp and Mark Kotouc as Monroe Township Trustees for a four-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Paula Denison and Matt Garbers as Union Township Trustees for a four-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried

The Board started discussion for FY 26 Budgets. Auditor Rippel explained how the big part of budget changes relies on health Insurance rates and what the Board will decide to do along with wages. This led to discussion on reserves in the fund balances and how it is important to not utilize that if we can help it. The 3% cap on increases is still a concern this year as it was last year. If the county has valuation growth, and estimating same levies as last year and that amount is above 3% we are forced to lower the levy as we were forced to do last year. Supervisor Tippett would like to see the Board take a different approach this year. With his experiences as both the sheriff and police chief in the past. He would like to give department heads an amount to work with but not allowing cuts to wages, personnel or benefits. Auditor Rippel would get some documentation to the Board, so they can see the history over the past few years. The upcoming meetings will have a lot of discussion/action items that will need to be had before we can really start crunching numbers.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To Adjourn at 11:47 a.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

January 7, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippet and Volz present. Supervisor Seeman called the meeting to order at 9:30 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>. *Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyiowa.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda with a few changes noted from the Auditor. Seeman abstained. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of January 2, 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

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Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the Auditor's Quarterly Report ending December 31, 2024. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To accept resignation from Dylan Ryder, jailer at the Sheriff's Office effective January 10, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To set land use hearing date of Tuesday February 4, 2025 at 9:15 a.m. for Paige and Brandon Dullia for part of the NE ¼ NW ¼ of Sectio 32-83-9. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the claims Payroll checks numbered 143658 through 143662, ACH Deposits 59631 through 59785, vendor checks 252382 through 252387, and claims numbered 252388 through 252504. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve three ARPA Claims, all to Hawkeye Communications for IT/Wiring in a total amount of \$7,398.00. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To appoint Lynn Schoenmann to the Belle Plaine Regional Zoning Board. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To approve Sheriff's Quarterly Report, ending December 31, 2024. Seeman and Volz voting aye, Tippet abstained. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To re-appoint Dr. Brian Meeker as Benton County Medical Examiner, Elana Janss-Johnson, Tyler Henkle, Braxton Morrison, Kimberly Koehler-Rayman, Katie Stetzel, Amanda Seiler, Mindy Icenbice and David Eilander as Medical Examiner Investigators for a two-year term. Tippett, Seeman and Volz all voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracey Achenbach with the East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund presented the FY26 budget request. She explained how the trust fund started in the late 1990s. Since the program started, they have spent over \$1.2 million. The request of \$5,986 is an increase from \$5,387 last year. The supervisors agreed that the county gets a good return on this investment. \$183,080.00 was paid out in Benton County alone last year from the Eastern Iowa Housing Trust Fund.

Ryan Bervin with Assured Partners met with the board regarding employee benefits and the various renewal options through ISAC (Iowa State Association of Counties). He said 28 counties participate in this partial self-funded health plan. The overall pool had a very good year. He explained the wellness, dental, life, vision and other benefits. He said the county's reserves are in a good spot. Bervin also touched on how an HRA works for sick leave conversion. It would be a great benefit to employees, but costly for the County. At this time, there was nothing set up for this. He can prepare more information about this and other things the board inquired on such as long-term disability.

Joe Kaiser, representing Stoney Arch Estates Association. He would like to see the easement removed between lots 10 and 11. He had concern about heavy farm equipment on that easement. Barb Fetzer of the land use department explained to Kaiser that the Supervisors can't do that, there would need to be a re-plat of lots 10 and 11 and that the City of Vinton would have the right to review. Kaiser thanked the Board for their time and will pursue further action.

Mark Erickson, Transportation Director, asked for clarification on the Transportation handbook regarding the Christmas Eve Holiday. His handbook still reflected a half day and his department worked a half day. Erickson was going to allow those employees 4 hours of comp time to reflect this and the Board agreed it was acceptable. This led to conversation to simplify the handbook(s) so that it is all one version with noting specific things to this department such as the Transportation's Drug and Alcohol Policy.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To authorize Mark Erickson to order both of the transportation bus(s) and commit funds accordingly over the FY 26 and FY 27 budgets. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Legislation in July changed and dissolved the compensation board, explained Auditor Hayley Rippel explained how legislation in July changed and dissolved the Compensation Boards. Reinstating the compensation board is up to the counties. In the past the Compensation Board sets the percentage recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board then could not go above, they could cut, but would have to cut evenly across all officials. If they don't reinstate the Board, then the Supervisors would have to act as such, and do the work to show and justify where they got the amounts.

Assistant County Attorney Derek Marsh said Lough wanted the board to know he didn't think the county needs a compensation board, adding, "He feels like

we're perfectly capable to advocate for ourselves and our own people."

Supervisor Volz asked some questions how this affects all employees and Rippel explained the comp board is only acting for elected officials, which then trickles down to their respective deputy positions in their office and those wages can not go above 85% of their elected official's salary.

Supervisor Tippett observed the compensation board doesn't streamline the process, but it gives elected officials time to allow for a representative to advocate for the elected officials. Volz commented how nobody likes to see themselves asking for their own raise.

Supervisor Seeman is on the fence, and said it would be another meeting to attend. Supervisor Tippett spoke on behalf of a previous meeting held by the elected officials and all but one were in favor of having it re-instated.

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Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-3, Re-Establishing a County Compensation Board. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-3 RE-ESTABLISHING A COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 331.905, as amended in 2024 by Senate File 2442, the county board of supervisors may vote to establish a county compensation board.

WHEREAS, pursuant to this same Code Section, when the board of supervisors establishes a county compensation board, the compensation board shall be comprised of seven members who are residents of the county. Two members shall be appointed by the board of supervisors, one member each by the county auditor, county attorney, county recorder, county treasurer, and county sheriff. The members of the county compensation board shall not be officers or employees of the state or a political subdivision of the state and shall serve staggered terms.

WHEREAS, the duration for the initial staggered terms for members of the County Compensation Board to run based on the election years of the County Auditor, County Attorney, County Recorder, County Treasurer, and County Sheriff. The two Board of Supervisor members will serve staggered alternating terms from each other.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Benton County hereby establishes a county compensation board for the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Benton County directs each of the elected officials to submit their respective appointments to the board of supervisors by January 14, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the representatives of the County Supervisors (1 of 2), County Auditor and County Sheriff shall serve an initial term of four years and the representatives of County Supervisors (2 of 2), County Treasurer, County Recorder and County Attorney shall serve an initial term of two years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall apply retroactively to July 1, 2024.

HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Benton County on this 7th day of January, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

ATTEST:

Bruce Volz

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve and authorize chairman to sign purchase agreement and permanent easement for RCB culvert extension on 61st St. Ln. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve 75 hours of vacation to be carried over for Myron Parizek to be used by May 31, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Parizek also inquired when the new version of the handbook would go into effect as he has employees with anniversaries that fall this week, and that would affect their vacation days.

Further discussion regarding the handbook but mainly discussing the sick leave conversion portion in Section 4.3. The Board would like to remove this section, and really get educated more on this and the cost it would be to the budget. Supervisor Tippett pointed out that the FY25 Budget had only began a short time when this was presented and approved by the previous Board. This is something that should be addressed with negotiating union contracts and setting budgets. Now would be the proper time for this to be discussed for proper future budget planning. Further discussion that this needs to be looked at and parameters set. We can't discriminate as we were explained earlier. Employees were told the new changes would go into effect January 1, minus the sick leave conversion in section 4.3.

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Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-4, Adopting a new and revised Benton County Employee Handbook. Seeman, Tippett and Volz all voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-4

ADOPTING BENTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors desires to adopt a new revised and improved county employee handbook; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors would like to rescind action regarding the Sick Leave Conversion in Section 4.3 that was included in Resolution #24-80;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Resolution #25-4, replaces any current employee handbook(s) prior to this newly adopted version. The Auditor's Office or Human Resources Office is directed to provide all employees copies of the new handbook and have a signed employee acknowledgement form back by January 24, 2025 to be put in their personnel files. This new handbook will be retro and go into effect January 1, 2025.

Signed this 7th day of January, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ron Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Continued discussion on insurance renewal rates were bounced around before deciding on plans and amounts.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the same Vision plan and splitting the premiums 50/50 for both employee and employer as such: \$3.09 for single and \$7.58 family per month. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To change the dental plan from Plan 3 to Plan 4 that allows an additional \$500 benefit of coverage. To continue splitting the monthly premiums 50/50 with employees as this: employee and employer share is \$22.92 for a single, \$44.41 for family plans. Tippett, Seeman and Volz all voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To stay with the same healthcare plan 17, but go with option 3 for the partial self-funding buy down difference. The employee share will continue as is currently with single paying \$99.44 a month and family plan is \$389.55. The employer needs to budget \$842.97 for single plans and \$1715.45 for family plans monthly. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

No action taken for the Monroe Township Clerk.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To recess at 11:38 a.m. and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To enter closed session at 1:01 p.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(j); to discuss the purchase sale of particular real estate only where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To exit closed session at 2:04 p.m. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To proceed with the County Attorney to pursue quiet title action to ensure clear title to the future owner of the old dog pound property. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn at 2:08 p.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

January 14, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman and Tippett present. Volz attended by phone. Supervisor 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>. Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyiowa.gov

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of January 7, 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To appoint Mike Barron, term ending July 1, 2028 and Steve Williams with term ending July 1, 2026 as the Supervisor's appointees to the Benton County Compensation Board. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge the following elected officials appointed representatives to the Compensation Board. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

County Attorney-John Ketchen, with term ending July 1, 2026

County Auditor-Michele Schoonover with term ending July 1, 2028

County Recorder-John Yundt with term ending July 1, 2026

County Sheriff-Charlie Garwood with term ending July 1, 2028

County Treasurer-Tressa Walton with term ending July 1, 2026

There was talk of hopefully having a compensation board meeting as early as next week. Melinda Schoettmer is working on getting this set up.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report ending December 31, 2024. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the Recorder's Quarterly Report ending December 31, 2024. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the Veteran's Affairs Quarterly Report ending December 31, 2024. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the General Assistance Quarterly Report ending December 31, 2024. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Ben Turnis, County IT Director shared the need to make some upgrades and changes to the Sheriff's office IT structure. The gentlemen who was currently providing their IT Support has passed away unexpectedly. Turnis would like to get some assistance through the ICIT Tech Team. They would come in and do an assessment on the Sheriff's infrastructure, find problems, survey equipment and look at misconfigurations and then would come back and present their findings to the Board. This would help Turnis in prioritizing the needs as to what needs to be done first. There might be some costs in the near future after they present their findings.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve having the Iowa Counties Information Technologies (ICIT) Tech Team come in and do a full assessment of the sheriff's office IT needs and authorize the chairman to sign the hold harmless agreement and agree to pay the \$4,000 for this service. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Rippel explained the need to amend the budget hearing that had previously been set for FY 25 amendment #2. There had been some recent needs brought to her attention along with the IT work at the Sheriff's office. She would need additional time to get those implemented into this upcoming amendment along with meeting the newspaper publication requirements.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To Amend FY 25 Budget Amendment Hearing date from January 21, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. to February 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

FY 26 Budget conversations continued. Supervisor Tippett proposed sending a letter to the department heads with guidance where their budgets should be. Rippel agreed that would be a good idea. A big factor is most definitely working with the insurance amounts decided last week, and wages. Hopefully that can take place in the upcoming week or two. The individual departments could then get her a more accurate budget by the end of the month so that she can start compiling it as a whole. There are so many unknowns such as the Mental Health Changes that will be taking place, landfill fees and non-departmental costs to factor in as well.

