

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. Tippett and Volz voting aye, Seeman abstained. Motion carried.

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

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

Seeman moved/Volz seconded: To appoint Ronald Tippett as Vice-Chairman for 2025. Seeman, Tippett 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. Tippett, 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, Tippett 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. Tippett

ATTEST:

Bruce Volz

Hayley Rippel, Benton County Auditor

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. Tippet

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

Tippet 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, Tippet and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

Tippet 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 Tippet

Regional HACAP –Supervisor Tippet

Emergency Management Commission - Supervisor Tippet

Supervisor Seeman, Alternate

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

Solid Waste Disposal Commission Advisory Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Tippet, Alternate

Supervisor Volz, Alternate

County Conference Board - Supervisor Seeman

Supervisor Tippet

Supervisor Volz

6th Judicial District Department of Corrections – Supervisor Tippet

Workforce Development - Supervisor Volz

Eastern Iowa Tourism – Supervisor Volz

Supervisor Tippet, Alternate

Supervisor Seeman Alternate

North Central Iowa Juvenile Detention – Supervisor Tippet

Supervisor Volz, Alternate

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 Tippett

Heritage Area Agency on Aging-Sarah Wagner

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kate Roberts, Bruce Visser, and Tracy Seeman, Ronald Tippett and Bruze 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 Tippett (alternate)-2 year term

Volz moved/Tippett 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

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 Harthoorn 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 Homer 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