

Benton County Commission
July 6, 2026

Convene

Presiding Commissioner Steve Daleske called the meeting of the Benton County Commission to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 6, 2026, in the County Commission Room. Attendance: Larry Berry, Present; Scott Harms, Present; and Steve Daleske, Present.

Approval of Prior Minutes

District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry made the motion to approve prior minutes dated June 29, 2026. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Executive Session

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to go to Executive Session at 9:05 a.m., pursuant to RSMo 610.021.1. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

At 9:12 a.m., District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to reconvene in regular session, District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

Rich Chiles

Rich Chiles is present at today's meeting.

Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine

Ava Aabak and Rosa Valentine met with Commissioners to state opposition to any potential data centers being located within the County.

Rosa Valentine

Rosa Valentine remained at today's meeting.

Rich Chiles

Rich Chiles exited the meeting at 10 a.m.

Southwest Electric Cooperative

A telephone conference call was conducted between Commissioners, Southwest Electric Cooperative representative Nick Seiner, and Congressman Mark Alford's office to discuss possible funding options for a bridge replacement in the southern part of the County.

Benton County Economic Development

Benton County Economic Development Director Jo Ann Lane met with Commissioners to present her monthly report of economic development efforts within the County.

Rosa Valentine

Rosa Valentine exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

David Malecki

David Malecki is present at 11 a.m.

Community National Bank/Payment Validation

Treasurer Rebecca Minks spoke with Commissioners pertaining to checks that were not properly validated through the bank last week as required by the bank's new Positive Pay procedures; it was noted that fees will be assessed by the bank for returning these checks, which will be re-issued as needed. Commissioners discussed the process to reimburse for these additional expenses; the Treasurer will ensure that, in the future, these payments are processed in a timely manner.

Board of Equalization - Rescheduled

Commissioners discussed the date of Board of Equalization, noting that Presiding Commissioner Daleske and Associate Commissioner Berry will be absent on that date. Since it is impossible for the Board to meet without a quorum, the Benton County Board of Equalization has been rescheduled to July 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to appoint Pam Grobe and Michael Schnakenberg to serve as the two at-large members for this Board. District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes).

County Clerk Report

County Clerk Susan Porterfield presented monthly budget reports for each department, and monthly tax abatements were presented for approval and signature. Bills were submitted for approval and payment.

2024 Audit

Commissioners, County Clerk, and County Treasurer discussed the 2024 audit draft that has been received from auditors Stopp and VanHoy, LLC. Responses to this audit will be discussed and sent to the auditor.

Fuel Bid

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms made the motion to accept the bid for diesel fuel for Road District #2 from MFA Oil Company at a cost of \$3.61 per gallon; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), and Steve Daleske (Yes). Other bid was received from Warsaw Oil Company at a cost of \$3.81 per gallon; the County accepted the low bid price.

Adjourn

District 2 Commissioner Scott Harms ordered that the Commission adjourn until July 13, 2026; District 1 Commissioner Larry Berry seconded the motion. The motion passed by vote: Larry Berry (Yes), Scott Harms (Yes), Steve Daleske (Yes). Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Signature

Steve Daleske
Presiding Commissioner