

Benton County Commission
August 31, 2026

Convene

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 31, 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 27, 2026. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Approval of Prior Executive Session Minutes

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to approve prior executive session minutes dated August 27, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

David Malecki

David Malecki is present at today's meeting.

Visitors

A group met with Commissioners to ask questions regarding the pending lawsuit pertaining to a data center being located in Benton County. Commissioners indicated that this situation is under litigation, and legal details cannot be discussed. They remained at the meeting through Mrs. Aabak's presentation, and exited the meeting at approximately 10:45 a.m. Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, and Valetta Autry remained.

Rocky Ledge Road

A resident on Rocky Ledge Road met with Commissioners to discuss the condition of that road.

Cynthia Smith/Rosa Valentine/Ava Aabak

Gerald Valentine and Ava Aabak spoke, giving information that they have obtained pertaining to data centers, including water usage and contamination, air, noise, and light pollution, and increase in utility costs and power outages for local residents. Commissioners again stated that this situation is under litigation, and Commissioners are not at liberty to discuss it at this time; it was noted that a Circuit Court hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, at 1 p.m.

County Clerk

The County Clerk submitted bills for approval and payment.

Cynthia Smith/Rosa Valentine/Valetta Autry

Cynthia Smith, Rosa Valentine, and Valetta Autry exited the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

2026 Tax Sale

The Collector presented a report of the 2026 delinquent tax sale that was held on August 24, 2026.

Credit Card Applications

The Treasurer presented credit card applications for E-911 and the Assessor's Office. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to approve the applications as presented; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Adjourn

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry ordered that the Commission adjourn until September 8, 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.

SignatureA handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Daleske
Presiding Commissioner