Auditor Rippel informed the Board of some recent resignations to Union Township along with Van Horne Benefitted Fire District. The Board would need to find some replacements in the near future.

Supervisor Seeman reported on his recent Conservation meeting where the County Weed Commissioner also provided an update along with the IRVM committee.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

January 21, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz present. Supervisor 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>. *Summarized Resolutions will be available in the Auditor's office and at: www.bentoncountyiowa.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To remove item #14 (Discuss/Approve 28E with Central Iowa Juvenile Detention) from the agenda to allow the County Attorney to look over and do more research. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the agenda with that one removed item. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of January 14, 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Payroll checks numbered 143663 through 143667, ACH Deposits 59786 through 59944, vendor checks 252505 through 252511, and claims numbered 252512 through 252636. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Karen Kurt, the new Executive Director for East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) introduced herself to the Board.

ECICOG works through a 28E agreement between Benton, Linn, Johnson, Jones, Washington and Iowa Counties. They leverage state

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

and federal resources for the region and kick into high gear when needed for such things as derecho disasters. Kurt also presented their annual report and Fiscal Budget asking of \$18,260.

Alyssa Comer and Mary Beth Stevenson, also from ECICOG came to educate the Board on the watershed management authority for the Middle Cedar. The authority has been in effect for 10 years. Benton County was the previous fiscal agent, and Tracy Seeman has served on the Middle Cedar Board. They are currently working on getting more entities signed on along with efforts to get a new coordinator hired. They are requesting \$5,000 from Benton County. IN the group are Franklin, Hardin, Butler, Grundy, Marshall, Tama, Black Hawk, Buchanan and Linn Counties along with smaller towns of Vinton, Traer, and Grundy Center and also the City of Cedar Rapids, Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

Melody Kosobucki with Riverview Center gave a quick overview of the services they provide in Benton County. They work to get people on path to healing and moving forward after being impacted by sexual abuse. They work closely with our Sheriff office and local hospitals. Their FY 25 Budget asking is \$1,000.

Karey Chase, vice president of community impact for the East-Central United Way talked to the Board about the volunteer center in Benton County. They currently have two part-time staff in their office space in Belle Plaine. Their advisory council would like to see them looking into server smaller communities. Chase explained what services they have provided such as transportation services and errand running, projects of coats, pillows and the tree of sharing and Thanksgiving food packages. Their FY 26 Budget asking is \$20,000.

Rik Handler, representing Pete's Hills Addition and Haley McNulty, representing Southern Exposure Estates came to present a petition of names and to discuss a paving project on 32nd Avenue from HWY 30 to the sub-division. The list of property owners are all willing to partner with Benton County for the cost of getting this done. Engineer Myron Parizek talked about the costs and time process of how soon this could take place. A contractor would have to be hired. The Engineer and Auditor will prepare a petition, contract and waiver to finalize the details of cost for doing this as a special assessment. The time span of how many years to spread this out was also discussed. This will be brought to the board at a later date for official action.

The Benton County Library Association met with the Board on their budget requests. The Association hasn't met with the board for some years and thought this was a great time with two new supervisor members. Kelly Henkle, The Vinton Library Director explained all the services they provide to the member libraries of Belle Plaine, Keystone, Blairstown, Norway, Atkins, Newhall, Shellsburg, Vinton, Van Home and Garrison. They also provide services to Luzerne and rural residents of the County. They are asking the same amount as the current year. Henkle also talked about the programs put on in the libraries, and subscriptions, circulation and programming provided at each library.

Sheriff Dave Upah and Deputy Josh Karsten presented needs for an amendment to the current budget. It appears they will be short on spending authority in wage area and vehicles. Currently they are short four people and stressed this isn't for new positions, this was to fill vacancies where they have been short. With that comes the need for the vehicles and full gear to be put into the vehicles including in car camera systems. Auditor Rippel felt that these vehicles could be paid out of Local Option Sales and Service Fund (LOSST). She has included some of these increased spending authority in the upcoming Budget Amendment notice that recently went to the paper. That budget hearing is set for February 4, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. The 3 most recent vehicle purchases will be used for the new hires, and they are going to seek bids for 3 more that will be used to replace high0mileage vehicles. Further discussion on amounts and also the need to increase the fees for contract rates. They would like to get something in place and sent out to the cities so that these new rates could go into effect July 1. The current rate is \$32.50 and that doesn't even cover the wages.

Robert Spangler, Phil Borleske and of the Benton County Historical Preservation Commission presented their FY 26 Budget request of \$17,135. \$6,000 is for office space rental and the rest goes towards training and projects they are required to do. The office space is to allow for these things and currently they share with the supervisors conference room and they want space of their own. The Supervisors told them they are still brainstorming for space and might know more by July.

FY 26 Budget conversations continued. Supervisor Tippettt proposed sending a letter to the department heads with guidance where their budgets should be. Rippel agreed that would be a good idea. A big factor is most definitely working with the insurance amounts decided last week, and wages. Hopefully that can take place in the upcoming week or two. The individual departments could then get her a more accurate budget by the end of the month so that she can start compiling it as a whole. There are so many unknowns such as the Mental Health Changes that will be taking place, landfill fees and non-departmental costs to factor in as well.

Committee reports: Supervisor Tippettt reported on attending the newly elected officials school last week at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. He felt it was great information and networking. Supervisor Seeman attended the landfill meeting and the watershed meeting. Continuation on the FY 26 budget discussion was had. Auditor Rippel inquired on who will be budgeting for the service agreement for maintenance fees on the communication towers. If it will be the county or emergency management, they affect two different levies. Supervisor Seeman will get back on this and get the final yearly amount needed. Supervisor Tippettt said he would like to maintain what we have but would like to see an overall decrease in the county budget. Auditor Rippel shared that with changes that Senate File 2442 made, the growth in the county has forced us to reduce levies again for FY26 General Basic and Rural Basic. The tax reform changes could continue for years to come, so we have to take it a year at a time depending on what legislation does.

Tippettt moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 11:46 a.m. Tippettt, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

January 27, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippettt 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*

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the agenda. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the minutes of January 21, 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To table action on approving the Flood insurance renewals with Holmes Murphy and Associates. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Ben Turnis, IT Director provided a quick update on the Sheriff Office's. Turnis explained the dire need for a new server, and the cost he was quoted was \$67,000. He ordered that Friday so that it could speed up the process to get here and installed. How this all was budgeted was discussed and going forward in FY 26, all IT software and hardware will all be out of one area.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-5, Abatement of Taxes. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-5

WHEREAS, The County of Benton had held and assigned a tax sale certificate to the City of Belle Plaine on a parcel; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 445.16 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 2014 thru 2023 tax assessed against parcels listed below as follows are hereby abated in the amounts listed pursuant to Iowa Code 445.16: the treasurer is directed to strike the amount listed due from the county system.

Parcel #	Taxes plus interest and costs Due:
030-41150	\$4221.00

Dated 27th day of January, 2025

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Kristine Bullock, Kirkwood Workplace Learning Center presented an overview of the services they provide in Benton County. They have been recognized in the Top 10 for work bases learning ECO system. They have had 39% increase in job shadows also. The FY26 asking is the same as last year \$2,575.50 based on the 10cents per capita based on the 2020 census data.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To table action on the purchase agreement. The engineer didn't receive the documentation in time for today's meeting. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Supervisor Volz attended a Heartland Risk Insurance Meeting last week. Said it was very interesting and that we would be getting the property renewals in February.

Supervisor Tippett attended the mental health region meeting. They went over the phasing out program and how this will affect our districts come July 1st. This led to budget discussions how we are still left with unknown answers regarding how to proceed with FY 26 Budget.

Supervisor Seeman reported that the contractors work at Conservation's Atkins roundhouse has started.

Julia Biery requested a closed session.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To enter into closed session at 9:49 a.m. 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 that individual requests a closed session. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To Exit closed session at 10:24 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye thereon. Motion carried. No action taken after the closed session.

The Board agreed on having another meeting this week strictly for a budget work session set for Friday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:51 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

February 4, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve agenda minus the claims, those were put on in error. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Grace Schmidt representing Benton County Wellness Committee shared what was discussed at a recent Wellness Committee meeting. Currently only employees on the County's insurance are eligible for Wellness incentives, including a wellness day. The committee would like for those employees not on county's insurance who get a yearly physical and provide receipt of such, that they could also earn a wellness day off.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To allow employees that are not covered by the county's insurance to provide proof of a physical and obtain a wellness day off. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Various departments throughout the meeting today presented their Budgets and had open discussions in regards.

Barb Greenlee presented the Land Use and Environmental Health's FY 26 Request.

The time of 9:15 a.m. having arrived, and this being the time and date set for a land use hearing for Paige and Brandon Dullia in part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ Section 32-83-9. Dullia's were present along with the land owner Barb Sonka. Matt Even presented the technical information with the Benton County Agricultural Land Use Preservation Ordinance. Even stated the applicants would like to purchase 5 acres to allow for a single-family dwelling. This site is currently in production with a low CSR of 62. Dullia's intend to utilize one of the existing field accesses off of HWY 30. The DOT has completed an initial evaluation and reported that one of the two existing field accesses can be utilized as a residential access. The applicants will need to apply for an entrance permit. A private sewage disposal system and private water well will need to be installed. There are single family dwellings along with a shop and outdoor storage area located north of the site, to the west and south there is row crops. Four 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 Paige and Brandon Dullia, a part of the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 32-83-9. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve both sets of minutes from January 27, 2025 and January 31, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Tara Hills Country Club. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To give Belle Plaine Ambulance prior approval for the Local Option Sales and Service (LOSST) 10% gift match from the county. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Once they purchase the ambulance and provide invoices, this will come back to the Board as a Resolution.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Matt Garbers to the Van Horne Benefitted Fire District. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Larry Hlas as Union Township Clerk. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To appoint Don Tiedemann as Union Township trustee. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Tim Kapucian and Todd Hennings as Kane Township trustees. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To appoint Roni Frye as Monroe Township trustee. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

The time of 9:30 a.m. having arrived, and this being the time and date set for a public hearing for a budget amendment on current FY 25 Budget. Auditor Rippel explained the different service areas and what those amounts consisted of. The need for more spending authority for outside legal fees for the attorney, Sheriff departments needs for salary's, IT software/hardware and vehicles, some grants for Public Health and Conservation, juvenile detention, and transfers along with changing spending authority between the Auditor department and elections. There were no comments in regards, the public hearing was closed.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-6, FY 25 Budget Amendment #2. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-6

BE IT REMEMBERED on this, the 4th day of February, 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 23, 2024. 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	\$ 317,000
Physical Health & Social Services	\$ 126,682
Mental Health	\$ 0
County Environment & Education	\$ 23,750
Roads & Transportation	\$ 0
Government Services to Residents	\$ 12,000
Administration	\$ 100,000
Non-Program	\$ -600,000
Debt Service	\$ 0
Capital Projects	\$ 0
Operating Transfers Out	\$ 265,000
 <u>REVENUES</u>	 <u>Amount</u>
Intergovernmental	\$ 387,143
Licenses & Permits	\$ 0
Charges for Services	\$ 0
Use of Money & Property	\$ 0
Miscellaneous	\$ 115,155
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	\$ 0
Operating Transfers – In	\$ 0
Proceeds of Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Operating Transfers In	\$265,000

Dated this 4th day of February, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Sheriff Upah and Deputy Josh Karsten were present for the public hearing on the budget amendment. They wanted to follow up and be sure it was good to move forward with some of their previous requests. Upah also clarified the original amount thrown out at an earlier meeting, and that has been reduced. They still have some future amendment needs and wanted the Board's guidance on how to proceed. The board agreed with getting the current new vehicles equipped was needed along with ordering the camera system. The Sheriff's department will be back next week to open vehicle bids obtained, along with presenting their FY 26 budget so they can discuss this further then.

