

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.bentoncountya.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

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 Tippett
 Benton County Conservation – Supervisor Seeman, Ex-Officio
 East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund-Supervisor Seeman
 Public Health Board-Supervisor Tippett
 Regional Mental Health-Supervisor Tippett
 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 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 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

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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 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 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.bentoncountya.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.bentoncountya.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 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.

Committee reports: Supervisor Tippett 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 Tippett 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.

Tippett moved/Volz seconded: To adjourn at 11:46 a.m. Tippett, 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, 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.bentoncountvia.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.

Table with 2 columns: Parcel #, Taxes plus interest and costs Due. Row 1: 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

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.

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, 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.bentoncountya.gov

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

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

Tippett 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, Tippett and Volz voting aye. Motion carried.

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

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

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

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

Volz moved/Tippett 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. Tippett, 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 Tippett 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.

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

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

Volz moved/Tippett seconded: To approve Resolution #25-8, Temporary Construction Closure. Tippett, 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 Tippett

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