

Benton County Commission
August 24, 2026

Convene

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 24, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

Approval of Prior Minutes

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve prior minutes dated August 17, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

David Malecki/Rich Chiles

David Malecki and Rich Chiles are present at today's meeting.

Visitors

Cynthia Smith, Valetta Autry, Erlinda Goodman, Rosa Valentine, Ava Aabak, and Peggy Crabtree-Berry are present at today's meeting.

Cynthia Smith

Cynthia Smith spoke to the Commissioners on several issues, including the County tax levy, Senate Bill 190, and the County's 2023 audit. Mrs. Smith stated that she has heard complaints about the Courthouse being closed from 12 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the lunch hour. She also wanted more information about data centers in the County and landfills that may be planned for the County. She also asked about the turn-around that is being constructed at Dam Access Road and Highway 7, indicating opposition to this turn-around. Commissioner Daleske stated that this is located on a state highway and under the control of the MO Department of Transportation.

Bauer Road

Commissioners discussed a letter that was received from the MO Department of Conservation that indicates that a portion of Bauer Road will be closed to public use.

Smart Town Wi-Fi

Correspondence has been received from the City of Warsaw pertaining to an agreement that they have signed that allows installation of a Wi-Fi system to serve the downtown area, in cooperation with Co-Mo Connect.

County Clerk

The County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

Ava Aabak/Rosa Valentine

Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine spoke to Commissioners, expressing opposition to data centers and landfills being constructed in the County. Mrs. Valentine suggested that the Commission appoint a committee to develop guidelines for this type of structures.

Rebecca Minks

Rebecca Minks is now present.

2026 Tax Rate Hearing

The 2026 tax rate hearing was held. Commissioners discussed the proposed tax rate for General Revenue of \$0.1006. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to set the 2026 tax levy for

General Revenue at \$0.0998 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is the same levy that was utilized in 2025, and to accept the proposed tax rate for Road and Bridge. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Scott Harms (Yes), Larry Berry (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). The 2026 tax rates will be \$0.0998 for General Revenue and \$0.2040 for Road and Bridge, per \$100 assessed valuation.

Treasurer

The Treasurer presented her financial report.

McClure Engineering

Aaron McVicker met with the Commissioners to discuss the status of the Indian Creek and Fitzpatrick bridges. Discussion was also given to future bridge projects and 2027 BRO information, as received from the Missouri Department of Transportation. Mr. McVicker advised that he has prepared a Plans/Specifications/Estimate (PSE) for the Jackman Avenue bridge replacement. He also provided the Commissioners with estimated soft match funding requirements of approximately \$200,000.00 for the planned bridge projects.

E-911

Director Brenda Hilburn met with Commissioners regarding her budget and her desire to add another full-time dispatcher position. Commissioners approved this additional full-time position. Work continues on the radio and tower improvements. Ron Cobb advised that he is working with the local fire departments to update radio frequency licenses. The new licenses will be under the name of Benton County Emergency Operations Director; no specific person's name will be used.

Hazard Mitigation Meeting

A hazard mitigation meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, August 27th, at the Lincoln City Hall. Steve Daleske, Scott Harms and Rich Chiles will attend this meeting.

Telephone Call

Commissioner Scott Harms received a telephone call from a resident stating that a lawsuit has been filed against Benton County regarding the data center moratorium. It was noted that Commissioners have received no notification at this time.

Adjourn

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until August 31, 2026; District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Signature



Steve Daleske
Presiding Commissioner