Mindy Druschel presented the FY 26 DHS Budget. It was pretty consistent with prior years.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-7, Wage and classification change in Secondary Roads. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-7

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 Jakob Long be set at \$27.53 effective February 7, 2025. This position carries a Labor Grade IVB classification.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Utility permit for ITC Midwest across southern Benton County. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye thereon. Motion carried.

Engineer presented a quote sheet for 2025 Motor graders as follows:

Martin Equipment-John Deere 770G-\$395,500

Altorfer Caterpillar 150-15A -\$399,891

Martin Equipment John Deere-772G \$429,500

Altorfer Caterpillar 150AWD -\$441,795

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To accept the Engineer's recommendation and approve the quote for Altorfer Caterpillar 150-15A with the add-ons in the amount of \$399,891. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye Motion carried.

Melinda Schoettmer, County Treasurer presented her Budget. Schoettmer did reduce her temporary and part-time wages amount from \$30,000 to \$10,000.

Lexa Speidel, County Recorder presented her Budget Request. Speidel also went over areas where the revenue could increase in the next fiscal year for the recording fees, depending on what legislation does.

Mark Erickson presented the Transportation Departments Budget. Erickson also provided an overview of services they provide.

Transportation's overall budget asking has decreased from FY 25.

Shelby Williams and Cecilia Dirks presented the Conservation Budget and were answering questions and explaining the differences compared to last FY.

Eric Schares presented the Weed department's budget. They were going to look into a possible grant we were approved for and make sure that gets submitted for reimbursement if it is not too late.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To recess for lunch at 11:48 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

The Board went back into open session at 12:30 p.m.

Courtney Long wasn't able to be there for the Veterans Affairs Budget and General Assistance. The Board did go ahead and discuss it. Hayley Rippel presented her Auditor and Election Budgets. Rippel explained the need for spending authority within the Election side of things. They are required to do some training and continue ed and along with being prepared if a city/school/county need to have a special for example, there has to be spending authority there. It doesn't get spent unless it needs to be, and some of that is reimbursable by the other entities.

The County Attorney presented his budget, along with updating the Board on the Collections department. They increased the amount in judgements, damages, settlements and fines in the County Attorney Forfeiture Fund from \$500 to \$5000.

Bruce Volz reported on the recent Wellness Committee he attended. Tracy Seeman had the Eastern Iowa Housing Trust Fund and ECICOG meeting and he also visited with Next Era Energy last week. Ron Tippett reported that he along with Auditor Rippel and Mona Onken are having a zoom call with Deb Guard, Mental Health Region's fiscal agent to help us discuss the need for a FY 25 amendment and what FY 26 asking should look like with the upcoming transitions.

The Board verified the outside entities who asked for allocations included in the FY 26 Budgets as follows;

HACAP-total of \$78,776, they will be here next week to recap the services they provide.

Eastern Iowa Housing Trust Fund-\$5,986

Benton County Volunteers-United Way-\$20,000

Riverview Center -\$1,000

Middle Cedar Watershed-\$5,000

Kirkwood Workplace Learning Connection-\$2,575.50

Belle Plaine Community Center-\$5,000

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 1:40 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

February 11, 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 agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of February 4, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve January 30, 2025 Payroll checks numbered 143668 through 143679, ACH Deposits 59945 through 60096, vendor checks 252637 through 252642, and claims numbered 252643 through 252831. February 13, 2025 payroll checks numbered 143680 through 143692, ACH Deposits 60097 through 60246 and vendor checks 252832 through 252838. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the claim to R C Tech in the amount of \$6005.54 using ARPA Funds. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To appoint John Becker as Homer Township trustee. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the flood insurance renewals with Holmes Murphy leaving the amounts the same. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve farm exemption application for Brian Miller in a part of Parcel B in the SE ¼ of Section 10-85-9. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve hiring of Tess Ware, part-time cleaning at the Service Center at \$20.08 an hour effective February 12, 2025 for a total of 5 hours a week. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Maintenance presented their FY 26 Budget. Nothing too major changed, other than the Auditor did have to increase a line item in there for the hazard mitigation plan update that needs to be done every five years.

Supervisor Seeman reported on the recent Conservation Board meeting. Shelby Williams will be on KGAN for the Atkins Roundhouse project. Supervisor Seeman and Supervisor Tippet reported on the radio tower project and recent tour they took.

Grace Schmidt presented the FY 26 Public Health Budget request including some of the pass through grants obtained in the department. Schmidt also reminded the Board of her open house currently going on today and hoped they would stop by.

Kate Robertson, Benton Development Group Director along with board member president, Lyle Morrow presented the budget request. Robertson explained how they work with all communities on any project and they helped to secure \$2 million for projects. The county puts \$100,000 towards their budget and REC gives \$6,000. Robertson explained that 75-80% was towards wages and travel costs and the other goes toward marketing in the communities and other day to day operational costs. Supervisor Volz asked if any cities contributed funds and he was told they do not. Supervisor Seeman asked about any projects currently and learned of two possible ones.

Jane Drapeaux, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) gave an overview of their services along with their FY 26 Budget Request. Drapeaux explained the three different areas that are funded. Fourth Street Dining and Senior Center in Vinton, Belle Plaine Senior Dining, and also a housing program in Belle Plaine. Top needs are housing and food assistance, along with some energy assistance. They also help provide food to local food pantries and helps with program at Head Start. Their asking is the same as last year-\$78,700.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve and authorize chairman's signature on purchase agreement(s) with Russell and Kimberly Marcus in the amount of \$2,900 and Kent and Jolene Groff in the amount of \$1,440.00 for bridge project on 32nd Ave. Dr. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve Iowa DOT Agreement #2025-C-015 for HWY 30 and W28 intersection lighting. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve Resolution #25-8, Temporary Construction Closure. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-8

BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisor's that the following described Secondary Road be closed for CONSTRUCTION effective from February 19, 2025, through the completion of the project.

From the intersection near the SW corner of the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 11-T85N-R10W thence north approximately 1.75 miles to the intersection near the N ¼ corner of Section 2-T85N-R10W along 26th Avenue Drive in Taylor Township.

Signed this 11th day of February, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

The Engineer explained his FY26 Budget and how all the DOT codes work. The Union contract has in for 4% wage increases and he asked for the same for the others with the exception of Deb Cummings he is asking for \$5,000 comparing her position to other office management positions.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Ben Turnis presented the IT and GIS Budget for FY 26. With taken on the Sheriff Department's IT areas, it did increase overall for software contracts and hardware upgrades. Turnis has been working to make the IT/Software contracts and maintenance fees all streamlined into one budget.

The sheriff reported on the one quotes obtained for new vehicle(s) were as follows:

Thys Motor Company-\$44,564 each for 2025 Durango Pursuit Vehicle AWD Package 22Z

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve quote from Thys Motor Company for (3) 2025 Dodge Durango AWD for a total of \$133,692. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge resignation of Justin Coshow, Sheriff Deputy effective February 7, 2025. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

The Sheriff presented their 26 Budget Request. Sheriff Upah explained the changes and how he wants to get the vehicles back into a purchase rotation. The IT needs have been re-assessed between the County IT department and Sheriff. The talk about the new hires, and other department needs were also had and they have the 31 candidates for the new hires narrowed down to 10.

Reminder that the Board has another meeting tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. also for a few more department budgets.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 12:58 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

February 12, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

This morning's meeting consisted of more budget work.

Mona Onken presented the FY26 Mental Health and Access Hub budget, which is very minimal and uncertain. Onken also explained the need for a FY 25 Amendment due to the sunset date of the region's mental health on June 30, 2025. There has to be enough spending authority and funding to cover those expenses that trickle into FY 26. With so many current unknowns, the board tossed out the possibility of those existing contracts that can be honored for 6 months to one year after June 30. The Board agreed to put the spending authority in for a full time position into the Access Hub's Budget and wait and see what the ASO decides. If they don't come through with continued funding, then the Board has the choice of not pursuing it or further fund it through the county's general fund. Onken reported that Mae Hingtgen, Director of the MHDS of the East Central Region would be at a future board meeting to discuss more at length as they learn further about the transition plan.

Julia Biery presented the FY 26 Human Resources budget request. Biery explained the market analysis for a range of salaries. Biery left most of the budget the same as last FY. The discussion of full-time vs the part-time status, amount of work and when a transition to full could take place was had. The software expenses were also discussed and Biery would follow up with questions the board had along with researching some options.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:04 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

February 18, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the minutes of February 11, 2025 with some corrections and also minutes of February 12, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve out of state training for Mona Onken to attend the National Council for Mental Health Conference in Philadelphia on May 4-7, 2025. This will be reimbursed expenses from the Region. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the City of Shellsburg law enforcement contract for a yearly sum of \$33,800 to be paid quarterly, not to exceed 20 hours a week. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve out of state training for Mark Erickson, Transportation Director to attend the Iowa Public Transportation Conference in Washington, DC March 20-22, 2025. This will be reimbursed from grant money. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To authorize chairman to sign the certificates of appointments for deputies that were sworn in January 3rd in the Sheriff and Auditor's office. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To set the public hearing date for the FY 26 Maximum Levy Asking on Wednesday, March 26th at 9:00 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Derek Marsh, Assistant County Attorney shared the letter he drafted after last week's discussion in regards to Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Center. This letter addresses some concerns involving invoices from the facility. The Board agreed this letter sounded good and to go ahead and sent it.

There was no committee reports.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 9:32 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

February 20, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met for a special meeting to participate in a zoom call with Heartland Insurance regarding the property insurance renewals with Supervisors Seeman and Tippett present. Volz was absent. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Benton County Service Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to jointly participate in a zoom meeting that Heartland Insurance Risk Pool put on for all members. Holmes Murphy shared how they calculate replacement costs for our property coverage and allowed for questions and answers.

