

Benton County Commissioners Minutes  
June 5, 2001

The Benton County Commissioners met at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 5, 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 Jennifer Baldwin with the Review Republican and Karen Moyars with the Benton Review.

**Karen Moyars – Prairie Preservation Guild Ltd**

Karen made the Board aware that the Prairie Preservation Guild, a non-profit group, is in the process of purchasing the Fowler Theater through grant money available through the Indiana Historic Landmarks Revolving Fund. Her concern is that there are current back taxes due on the property and had hoped that it would not be sold at tax sale. She stated that they are not trying to get out of paying the taxes but had hoped for a deferral in the taxes until they receive grant money. The Auditor said that the property taxes were paid through May 2000; therefore the property will not go on tax sale for another year unless the owner pays all of the taxes this fall. Karen is hopeful that the grant will come quickly to begin needed repairs.

**Randy Kitterman – Emergency Management Director**

Randy appeared in response to the Commissioners inquires about whether the county could save money by discontinuing the use of the DTN Weather Service and begin using the internet service. Kitterman said that the internet may be a cheaper way to go, but there are two major problems with internet-based services, speed and connection reliability. Modem connection speed are severely limited, information downloads are slower than satellite systems. Connection to services via the internet can be slowed or interrupted by the modem connections.

Kitterman then told the board that he had just upgraded the county's system to DTN's Storm Sentry. The upgraded system has many capabilities over the old system, including near real time radar data, and storm cell tracking. Kitterman invited the commissioner to the EMA building to demonstrate the new system.

**Tom Collins – County Highway Superintendent**

**Bob Smith – Old National Bank**

Mr. Smith appeared with Tom Collins with the Master Municipal Lease and option agreement that will be entered into between Old National Bank-Covington and the County. The lease will be for a 2001 John Deere Loader, for a lease term of thirty-six months. The county will pay to Old National Bank three payments of \$75,820.35 each. The first payment due on June 5, 2002 and thereafter on the Fifth day of June annually through June 5, 2004. The Commissioners approved and signed the agreement

In other highway business:

- County Highway will begin working on the bridge on the Adway beginning June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Benton County Commissioners Minutes  
June 5, 2001

- A Tort Claim was filed against the county from John Francis regarding an accident that happen earlier this spring with the county truck.
- Equipment Budget for 2002 will include funding for a new roller and the lease payment on the loader.
- A local contractor is finally cleaning up the Trailer park near Swanington.

**Alberta Whitaker – EMS Director**

Alberta submitted the May monthly ambulance report. She then reported that the insurance company would not pay for the fender damage that occurred at St. Elizabeth Hospital. The repairs will cost \$300.00; the insurance deductible is \$500.00.

Alberta asked about the Boswell ambulance service as far as the 2002 budget. She will need to know if she is to include additional money in her 2002 budget to staff Boswell full time. Mr. Weist said that he will be in contact with Boswell within the next three weeks regarding this and will get back with Alberta after his meeting.

She then reported that she has had tire failures on Med II Firestone Tires. She received a price for Goodyear Tires of \$84.00 per tire at Fowler Farm Center. The Commissioners approved the purchase of four new tires.

Regarding the Ambulance billing problems between the EMS and Mary Wagner, Ambulance Billing Clerk. Alberta stated that it is now taking her employees twice as long to enter ambulance run information into two different programs. Although Alberta understand that this needs to be done, she feels that maybe the best solution would be for more training for Mary on the program, or look for a program that works. The EMS switched to the states “firehouse” program over a month ago, however the software does not support a billing program, therefore Mary will have to continue using the Data Med software until Firehouse comes out with a billing program or go with another vendor. Until that happens, the Commissioners told Alberta that the EMS employees will need to continue inputting information into the Data Med program as well as Firehouse program.

**Adrienne Bough – MBAH Insurance**

Adrienne presented the new two-year rates for the vision and dental plans.

<b>Guardian Dental</b>	<b>Current Rate</b>	<b>2001-2002 Rate</b>
Employee Only	\$19.61	\$21.37
Employee & Spouse	36.58	39.87
Employee & Child	33.86	33.61
Employee & Family	50.82	55.39

  

<b>Vision Service Plan</b>		
Employee Only	\$ 6.20	6.48
Employee & Spouse	10.66	11.14
Employee & Child	10.44	10.91
Employee & Family	17.18	17.95

Benton County Commissioners Minutes  
June 5, 2001

A motion was made by Kevin Leuck to approve the new Dental and Vision Rates, second by Jim Gilbert, motion carried.

**Dr. Donald L. McKinney – Health Officer**

Dr. McKinney appeared briefly to report that the Local Health Nurse submitted her letter of resignation effective June 28, 2001. Dr. McKinney asked the Auditor is she would advertise the position for him. She explained that it would have to advertise at least twice before they can interview for the position. Dr. McKinney then made the Board aware of a sexual harassment complaint within the Health Department. He reported that he would be talking with employees regarding the complaint.

**Andrew Harrison – Schneider Corporation**

Mr. Harrison appeared briefly to introduce his company's service and products that they can provide for the county, which includes GIS.

**In other Business:**

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

After a review and discussion of the claims and payroll, a motion was made by Kevin to approve both the payroll and claims as presented, second by Jim Gilbert, motion carried.

The Auditor asked that a total of \$43,706.46 be written off as un-collectable from the Benton County Retirement Village. As of May 31, 2001, a balance of \$130,180.30 is owed to the county. Once written off, the outstanding balance will be \$86,473.84. This is the balance owed by the residents who are currently living at the Retirement Village. The amounts being written off are for resident's who are deceased or have found other housing, A motion was made by Kevin Leuck to write off the amount of \$43,706.46 from the Benton County Retirement Village, second by Jim Gilbert, motion carried.

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

The health department asked that the Board write off a total of \$398.79 for two ambulance runs. The amounts being written off are for those who are deceased and non-collectable. A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to write off the two ambulance runs totaling \$398.79, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

The Auditor presented a contract from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) for cattle testing for Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis. A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to approve the contract, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

Benton County Commissioners Minutes  
June 5, 2001

Arnett HMO Health Plans contract for 2001-2002 was presented for approval. A motion was made by Jim Gilbert to approve the contract, second by Kevin Leuck, motion carried.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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David L. Fisher

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James R. Gilbert

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Kevin P. Leuck

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