

Benton County Commissioners Minutes  
January 16, 2001

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m., on Tuesday, January 16, 2001 in the Commissioners Room at the Benton County Courthouse. Those in attendance were Commissioners Jim Gilbert, Dave Fisher, Kevin Leuck, Auditor Patty Clouse and County Attorney William Weist.

Others in attendance were Mary Anne Akers with the Review Republican.

**Sally Slavens – Health Department**

Sally reported that Rex Stanley had received a letter from Mr. Weist regarding moving his trailer and asked if he could extend the move date and moved the trailer by May 1, 2001 due to the weather conditions. The Commissioners want the trailer moved before March 1<sup>st</sup>. when it would be assessed for taxes. Mr. Weist said for Sally to notify him in writing of the March 1<sup>st</sup>. request.

Sally also requested approval to purchase a new computer, stating that the one she has in her office is no longer operational. The Commissioners approved the request.

Sally also questioned the amount to charge for food inspections permits. Kevin said that it was lowered to \$50.00 a year. There was no ordinance written at the time it was lowered, only approved in the minutes.

The commissioners reviewed the 1999 Ambulance write-offs that Sally presented. The total write off's total \$15,471.79 are left on the books, part are currently in small claims and some are pending Medicare approval. A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to accept the write-off's as presented of \$15,471.79, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

**Approval of January 2, 2001 Minutes**

There were several changes to be made to the January 2, 2001 minutes; therefore the minutes were not approved. The corrections will be made and presented at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**In Re-Organization of Officers**

The Board neglected to elect a Vice-President of the Board of Commissioners at their January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting. Therefore, a motion was made by Jim Gilbert to nominate Kevin Lueck as Vice President of the Board of Commissioners, second by Dave Fisher, motion carried.

**Michelle Sauralt – Board of Finance**

The Board of Finance opened for the re-organization of the Board. Dave Fisher motioned Jim Gilbert as President of the Board of Finance and Michelle Sauralt as the Secretary, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried. Michelle also presented an End of the Year fund Worksheet for the board to discuss and review.

**Tom Collins – Highway Supervisor**

Tom discussed the two sub-divisions in the County. The County has not accepted responsibility of either sub-division roads, only to qualify them to be accepted up to a certain point, when they get the final layer of asphalt, etc... Both should be bonded if there are any problems. There were questions regarding the bond for Jake Brentzel, Jr. and hoped that the bond was for a period of five years.

Tom has received several calls on plowing the Oxford Sub-division. Tom started to plow the sub-division but then stopped. Tom received a call from Shirley Freeman and told her that the County has not accepted the sub-division; therefore, it is not the County's responsibility to maintain the roads. Collins question to the Commissioners was that if he gets another call, what they want him to do. The Commissioners said that the County has not accepted the sub-division road system; the County is no more liable to plow it than the Town of Oxford is. Tom said that he sent Shirley Freeman a \$150.00 bill for plowing the roads. Freeman called Commissioner Fisher regarding the bill and said that if she knew that she was going to be billed for it, she would have hired a private contractor to plow it. The Commissioners instructed Collins not to maintain the Oxford Sub-division roads until they were are in compliance and signed off by Tom and the Commissioners.

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Commissioner Gilbert said that until everything is in compliance, to send Shirley Freeman a letter regarding compliance and not to pay the bill.

**Rex Jones – WTH Engineering**

Rex reviewed and discussed the following bridge information:

- Brought the right-a-way documents for Bridge #85 for Mr. Weist. Commissioner Gilbert is concerned with the bridge being closed during the school year. The Board would like the construction be complete within sixty days. Jones did not feel that that could be put in the contract, it is put in, it needs to be a condition in the bid letting, and felt that the price would be very high. Jones recommended a six-month window for construction. Commissioner Fisher asked if there would be any problems with wetlands. Jones contacted his office; it has been designed around it so it will not be a problem. The commissioners would like to go out to Bridge #85 with Jones and take a look at it again after the February 6<sup>th</sup> Commissioners meeting.
- Bridge #38 is on schedule. Letting is schedule for September 1, 2001.
- Bridge #70 – Letting is schedule for late April, first of May. Collins reminded Rex Jones that the beams would be salvage for use of the County Highway.
- The Board reviewed the preliminary plans for bridge #70 & 85.
- Tom asked if it is required to have a construction engineer before letting. Jones said that it would not hold things up for letting.

**Dick Robertson – Beam Longest Neff**

**Randall Smith – Plexisgroup – GIS Coordinator**

Dick Robertson introduced Randall Smith of Plexisgroup. Beam Longest & Neff took their GIS Department and created a new company call Plexisgroup. They appeared before the Commissioners to introduce Plexisgroup GIS program and the capabilities they can provide Benton County. They would like to find a solution to our current mapping system by taking it to the next step, for all office to utilize the information we have and to build on it. After previously talking with the Surveyor, Smith feels very confident that the county has the base map for a very solid GIS System. The Surveyor has been keeping the parcel and address very accurately over the past several years, that can serve as a basis for integrating it into a GIS for all departments to use. Mr. Smith discussed with the Commissioners on how the county can do that, inexpensively, and at the same time bring in remote departments who are not physically within the courthouse such as the county highway and ambulance. Mr. Smith then gave a computer presentation of his company's GIS Program. After the presentation, the Commissioners thank them for showing them their program and would consider them when choosing a GIS program.

**In other Business:**

A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to approve the payroll as presented, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

The Auditor asked for a representative and an alternate representative for the North West Solid Waste District (NWSWD). A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to appoint Dave Fisher as the Commissioners Representative, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried. A motion was made by Kevin Leuck to appoint Jim Gilbert as the alternate representative to the NWSWD, second by Dave fisher, motion carried.

The Auditor then told the board that they would need to appoint three residents, for the Citizens Advisory Committee. It was recommended by the NWSWD for the board to appoint Carol Butler, Jack Weber and Alan Leuck to this committee. A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to appoint Carol Butler, Jack Weber and Alan Leuck to the Citizens Advisory Committee, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to approve the November and December check register, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

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**Alberta Whitaker – Ambulance Director**

Alberta appeared very briefly to go over the ambulance runs and annual report for 2000. Alberta also told the board that she did send a letter to the Boswell Ambulance regarding the Benton Community Foundation Grant that was awarded to the County for a new ambulance. There was the contingency with the grant, that the Boswell Community Ambulance Service agreement to the project and Commissioners assurance to expand the Benton County Emergency Ambulance Service to include the Boswell coverage area.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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David L. Fisher

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Kevin P. Leuck

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James R. Gilbert

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia A. Clouse, Auditor-Secretary