Tippett moved/Seeman seconded: To adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Nancy Jorgensen, Deputy Benton County Auditor

February 25, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of February 18, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the Special Class C Retail alcohol License for Bloomsbury Farms effective April 30, 2025 through April 29, 2026. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve payroll checks numbered 143693 through 143712, ACH Deposits 60247 through 60397, claims numbered 252839 through 252958 and vendor checks 252959 through 252965. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Seeman seconded: To approve paying the claim to Hawkeye Communication in the amount of \$30,590.58 using the ARPA fund. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-9, Hiring Five(5) Deputy Sheriff's. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-9
Hiring of Benton County Deputy Sheriff(s)

WHEREAS: Benton County Sheriff's Office has opening(s) to fill for Deputy Sheriff(s) and;

WHEREAS: Applications were accepted for this position and the Civil Service Commission has narrowed the selection of candidates;

WHEREAS: These applications have been reviewed and evaluated;

WHEREAS: The Sheriff has recommended the following to be hired;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY The Benton County Board of Supervisors that the following be hired to fill the positions for Deputy Sheriff at different rates according to their years of mark :

Tiffany DeBoer at a starting hourly rate of \$35.18 and after July 1, 2025 that rate will increase to \$36.59 with an effective start date of February 28, 2025.

Jordan Hoepfner at a starting hourly rate of \$34.24 and after July 1, 2025 that rate will increase to \$35.61 with an effective start date of March 10, 2025.

Joshua Jones at a starting hourly rate of \$34.24 and after July 1, 2025 that rate will increase to \$35.61 with an effective start date of March 17, 2025.

Logan Garwood at a starting hourly rate of \$32.42 and after July 1, 2025 that rate will increase to \$33.71 with an effective start date of March 19, 2025.

Augustus Joyce at a starting hourly rate of \$30.42 and after July 1, 2025 that rate will increase to \$31.64 with an effective start date of March 24, 2025.

Signed this 25th day of February, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Seeman seconded: To approve Resolution #25-10, Classification change for Sheriff Employee. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 25-10

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff has a new position for Jail Administrator opening;

WHEREAS, Russell Denison has been employed by Benton County full-time since February 1, 2003 and;

WHEREAS, Denison has been acting as the jail supervisor doing great work; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff recommended that Denison have his employment status changed from Jail Supervisor to Jail Administrator with Captain ranking;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Russell Denison be promoted from Jail Supervisor to Jail Administrator in the sheriff's office effective February 24, 2025 with an annual salary of \$74,960.60 and after July 1, 2025 it will increase to \$77,159.67.

Signed this 24th day of February 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Sheriff Upah reported that notice has been given to those cities that contract for law enforcement, that the rate increased. So far, he felt everyone has been receptive of it. Upah also reported the front steps that are broken in front of the law enforcement center and will need to be looked at and fixed for safety concerns.

Auditor Rippel reported that there has been numerous counties recently adjusting their budgets to pay one or more of their sheriff deputies salary out of the Rural Services fund instead of General Basic. The Board agreed to have the Auditor adjust things using the amounts of 2 deputies salary and provide them reports before they make a final decision on this. Rippel would get them some revised reports in regards.

Courtney Long, Veterans Affairs Director discussed care of graves and how Benton County pays \$5 per grave each year. Long also provided a list of veterans buried in Benton County along with invoices paid. Code section 35B.17 has been repealed, so nothing in the law that would require to continue said payments. The Board agreed to leave it the same. Long also answered some questions in regards to the Veterans Affairs and General Assistance Budget. The board suggested increasing the care of graves from the \$1500 asking to \$3000 as it was in the past years. Supervisor Seeman also suggested creating a possible form to keep log of the care provided to the graves.

Engineer Myron Parizek came to discuss some details for the 32nd Ave. Sealcoat project. He is planning to put this expense in his FY26 Budget. The last sealcoat project the county did had a 3% interest rate. With 41 participants, this would be one of the largest for this type of project the county has done. Typically the overall cost is split 50/50 between the county and property owners. They also discussed how many years to spread this out, Iowa Code says it can be spread for 10 years, but previous projects have been only five.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To set the interest rate at 3% for a 7 year period for the seal coating project on 32nd Ave. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Allison Hicks and Phil Borleski from Historical Preservation Commission presented the board with their CLG Annual Report and explained some of the activities and upcoming events the Board has planned. Along with reporting that they were approved \$1,206 from a certified local government grant that will be used to host a one-day class on the restorations of historic windows.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve and authorize signature on the Historic Preservations 2024 CLG Annual Report. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Bob Cue, rural resident provided handouts on wind turbines and information on the SF376 in regards. He pointed out that Iowa Code 352.1 states: "It is the intent of the general assembly to provide local citizens and local governments the means by which agricultural land may be protected from nonagricultural development pressures." This proposed bill would strip away all the local control and he was present to encourage everyone to reach out to legislators and advocate in opposition to this.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To enter closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(k) To discuss information contained in records in the custody of a governmental body that are confidential records pursuant to Section 22.7, subsection 50. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried at 10:43 a.m.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To exit closed session at 12:12 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge receipt of the ICIT Tech Team's preliminary report that was shared during closed session and thanked their time and work involved. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 12:13 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 4, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of February 25, 2025 with a few edits. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-11, The Canvass of Special City of Urbana Election. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-11

WHEREAS, the SPECIAL CITY OF URBANA ELECTION was held as prescribed by law on February 25, 2025, and:

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors and *ex officio* Board of Canvassers have canvassed the vote of said election in accordance with §43.49 and §50.24 of the *Code of Iowa*, now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the undersigned members of the Board of Supervisors and *ex officio* Board of Canvassers of Benton County, Iowa, do hereby certify the following TURNOUT REPORT and RESULTS in the SPECIAL CITY OF URBANA ELECTION, held on February 25, 2025, and that no obvious clerical errors were identified during the canvass.

176 people voted at the polls on election day.

2 absentee ballots were accepted for counting.

A total of 178 people voted.

Urbana Council:

Randy Johnson-93 votes (ELECTED)
Shane Light-85 votes
Total -178 votes

Urbana Council:

Scott Huber-117 votes (ELECTED)
Write Ins-Shane Light-38 votes
Scattering write ins-8 votes
Total-163 votes

APPROVED this 4th day of March, 2025

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge a successful Post-Election Audit of Special City of Urbana Election. Seeman, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Seeman seconded: To set a public hearing date for FY 25 Budget Amendment #3 for Tuesday, April 1 at 9:15 a.m.

Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Supervisor Volz had his first Iowa Workforce Development Zoom meeting although encountered with technical difficulties, he didn't have much to report on.

Supervisor Tippet had a HACAP meeting along with the MH Regional Board meeting. He reported that they were chosen to be under the new management. Tippet also understood that the HUB will not continue to get funding.

Supervisor Seeman had a Safety Meeting, and reported that the County's MOD factor has went down relating to workman's compensation. He also had the Eastern Iowa Housing Trust Fund along with ECICOGs meeting. The Housing Trust Fund has received applications for Grants and those can also be for private businesses. They have yet to go through and do any decisions.

Bob Cue re-visited about SF 367 and asked if the Board wanted to make any statements in regards, and that this was being addressed today at noon. Supervisor Seeman said he has voiced his opposition to numerous legislators including Tom Gerhold. Cue also inquired about the signage out by Winegar Park and Tobin's Cabin. Cue has seen multiple vehicles get lost in the area.

Supervisor Tippet also brought up that there had been lights added to the Blairstown/Van Horne corner. Tippet also wanted to point out the county home blacktop out by Marvin Lindsey Ball diamond and how the road drops off to the culvert. There needs to be protective action taken. Discussions led to who is responsible for this, the City of Vinton or the County. Tippet would talk to Engineer Myron Parizek on the matter.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:16 a.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 4, 2025

A joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the EMS Advisory Council met on March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the EOC at the Sheriff's Office. Supervisor Seeman, Tippet and Volz were all three in attendance. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order. The main topic for discussion was how the funds are disbursed equally among all the First Responders and Transport Services. There are also outside agencies who often respond to calls in Benton County if they are closer, or the county's transport services are out on other calls. It was debated back and forth how to make it fair with those entities as well as our county services who respond to calls outside of the county. The overall goal is to provide the best services possible and utilize the closest available ambulances to respond. The consensus of the group for being the most important need is to have more first responders in our county, and ways to recruit and provide the necessary training. There was also talk about the purchasing of "fly cars" that can be of great help responding to calls also. FY 26 Budget was discussed along with how claims are to be paid through the Auditor's office after the Board of Supervisors approve them.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 10, 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 10:00 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*

The Board of Supervisors had a FY 26 Budget Work Session. The Maximum Levy Notice has been sent to the newspapers and the statements should be going out no later than March 15th to all households.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 2:00 p.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

March 11, 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 8:45 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of March 5, 2025 and the Joint Meeting with the EMS Advisory Council's minutes. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the memorandum of understanding between Benton County and Foundation 2 Crisis Services utilizing the Opioids Funds in the amount of \$12,250. The money will be used for Homeless and Recovery Support Kits and Transportation Assistance for Care Coordination. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Seeman seconded: To approve the MOU between Benton County's Sheriff's Department and Chauffer's, Teamsters & Helpers Local Union No. 238 to change Article 16 in reference to employee's paid share of the dental and vision coverage. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz Seconded: To approve Resolution #25-12, Changing Sheriff's Deputy(s) status. Voting aye were Tippet, Seeman and Volz. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-12

Promotions to the rank of Sergeant in the Sheriff's Office

WHEREAS, applications have been accepted, and the interviews and testing have been completed by the Civil Service Commission for said positions; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff recommends that Deputy Scott Bahmann, who has been employed with Benton County as a full-time Sheriff's Deputy since September of 2020, and Deputy Tyler Brandt, who has been employed with Benton County as a full-time Sheriff's Deputy since September, 2018, are the most qualified for these positions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Scott Bahmann and Tyler Brandt be approved for this promotion to the rank of Sergeant at the Benton County Sheriff's Office, effective March 11, 2025.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Mona Onken, explained the MHDS of East Central Region Retention Pay. If an employee stays through February, they get \$700 in March. If they stay through March, \$1,000 to be paid in April. Stay through April, paid \$1,250 in May. Stay through May and receive \$1,500 paid in June. If stay working through June, they will be paid \$2,000 in July.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the retention pay schedule from the MHDS of the East Central Region for Mona Onken, Sarah Wagner and Missy Carter on the 2nd pay period of the months. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Rumble strip discussion was had between the County Engineer and the Board of Supervisors at the Van Horne and HWY 30 intersection. Volz wanted to be brought up to speed to help answer question's he has received. What was talked about late last year was if the county wanted to take those rumble strips out, or do something to minimize the noise. The county learned of safety measures recommended for that intersection which included a flashing beacon on the stop sign which is a county purchase and installation. Parizek explained that the lighting has been done on the south side and needs done on the north. The Board of Supervisors had suggested getting all other safety recommendations done before removing the rumble strips. So that is where things are left currently.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve and sign purchase agreement(s) with Van Land, Inc. in the amount of \$1,500.00 and Donald Heckroth Revocable Family Trust in the amount of \$1,230.00 for permanent and temporary easements for bridge project on 54th Street in Cedar Township. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve payroll checks numbered 143713 through 143738, ACH Deposits 60398 through 60550, handwrite number 252966, claims numbered 252967 through 253126 and vendor checks 253127 through 253132. Seeman, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Tracy Seeman attended the Conservation Board Meeting last night and the Board all had an EMS Advisory Council meeting last week.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

Bob Cue reported to the Board that SF376, did not pass through the sub-committee last week in legislation. It is still being considered and he encouraged the Board or get a group for showing support for the ag and rural representation not only in the county but the State.

Doug Cook asked if the county was communicating with the health department regarding the measles outbreak.

Maintenance Director Rick Wood brought in a quote he obtained for the cement work around the courthouse that needs leveled up and fixed. The Board will be going to take a look at things. It will be put on next week's agenda.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 9:32 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 11, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz present. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.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*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To enter Closed Session per Iowa Code 21.5(1)c: To discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried at 1:02 p.m.

Volz moved/Seeman seconded: To exit closed session at 1:57 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To take no action upon further research and discussions for pending further investigations. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 1:58 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 18, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Courtney Long, Veterans Affairs Director to attend out of state training on April 7-10, 2025 in Washington, DC. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the minutes of March 10, 2025 and both sets from March 11, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge Mona Onken's resignation from the MHDD of the East Central Iowa Region effective May 16, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Rick Wood, Maintenance Director presented a cement quote received for leveling sidewalk on the courthouse grounds.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To acknowledge Jim Nelson's resignation on the EMS Advisory Council and appoint Zach Schmitz, as the replacement for the Norway's voting member. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tippett said after speaking with the County Attorney, that with the law change for compensation's board, that the supervisors could reduce or make changes to their recommendations without doing it equally. Tippett made a motion stating that he felt the increase in the Attorney's office needed to be done because they were behind and the Assistant Attorney is based on this so was okay with the \$6,000 increase. The Auditor's \$3,000 was justified for the extra duties taken on and the rest of the elected officials would stay the same. Supervisor Volz asked why he was recommending this. Tippett then explained his comparison's by the county's population and rankings compared to other elected officials in the state. Our Supervisors were ahead, Sheriff is ahead a little bit while the County Attorney was about even. The recorder and treasurer were also ahead as was the Auditor.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-13, Elected Official's Salaries for FY 26. Tippett and Volz voting aye, Seeman voted nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-13

ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES

WHEREAS, the Benton County Compensation Board met on January 28, 2025, and recommended the following increases in the salaries of all the elected officials pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 331.905 and 331.907; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Compensation Board recommended the following increases for FY 26;

Auditor-\$3,000
 Treasurer and Recorder-\$2,800
 Attorney-\$6,000
 Sheriff-\$4,000
 Supervisors-\$0

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors approved the following:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Recommended Salary for FY26</u>
Auditor	\$98,441.46	\$3,000	\$101,441.46
Treasurer	\$93,097.07	\$0	\$93,097.07
Recorder	\$93,097.07	\$0	\$93,097.07
Attorney	\$140,534.51	\$6,000	\$146,534.51
Sheriff	\$136,290.32	\$0	\$136,290.32
Supervisor	\$51,664.61	\$0	\$51,664.61

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopts the salary recommendations for elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, as recommended by the Benton County Compensation Board.

Dated this 18th day of March, 2025.

 Tracy Seeman, Chairman

 Ronald J. Tippett

 Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

 Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Barb Fetzer, Land Use Office asked the board to remember that she, for the past two years had taken on Marc Greenlee's position and ran the office with Matt Even's help. She has put a flat 4% rate increase into their budget for their raise and felt they had earned it.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the following increases in the County Attorney's Office:

Alisha Stach-\$5,388.10 (4.26%)
 Derek Marsh-\$3,621.00 (4.26%)
 Lori Siela-\$2,819.27 (4.26%)
 Deb Flemings -\$3,000.80 (4.26%)
 Joyce Banse-\$1,919.13 (4.26%)
 Kelsey Robbins- \$4,664.82 (12.31%)
 Allaina Casali-\$2,969.36 (7.50%)
 Angie Becker- \$2,084.20 (5.5%)

Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve a 3% increase to all non-elected, non-commissioned, non-contracted employees with noting that the following individuals have a different rate:

Sarah Ries, Sheriff Office Administrator-\$5,000
 Mark Erickson-Transportation Director-\$2,800
 Susan Meyer-Transportation Driver-\$1.00 an hour
 Eric Shares-Weed Commissioner-3.5%
 Justin Birker-Maintenance Assistant-92.5% of the Maintenance Director's Salary
 Ben Turnis, IT Director and Chris Wagener, IT Assistant-12%
 Deb Cummings, Secondary Roads Office Manager-\$5,000
 Barb Fetzer and Matt Even, Health and Land Use-4%

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Seeman seconded: To approve the quote for cement work from Concrete Polyfix, Inc. for \$11,330 to repair areas on the courthouse grounds that are safety concerns. Seeman, Volz and Tippet voting aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Volz reported on attending the ISAC conference held in Des Moines last week. He truly enjoyed it and felt it was overall beneficial and looks forward to the fall one as well.

Marc Laconte and Danny Carroll made comments at the end of the meeting regarding how oaths are taken, along with bonds questions. Benton County Assistant Attorney Derek Marsh was available to respond. Marsh also related the inquiries to a district court matter.

Joy McGowan, Deputy Treasurer asked about the wage increases for some employees while others are getting none. Tippet stressed it is the Supervisors job to try and balance the budget. McGowan pointed out that the Treasurer's office took on out of county's transfers fees and had additional income coming in comparing to the collections office.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:11 a.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 25, 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*

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the minutes of March 18, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve payroll checks numbered 143739 through 143752, ACH Deposits 60551 through 60708, claims numbered 253133 through 253269 and vendor checks 253270 through 253276. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve fireworks permit for Iowa Pyrotechnic Association for April 26, 2025 and June 7 and June 8, 2025 pending approval of the local fire chief and if there is a burn ban in place, this would become null and void. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Volz started the discussion regarding elected officials salaries following last week's meeting. He visited with the Auditor and observed who all this affected, he apologized for not educating himself prior to that and he apologized for that. Volz had Auditor Rippel place it back on today's agenda.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-14, Amending Resolution #25-13, Elected Official's Salaries for FY 26. Before Voting on the motion. Sheriff Upah wanted to show his work and listed out details of the departments work since Jan 1, 2025 and pointing out areas they have already provided savings to the county including increasing the revenue coming in from law contracts with the cities and dispatching services. Also mentioned other things and pointing out , they are trying to do what's best for everybody. Tippett told him that his work was appreciated. Other comments were heard from Treasurer, Melinda Schoettmer along with her deputy Treasurer, Joy Wieditz also spoke up. Treasurer's office also is an office that generates money in addition to taxes from the fees collected from vehicle registrations from citizens outside of the county. Wieditz stressed how the boards actions were not fair last week giving examples and comparing how many years of employment some employees had vs others, along with additional duties and not being compensated, she didn't feel their action was justified. Recorder Lexa Speidel re-iterated the "show your work piece" and pointing out that the amount of an increase to her department would be \$6,720 and a compiled amount from her department along with Treasurer and Sheriff, combined was under the amount of increase granted to the Attorney's office. Speidel was for saving the county money, but if \$0 was going to be given, then that should have been same across the board. After no further discussion the Board voted on the motion as follows: Volz, Seeman and Tippet voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-14

AMENDING RESOLUTION #25-13

ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES

WHEREAS, the Benton County Compensation Board met on January 28, 2025, and recommended the following increases in the salaries of all the elected officials pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 331.905 and 331.907; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Compensation Board recommended the following increases for FY 26;

Auditor-\$3,000

Treasurer and Recorder-\$2,800

Attorney-\$6,000

Sheriff-\$4,000

Supervisors-\$0

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors approved Resolution #25-13 on March 18, 2025 and would like to amend that;

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors approve the following:

<u>Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Recommended Salary for FY26</u>
Auditor	\$98,441.46	\$3,000	\$101,441.46
Treasurer	\$93,097.07	\$2,800	\$95,897.07
Recorder	\$93,097.07	\$2,800	\$95,897.07
Attorney	\$140,534.51	\$6,000	\$146,534.51
Sheriff	\$136,290.32	\$4,000	\$140,290.32
Supervisor	\$51,664.61	\$0	\$51,664.61

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopts the salary recommendations for elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, as recommended by the Benton County Compensation Board.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve 40 hours of vacation carryover for Mark Erickson, Transportation director to be used within 6 months. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Mark Erickson, Transportation Director also wanted to get clarification on the wage increases that were given last week. Erickson explained how he showed his work justifying the amount of increase he had originally asked for and would like to be treated equally. There was no action taken, the Board will address this next week.

Sheriff Upah presented a resolution that is in place that they would like to make some changes in the area for reserve part-time utility deputies and clarifying security officers in the courthouse. The current wages, with years of service versus union or not, was all over the place and this needs to be cleaned up for liability reasons. Supervisor Tippett agreed this needed done.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-15, Amending Resolution #24-52, Wages and Benefits for Part-time Employees in the Sheriff's Office. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-15

Amending Resolution #24-52

RESOLUTION WAGES AND BENEFITS FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Part-time Correctional Officers, Part-time Communications Specialists, Part-time Food Service/Custodian, Part-time Office Secretaries, and Part-time and Reserve Deputies.

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution #24-52 on May 14th, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Benton County Sheriff has requested that the Resolution be revised to clarify the language and terms related to starting wages and wage growths for part-time Sheriff's Office employees, ensuring a consistent and equitable pay scale for the future.

WHEREAS, the terms "union contract" or "union agreement" refer to the most current master contract negotiated between the Benton County Sheriff's Office and Chauffeurs, Teamsters & Helpers Local No. 238, an affiliate of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs & Helpers of America.

WHEREAS, all part-time Sheriff's Office employees are non-union members and observe the Benton County employee handbook pertaining to part-time employees;

WHEREAS, Reserve Deputies are regarded as part-time county employees and non-union members;

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Benton County employee handbook "Definition of Employee Status", Chapter 3.1, part-time employees are non-temporary employees scheduled to work less than 37 ½ or 40 hours per week dependent upon job classification or hired to work up to 40 hours per week on a seasonal basis;

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors believes that establishing wages and benefits for said employees is necessary to provide for the efficient operations of the department through the hire and retention of qualified employees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following policies are amended accordingly and adopted for the part-time employees in the Benton County Sheriff's Office:

1. Currently employed part-time employee wages will not be reduced and considered "grandfathered in", effective this date.
2. All part-time and Reserve Deputies, that are recognized as state certified by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council, will now be consolidated and classified as Utility Deputies, establishing a force of Reserve Peace Officers in accordance with Iowa Code 80D.1.
 - a. A Reserve Deputy is a Peace Officer if they are under the direction of a regular Peace Officer, and shall be vested with the same rights, privileges, obligations, and duties as any other Peace Officer. The Patrol Division Captain is the direct supervisor for Utility Deputies.
 - b. The job specifications for Utility Deputies are in accordance with terms outlined in the union contract.
 - c. Full-time Utility Deputies remain in this job classification. Full-time Utility Deputies are union members and follow union contract pay scale rates.
 - d. All Utility Deputies will be state certified Peace Officers recognized by the academy and will maintain training standards as outlined in Iowa Code 80D.3.
 - e. Newly hired Reserve Deputy training, for both certified and non-certified, will be in accordance with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy rules and Iowa Code section 80D.3 training standards.
 - i. The Benton County Sheriff's Office will cover the cost of a non-certified Reserve Deputy's training course, as required by academy rules. However, the non-certified Reserve Deputy will volunteer their time to complete the course. Additionally, the Reserve Deputy will volunteer their time to complete the required weapons training course as outlined in 80D. Once these training and weapons courses are completed, the Reserve Deputy will begin a field training program at the Benton County Sheriff's Office, which will consist of at least 80 hours of on-the-job training. During this period, the Reserve Deputy will be compensated at their designated classification rate of pay per hour.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

- ii. A newly hired state-certified Reserve Deputy will begin a field training program at the Benton County Sheriff's Office, consisting of at least 80 hours of on-the-job training. During this time, the Reserve Deputy will be paid at their designated classification rate per hour.
 - f. Any job classification pertaining to “county security officer”, “security guard”, or “security officer” is abolished effective this date.
- 3. Part-time starting wages per hour and future wage growths:
 - a. Part-time wages will initially match the starting wage rate in the current 2024-2025 union contract, aligning with the first-year wages for full-time employees in their respective job classifications, as outlined below:
 - Utility Deputy: \$28.32 per hour
 - Communication Specialist: \$21.92 per hour
 - Correctional Officer: \$21.92 per hour
 - Office Secretary: \$21.58 per hour
 - Food Service/Custodian: \$19.51 per hour
 - b. Part-time employees, being non-union members, gain no benefits defined in the union contract other than what is listed in sections 7 and 8 of this resolution, and are not eligible for years of service step increases outlined in the union contract.
 - c. Step raises for part-time Sheriff's Office employees will increase by an amount corresponding to the county's annual pay rate adjustment, as determined by the Compensation Board and Board of Supervisors, defined in the county handbook.
 - d. After July 1, 2025, part-time starting hourly wages will be aligned with the current wages of part-time employees in their respective job classifications at that present time.
- 4. Moving from part-time to full-time status:
 - a. Any part-time employee advancing to a full-time position, with the same job classification, shall start at the first-year wage for that job classification set by the union agreement.
 - b. Any part-time employee advancing to a full-time position, and the job classification is new or different from their current job classification, shall start at the first-year wage for that job classification set by the union agreement.
 - c. Part-time employment will not be used for seniority, years of service step increases, or calculations of any other type of benefits for employees going from part-time to full-time.
 - d. Any full-time employee moving to part-time status will start at the hourly wages aligned with the current wages of part-time employees in their respective job classifications at that present time.
- 5. Part-time Sheriff's Office employees shall receive compensation at the rate of 1.5 times their regular hourly pay for hours worked on a holiday, or for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours per week.
 - a. For the purposes of this section, holidays are defined as outlined in the most recent Benton County employee handbook. However, for Sheriff's Office employees, holidays will only be observed on the designated calendar holiday.
- 6. Part-time employees are not entitled to longevity pay.
- 7. Part-time employees shall receive a \$0.50 per hour shift differential for night shifts worked after successful completion of training. A night shift, for purposes of this section, is as defined in the most current union contract.
- 8. Part-time employees shall receive a \$0.75 per hour shift differential for weekend shifts worked after successful completion of training. A weekend shift, for purposes of this section, is defined in the most current union contract.
- 9. Newly hired part-time employees are subject to a probationary period of 180 days, aligning with probationary periods outlined in the union contract.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any prior agreement relative to wages and benefits of part-time employees in the Benton County Sheriff's Office is repealed upon adoption of this resolution.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

The Board discussed the quotes received for updating the Benton County, Iowa Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Dean Vrba, Emergency Management Director shared some input on what he found doing some background checking on a few. Although the one was cheaper than others, he didn't hear positive things. He was leaning towards Two Rivers, even though they are based out of Texas, they have done many in Iowa. The Board wanted to have more time to read through all the proposals and act on at a later date.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To table action on awarding the quote for the update for Benton County, Iowa Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan until April 8, 2025 at 9:45 a.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Tippet had to excuse himself from the meeting to attend a funeral.

Eric Shares, Weed Commissioner explained the requirements to update the IRVM plan in order to qualify for Iowa's Living Roadways Fundings, this needs to be done every five years.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To approve the 2025 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) Plan. Volz and Seeman voting aye. Motion carried.

Mona Onken and Sarah Wagner prepared a plan for contingency for when Onken leaves the position and Wagner will take on some of her duties regarding the MHDD of the East Central Iowa's Regional work. This can also be tweaked as we go and learn more how to proceed in the future. The Board and Auditor thanked them for doing so.

Supervisor Seeman reported on his recent meetings including the Landfill Commission. They have approved bids for their new lagoon along with trading in their Compactor. Seeman also reported on the water line that needs done between the Transportation building and Service Center. They may be obtaining quotes for this. Mid -American Energy will start hauling their gas lines south of Vinton around April first, but the work won't start until July.

Bob Cue visited with the Board about the carbon pipeline that is also up for discussion in legislation and wanted to be sure they were keeping up with that and voicing opinions.

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

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

March 26, 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Seeman opened up the public hearing for the FY 26 Proposed Tax Levy. Seeman asked Auditor Rippel to start out by helping explain the recent notice that went out to taxpayers. Rippel explained the differences between assessed and taxable valuation, and how the state applied rollbacks effect different classifications of values. The amount of valuation growth in the county affects the general basic and rural basic levies. The legislature has forced the county to reduce both of these levies due to the growth in the county wide valuations, which was over the 2% allowed amount. The County is always working in three calendar years at once. Current tax collection is based on the 2023 Values. FY 26 Budget is based off of the 2024 valuations. The Assessor is now also sending out the 2025 Assessments which will be utilized for the FY 27 Budget. These are assessment increases, not tax dollar increases. We realize this is all confusing, and this is one of those unfunded mandates passed down to the county level to do this mailing so close to the Assessment notices and it can be confusing. The total levy the county collects tax dollars for is not only the county's dollars, but various other levying entities. The dollars are disbursed to the cities, schools, fire districts, townships, Ag Extension, E911, EMA and Assessor. All of these entities make up the consolidated tax levy's that are applied to individual tax statements based on their taxing districts.

A room full of concerned taxpayers attended the meeting to express concerns over the impact of the proposed tax levy's. Some key points raised included:

The increased financial burdens put on residents. Requests for justification of budget increases, which led to salary discussion.

Suggestions for cost-cutting measures instead of raising taxes along with questions raised about how the funds would be allocated and

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

whether efficiencies could be found.

The Board members addressed some of these concerns by explaining funding priorities and statutory obligations and any potential adjustments that could be made. The citizens also asked that the Board share more information as to where the budgeted dollars are going along with explaining where they would be making cuts and improvements to be cost saving to taxpayers. Auditor Rippel explained how the required publication sums everything into Service Areas for expenditures and Revenues. The full 15 page budget will get posted on the website once we are ready to propose it and set the public hearing date. This will break it down more by those service areas with more detailed explanation and by fund. In conclusion to the public hearing, the consensus is for the future to hold these tax/budget hearings in the evening when more people are able to attend. There was also the request to have all county officials present at these hearings to answer questions that pertain to their department. After no further discussion, Chairman Seeman closed the public hearing. No action was needed at this time.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:38 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 1, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the minutes of March 25, 2025 and March 26, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge Nancy Jorgensen's retirement in the Auditor's Office, her last day will be May 30, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff Dave Upah brought along three invoices for the last of the vehicles purchased this year. Since it fell this week and not a normal claim run, he needed the permission for the check. Upah also mentioned he was trading in 3 Durango's, an Impala and a pick-up truck for \$10,000 off the total price.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the handwritten claim for Thys Motors for (3) sheriff vehicles in the amount of \$123,692. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To set the FY 26 Budget Hearing for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-16, Abatement of Taxes on mobile homes. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-16

WHEREAS, the Benton County Treasurer has reported that a mobile home have been deemed to have no value by the court pursuant to Iowa Code 562B.27 and Chapters 555C.2B ; and

WHEREAS, there are currently tax liens filed against the properties and has determined that it is impractical to pursue collection of the total amount of tax due through the tax sale and the personal judgment remedies and has recommended that the board of supervisors abate the tax on these parcels;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delinquent tax, penalty, interest and costs assessed on parcels:

11253355	\$2492.00
479828N0655	\$1229.00

is hereby abated pursuant to Iowa Code 445.16. The treasurer is directed to strike the amount due from the county system.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2025

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD "T-T"

The Board re-visited the wage clarification for Transportation Director Mark Erickson. Erickson had asked for a 14% increase and the board approved \$2,800 which was just under a 5% increase. Supervisor Volz commented, that if we moved forward with a 14% increase, that we will have a line out the door of other employees and residents of the county who want to come play pin the tail on the Supervisors. The comparisons Erickson provided was nice to look through, but also doesn't say how long that person has been in the position. Volz also noted that reducing the budget and operating more efficiently was appreciated and he would expect out of all our departments do the same and save money.

Erickson asked if they wouldn't be using the comparable information for salaries in the future. Supervisor Tippet explained that comparables are used for determining the elected officials salaries. Supervisors also pointed out this is Erickson's first year in the job. Supervisor Volz also appreciating the reduction in budget and operating more efficiently and that he would expect out of all our departments to do the same and save money. No action was taken.

County Attorney Ray Lough talked with the Board about the mental health advocate and public health. Lough introduced Bethan Wheaton, who has been the county's advocate for several years. With the mental health region being non existing after July 1st, Lough said by statute the counties are still required to have an advocate. He explained what the advocate does and how it is important to have these people to follow up on services. Lough would like to find her a place in the county instead of working out of her home, so was talking to Grace Schmidt to see about placing her under the Public Health Department. Lough would be meeting with the County's Public Health Board on this next week. Mental health is a big issue not only in our county, but every county.

Lough also discussed the need for a county-wide training coordinator and would like to assign that duty to his Assistant Attorney. Alisha Stach-Lorang has an emphasis on law enforcement and could be a benefit. Lough mentioned training in areas such as being in a courtroom in a contested trial, help them prepare to be ready. Along with other things such as search warrants or the mandatory arrest requirements. Lough added he would like to fund the additional \$5,000 for salary and \$2,500 for supplies and things needed for the trainings for the next 2 years to come out of the Attorney's collection incentive fund.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve Resolution #25-17, Establishing a training coordinator, Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-17 ESTABLISHING A TRAINING COORDINATOR

WHEREAS, Benton County has an ongoing need for training in development; and

WHEREAS, First Assistant County Attorney, Alisha Stach Lorang possesses extensive experience and knowledge in the training of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Alisha Stach Lorang has the skills and experience to provide necessary training on countywide issues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Benton County Board of Supervisors that Alisha Stach Lorang is appointed as countywide training coordinator to provide training and development to both law enforcement and the employees of Benton County. Her duties shall be divided between the above described trainings and the prosecution of crimes in Benton County.

Compensation for this position shall come from the county attorney incentive fund and shall consist of \$5,000.00 a year for fiscal years 25-26 and fiscal year 26-27. In addition to the stipend provided to Alisha the County Attorney agrees to provide \$2,500.00 for each of the two fiscal years to be used for supplies, research, and outside trainers if available.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2025

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippet

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the amended employment contract with Alisha Stach-Lorange to include the added duties of county-wide training coordinator along with the additional salary over the next two years. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

The Board opened the public hearing for the FY 25 Budget Amendment #3. Auditor Rippel explained the areas that needed to be amended. Like Lough mentioned earlier, the dissolving of the Mental Health Region, there was funding for the last quarter for employees retention pay and indirect costs. We want to be sure we get all that paid out and reimbursed before it all ends July 1st. The other \$172,100 amount was need was to follow up with the Sheriff's new hires, added spending for their withholding amounts, the need for equipment for the new vehicles purchased along with some body cameras. The last area between non-program and capital projects for \$600,000 was to fix an error from the last amendment. Spending authority was noted in the wrong service area so that needed to be tweaked. No public comments were heard in regards. The public hearing was closed.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-18, Amending FY 25 Budget. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-18

BE IT REMEMBERED on this, the 4th day of February, 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 23, 2024. 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	\$ 172,100
Physical Health & Social Services	\$ 0
Mental Health	\$ 0
County Environment & Education	\$ 0
Roads & Transportation	\$ 0
Government Services to Residents	\$ 0
Administration	\$ 57,420
Non-Program	\$ 600,000
Debt Service	\$ 0
Capital Projects	\$ -600,000
Operating Transfers Out	\$ 00
 <u>REVENUES</u>	
 <u>Amount</u>	
Intergovernmental	\$ 0
Licenses & Permits	\$ 0
Charges for Services	\$ 0
Use of Money & Property	\$ 57,420
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	\$ 0
Operating Transfers – In	\$ 0
Proceeds of Fixed Assets	\$ 0
Operating Transfers In	\$ 0

Dated this 1st day of April, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Supervisor Seeman brought up the mailbox carrier need at the Service Center. The cost was more than he was quoted. He is going to revisit the catalog and find something that maybe could just be added on to the current box. No action was taken. Committee reports were heard from Ron Tippett who participated by zoom in the HACAP meeting. He reported great things they were doing for the community. Bruce Volz reported how he really enjoyed the recent Heartland Insurance Risk Pool Meeting. It was nice that the trustees are all representative from other counties. Supervisor Seeman had an ECICOG and East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund meeting and mentioned the retirement of Tracey Achenbach. She will definitely be missed. Supervisors Volz and Tippett also attended the dedication for the Wildcat Park's improvements that was held last Saturday.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-19, Wage and Classification change for Ron Ragen. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-19

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 Ron Ragen be set at \$28.84 per hour effective April 1, 2025. This position (equipment operator) carries a Labor Grade classification IVD.

Signed this 1st day of April, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Supervisor Seeman and Engineer Myron Parizek gave an update after their recent meeting with the Vinton City Council in regards to the box culvert extension for a curve on the east side of Vinton. Parizek suggested the city pay for 75% of this, as it is 95-100% inside the city limits of Vinton. An agreement was approved by the Vinton City Council and the cost is just under \$55,000. Atkins Mayor Bruce Visser was in attendance at the meeting and he brought along the new City Administrator, Scott Flory to formally meet the Board.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 10:04 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 1, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz present. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Benton County Courthouse, Auditor's Conference Room.

The Board was presented a prepared copy of the proposed FY 26 Budget. Auditor Rippel has all the compiled revenues and expenses put together along with using the proposed maximum levy's. The Board had time to look it over and ask questions.

Rippel explained they have about another week at the most to make some final adjustments before the budget notice gets scheduled with the newspapers. After that, they can't increase any spending authority, but can reduce spending authority, along with reducing levy's if they choose so. They agreed to have another work session after the upcoming April 8th normal meeting.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn at 6:05 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

April 1, 2025

A joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the EMS Advisory Council met on April 1, 2025 at 6:08 p.m. at the EOC at the Sheriff's Office. Supervisor Seeman, Tippet and Volz were all three in attendance.

The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council has been meeting monthly over the past year to focus on ensuring the EMS tax dollars are being utilized properly and distributed equitably among the service providers.

Assistant County Attorney Derek Marsh was invited to join and provide some legal background and explained how establishing some procedures to help on being more compliant. This is still a new service state wide and more and more counties are trying to get it passed. Marsh also mentioned how things could change yearly on how this is supposed to operate. Most recently learning that Salaries and wages may now be included in the approved uses. Marsh has been working with Auditor Rippel to help define a list of approved uses along with reporting and reimbursement procedures along with the possibility of creating some 28E agreements with the outside agencies for mutual aid.

Debate was had how to fairly distribute the revenue to EMS agencies along with including those out of the county services who assist in responding to calls within Benton County. Considering factors were: population served, call volumes and geographical coverage.

Identifying the underserved areas and determining how funding could help improve response times and coverage was a lengthy discussion. The calls per service amount of \$300 was brought up again after previous meetings. This might be too big of an amount referring to what a normal call gets paid after the billing process, it is around \$225. Ben Darling, representing Blairstown Ambulance Service explained how the transports are legally able to bill for services. Some calls they donate time and supplies and don't get reimbursement. The clock starts once that ambulance starts transporting the patient. This was an eye opener to the non EMS providers present. Anna DeMuth, North Benton Ambulance Director invited the Supervisors to take the time and go around and meet with some of the services one on one and ask questions along with listening to the concerns and here how they all operate.

Anna Demuth shared a handout for homework for all entities to take the time and fill out. Demuth would like the history over the past few years on statistics for calls and assists. This could help with the determination if they decide to pay out on a per call basis in the future. The council will skip a month and meet again in June. For the time being, proceed as we have been by submitting claims to the Auditor's office with the required forms and invoices.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 8, 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.bentoncountytia.gov*

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve all three sets of minutes of April 1, 2025 including the Budget Work Session and EMS Advisory Council. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve payroll checks numbered 143753 through 143759, ACH Deposits 60709 through 60866, vendor checks 253270 through 253276, Handwrites 253277 and 253278 and claims numbered 253279 through 253445. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-20, Proclamation for April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-20

PROCLAMATION

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, 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 survivors and their significant others, and support those agencies providing services to survivors.

NOW THEREFORE, WE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN AND FOR BENTON COUNTY, ON BEHALF OF ALL STAFF AND CITIZENS OF BENTON COUNTY DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2025 AS

“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”

IN BENTON COUNTY, IOWA AND ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PREVENTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

Signed this 1st day of April, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

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BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-21, Gifting Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST) to Luzerne Fire Department. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-21

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 Luzerne Fire Department has requested a gift of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Luzerne Fire provides emergency services to areas in Iowa and Leroy Townships and mutual aid to other surrounding townships;

WHEREAS, the Luzerne Fire Department has provided invoices totaling \$16,603.39 for purchasing a Polaris Ranger and some equipment associated with this;

WHEREAS, the Luzerne 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 Iowa and Leroy Townships in the amount of \$1,660.34. which represents ten percent of the total purchase price for all equipment.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the Sheriff's Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve Resolution #25-22, Hiring a Law Enforcement Liaison at the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-22**Hiring a Law Enforcement Liaison position at the Sheriff's Office**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors authorized the establishment of a new Law Enforcement Liaison position through Resolution 24-111 on December 31, 2024;

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

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has recommended Shelby Chekal, who has served as a Benton County Law Enforcement Liaison since July 8, 2019, as the most qualified candidate for the position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Benton County Board of Supervisors, that Shelby Chekal is hereby employed to this non-union position at an annual starting salary of \$72,000, effective April 8, 2025.

Signed this 8th day of April, 2025.

Tracey Seeman, Chairman

Ronald Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-23, Entering into a 28E agreement between Benton County, IA and Floyd County, IA effective July 1, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-23

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO 28E AGREEMENT WITH FLOYD COUNTY REGARDING DELINQUENT COURT DEBT COLLECTIONS

WHEREAS, Benton County and Floyd County have elected to participate in the collection of delinquent court obligations on the county level; and

WHEREAS, by combining their efforts under a 28E Agreement, Benton County and Floyd County will return unpaid debt to the State, Benton and Floyd Counties, and will return unpaid victim restitution to the victims of crime in both counties; and

WHEREAS, the Benton County Attorney and Floyd County Attorney have discussed entering into a 28E Agreement with each other regarding delinquent court debt collections and have determined that it would be in the best interest of both counties to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AS FOLLOWS:

The proposal to enter into a 28E Agreement with Floyd County for the collection of delinquent court debt was hereby approved by a motion in the minutes on April 8, 2025 and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Benton County is hereby authorized to execute said 28E Agreement on behalf of Benton County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chair

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

****See 28E Agreement**

Mae Hintgen, Chief Executive Officer of the MHDS of the East Central Region provided an update to the Board regarding the upcoming transitional plan that will go into effect after July 1, 2025. A service from Des Moines was chosen to cover the entire state for mental health and substance abuse. They will no longer be dividing that into regions as we currently are, but will now be the re-organized districts created. The priority will still be getting people the services they need and to make them accessible. They will be committed to be a good transitional partner and get information out during this time. Further discussion about the positions that will no longer be funded by the region was also had. This has been an emotional time for all involved.

Engineer Myron Parizek presented his proposed 2025 Dust Control Prices. He bases this on material and labor costs as best as possible. Last year it was \$1500 for the first 400 feet and he is asking for that to increase to \$1550. Parizek reported last year there were 140 different sites who participated in the dust control, but also mentioned that residents can also choose to hire outside contractors for their applications. Contractors will do it for profit while the county does it per cost. Benton County isn't required to offer this. The Board agreed as long as the equipment works for this to continue, although would revisit it if things start needing replaced. In years past, County also requested some roads that was recommended to seal coat and what we provide or continue to do so. We don't charge for administration costs such as permits.

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To set the cost for the 2025 MC-70 Dust Control to be \$1550.00 for the first 400 feet, with an additional \$260 per 100 feet or \$2.66 a foot with a minimum of 50 foot increments and can apply between April 14, 2025 through May 2, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve the Auditor's Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Bloomsbury Farm April 30, 2025 through April 29, 2026. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

More discussion on the tabled action from March 25, 2025 in regards to the quotes received for updating the Benton County, Iowa Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan was had.

Quotes received were as follows:

Blue Umbrella, LLC-\$36,500

MCM Consulting Group, Inc.-\$87,510

Two Rivers Emergency Management, LLC-\$24,000

Atchison Consulting Service (ACS)-\$36,160 Approach A or Approach B for \$27,200

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Emergency Planning and Consulting, LLC-\$16,642

Dean Vrba, Emergency Management Coordinator had recommended the Board go with Two Rivers Emergency Management.

Although it was not the lowest quote, he has heard all good things about them when checking their references. Supervisor Seeman was leaning towards the lowest bid, and realizing they may lean on the EMA Director, Auditor and Assessor for obtaining information and data needed to compile their update.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To award the quote to Emergency Planning and Consulting, LLC. \$16,642. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve \$80,000 funding for the FY 25 Budget Request of Benton Development Group. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Bruce Volz attended the ECICOG meeting last week. Also reminding the Board of their upcoming meeting with Farm Bureau on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 11:17 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 8, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz present. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. at the Benton County Service Center.

The Board of Supervisors conducted a budget work session that focused on funding needs, projected revenues and the impact of state-mandated services.

The Supervisors expressed interest in maintaining fiscal responsibility while addressing public needs in areas such as public safety, infrastructure and administration. Potential adjustments can be made to lower expenditures, but can't increase what amounts were published in the proposed budget notice. The Board asked Auditor Rippel to compile additional data and figures and schedule another meeting for Friday morning for additional discussion and allow Rippel to compile the data asked of her. They all agreed that an upcoming Department Head meeting should be scheduled also and be involved in discussing concerns in the FY 26 Proposed Budget.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn at 12:47 p.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 10, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in special session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett and Volz were all present. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Benton County Farm Bureau Building. Other elected officials present were Auditor Hayley Rippel, Recorder Lexa Speidel and Treasurer, Melinda Schoettmer.

Discussions were had on the FY 26 County Budget. The recent assessment notices that went out were the first topic for discussion. Others topics ranged from the 911 Radio Tower project, Secondary roads and seal coating projects along with Conservation projects and the new cell at the landfill. There were concerns regarding the rock costs and limited vendors in the county, and how it can be monopolizing and it was suggested that the county needs some competition in a few different areas. Auditor Rippel had prepared copies of the proposed budget along with the legislations property tax reform plan. This led to areas of concerns for future budgeting years and how things could become more difficult. The county explained how they utilized grant funding along with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for recent projects and purchases. The Recorder and Treasurer both spoke up on ways their offices area able generate revenue to offset some of their expenses. This includes allowing residents from other counties to come register vehicles, renewals of licensing, and passports. Farm Bureau members thanked us all for coming.

Volz moved/Tippett Seconded: To Adjourn at 8:05 p.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

April 11, 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.

The Board of Supervisors conducted a budget work session that mainly focused on reducing spending and looking at the figures Auditor Rippel put together for them. The Board is going to address the topic on the upcoming Tuesday's regular meeting and invite the Department Heads to attend.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To adjourn at 11:25 a.m. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 14, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors (BOS) met in a joint budget work session with Benton County Conservation Board members. Supervisors Seeman and Tippet were present, Volz absent. Chairman Seeman called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. at the Benton County Nature Center, 5718 20th Ave Drive, Vinton. Auditor Rippel couldn't be in attendance, and asked that Conservation Director Shelby Williams take the minutes on her behalf.

The Board joined the Benton County Conservation Board (BCCB), members Becky VanWey, Dan Hill, Samantha Hunter, and Randy Scheel, for a FY26 Budget Work Session regarding the future of the Conservation IRM/Weed Department. Conservation staff in attendance were: Cecilia Dirks, Faith Hunt, Aaron Askelson, Will Souer, Camryn Grubic, Zach Parmater, Shelby Williams, Eric Schares. The BOS and BCCB asked questions of one another and discussed how things are going. Tippet and Seeman agreed that the department has been going well. They requested an explanation of duties so it can be easier explained.

Seeman moved/Tippet seconded: To adjourn at 5:34 p.m. Tippet and Seeman voting aye. Motion Carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Shelby Williams, Conservation Director

April 15, 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*

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve both sets of minutes of April 8, 2025 along with April 10, 2025 Farm Bureau meeting, with making one correction to the amount for seal coating to change from \$1500 to \$1550. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippet seconded: To approve the Veterans Affairs Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the General Assistance Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet moved/Volz seconded: To approve the Recorder's Quarterly Report ending March 31, 2025. Tippet, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-24, Replacing Resolution #15-31, Adopting Benton County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Resolution #25-24

Replacing Resolution #15-31

Benton County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan

WHEREAS, The Benton County Board of Supervisors support the use of Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) in the right-of-way of the Benton County secondary roads system; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa Department of Transportation requires Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plans for county IRVM programs; and

WHEREAS, The Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) requires an updated IRVM Plan for counties seeking funding for its competitive grant program; and

WHEREAS, The Benton County Roadside Manager has drafted an IRVM plan to meet the new guidelines set by the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Benton County Board of Supervisors support the adoption of the updated Benton County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge the resignation of Michelle Sutton from the Benton County Rural Access Hub effective May 16, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To acknowledge the resignation of Gary Benson who worked part-time in the Treasurer's office doing the driving exams, effective April 29, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Glenda Shipley to replace Corey Rains in his absence to the EMS Advisory Council. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To authorize chairman to sign the letter of support for the Homebuyer Assistance Program through East Central Iowa Housing and Trust Fund. Chairman Seeman asked to amend that motion and revise the letter to include all three supervisors. So the motion was amended to authorize all signatures. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee reports were heard from Supervisor Tippett, he attended the Public Health Board meeting, and reported that they didn't take action on putting the mental health advocate under them. So that would stay with the Sheriff as of now. Supervisor Seeman reported on the recent Conservation Board meeting. He reported how happy they all were with the Atkins Roundhouse project. And they are currently taking bids for the tree canopy.

The Board asked for any reports from departments that were in attendance since they had extra time.

Sheriff Upah reported on the 2 patrol vehicles that are all ready and still waiting on equipment for others.

Assistant County Attorney reported that he has been working with Auditor Rippel regarding the EMS Funding and trying to come up with a better list of approved expenses so that we can share with them all at the June EMS Advisory Council Meeting.

Auditor Rippel gave an update on the paperless time sheet program for payroll and how they had their first test run last week and will do another next payroll. After today's meeting they are going to go over everything with all the department heads. Rippel also spoke on the finished scanning project that was done by her office along with the Recorder of the Real Estate Records and Supervisor Minutes from her office along with various documents from the Recorder's. They should have that link up and running very soon on the website, which some information in the Recorder's records will need redacted, so that is still ongoing.

Shelby Williams, Conservation Director provided a quick update on her department as well.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To recess at 9:30 a.m. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To reconvene the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

The Board had some handouts for each department in attendance. The Auditor did some calculations for total budget asking per department, minus the wages/withholdings and benefits, and compared a 2.5 % reduction and 5% of what was left. They heard some comments in regards to this being very tough for some vs others. Supervisor Seeman mentioned when looking at the overall budget predicting almost 6 million in deficit when comparing worst case scenario of all the expenses vs estimated revenues. Granted if grants aren't approved, that spending authority would cease. Supervisor Volz also re-iterated on the reductions and asking that at the end of this fiscal year for everyone to be considerate and not going on spending sprees before the fiscal year ends. Auditor Rippel explained the loss of revenues for various things that the state is no longer funding, and with the tax reform bill, the upcoming years are only going to get tougher. The departments are asked to make their changes within the week before the Budget Hearing on April 22, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Continued discussions on where other areas in the budget could be reduced, while others is hard to plan for. The Board can reduce the spending before the budget is adopted at that hearing and appreciated everyone's effort to make this happen.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 11:17 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

April 22, 2025

The Benton County Board of Supervisors met in regular session with Supervisors Seeman, Tippett 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*

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve agenda. All members voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the minutes of April 15, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve payroll checks numbered 143760 through 143765, ACH Deposits 60867 through 61033, vendor checks 253446 through 253452 (corrected from April 8th) claims numbered 253453 through 253583 and vendor checks 253584 through 253591. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve paying True North Consulting Group \$2,214.00 out of the ARPA fund. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To set a land use hearing date of Tuesday, May 20, 2025 for Garrett Kotouc for a part of the SE ¼ of NE ¼ of section 27-85-12. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Don Brown from Renodry USA came to discuss water issues in foundation of the courthouse. He was offering a free inspection and asked if the Board was okay with him taking a tour with the maintenance department. The Board agreed as long as there was no cost. Ray Lough, County Attorney gave an update on the clock tower. This should be done by next week. Both Lough and Supervisor Tippett attended a recent Historical Preservation Committee meeting and they would like to propose Sunday June 8th, for the clock to be installed on the first floor of the courthouse. This would allow the public to see and then possibly install it on June 19th, which happens to be the anniversary date of when the original clock was donated in 1906. This discussion then led to if there is a need for a revised clock tower committee. The previous committee had some deceased members listed. Lough would like to see our maintenance department, the Auditor, one supervisor, a member of the Historic Preservation and himself.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Ray Lough as the Point of Contact for the Clock Tower installation and display celebration. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Vinton Unlimited to use the courthouse grounds during Boomfest on August 23, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To open the public hearing on the FY 26 Budget. All members voting aye. Motion carried. Chairman Seeman opened it up for public comments.

Former county Auditor, Jill Marlow addressed the board on issues that were brought up to them at their maximum levy hearing that was held in March. She stressed that the budget is obviously out of control. She read a document from the Tax Foundation that said Benton County was in the top four fastest growing property tax increased in the state between 2018 and 2024. She also stressed that people on fixed incomes are not going to be able to afford property taxes. Marlow also asked if the collections department is self-sustaining, or if it is being subsidized by the taxpayers. She asked for records from the county attorney to reflect this. Marlow asked the Board to refigure the budget, look at the re-estimates better and to lower levies and reduce the appropriations. County Auditor Rippel agreed that all departments could do better at re-estimating their ending FY 25 Budget Amounts and could ask them to do so and do more refiguring before next week. Other conversation on areas where to try and cut, or how county reduction in funding could affect secondary roads state funding as well.

No other public comments were made regarding the budget.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To table approval of the FY26 Budget until Tuesday, April 29, 2025. They are not going to raise any spending, but will look at the current fiscal year ends re-estimating fund balances to see if we are comfortable reducing the levy's. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To close the public hearing at 10:01 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To table adopting the budget until Tuesday, April 29, 2025 where the Board can still choose to reduce the asking amounts or levies at that time. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Engineer Myron Parizek reported on a bid letting held on April 15, 2025 for a RCB Culvert Replacement Project BROS-CO06(124)—8J-06 on 33rd Ave Dr. Bids were as follows:

Iowa Bridge & Culvert, L.C. - \$362,083.50

Taylor Construction, Inc. - \$399,560.20

Lodge Construction Inc. - \$407,576.75

K Construction Inc. - \$432,212.30

Tschiggfrie Excavating Co. - \$622,306.90-

Jenco Construction Inc. - \$655,124.00

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECORD “T-T”

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To award bid to Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC in the amount of \$362,083.50 for RCB Culvert Replacement Project BROS-CO06(124)—8J-06 and approve Resolution #25-25, Designating the Engineer to execute said project. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-25

WHEREAS, the Benton County Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as “the Board”, believes the BROS-CO06(124)- 8J-06, hereafter referred to as “the project” is in the best interest of Benton County, Iowa, and the residents thereof. The project is defined as RCB Culvert Replacement-Twin Box on 32nd Ave Dr over Br Prairie Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Benton County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by Board to accept the bid from Iowa Bridge & Culvert, L.C. in the amount of \$362,083.50 and awards the associated contract(s) to the same;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Benton County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor’s bond and certificate of insurance, Myron Parizek, the County Engineer for Benton County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county.

Dated at Benton County, Iowa, this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Tracy Seeman, Chair

Ronald J. Tippett

Bruce Volz

ATTEST:

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Utility Permit for GenoSource on 22nd Ave in Leroy and St. Clair townships. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Class C Retail Alcohol License for Blairstown Lions Club for May 21-25, 2025. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To approve the additional flood insurance renewal for 113 E 3rd Street in the amount of \$3,699. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Committee reports from Supervisor Tippett and Seeman. Tippett had mentioned earlier about the historic preservation meeting, along with noting they would like to fix the sign and how they were listed. Tippett would talk to Tharp Design and see what can be done. Seeman attended a landfill meeting and although the new cell is done, it is not up and running yet.

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To adjourn at 10:49 a.m. Tippett, Seeman and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tracy Seeman, Chairman

ATTEST: _____

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor+