

June 15, 2021

Benton County Civil Service Commissioners

Special Meeting Minutes

Benton County Commissioners Room Justice Center

PRESENT: Mary Anne Hutchins, Chairman; Patty Wilson, Commissioner; Paul Hart, Commissioner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stephen Hallstrom, Attorney; Crystal Arreola, Civil Service Chief Examiner

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Hutchins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approve April 13, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes.

ACTION/ FOR APPROVAL: Approved Resolution permitting county employees in the Jail on October 23, 2019, when the BOCC took over operations and control, to apply for positions in the SO within the involvement of the Civil Service process, for the period of October 23, 2019 – October 22, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS:


Crystal updated the Civil Service Commission on the Evidence Tech vacancy. Waiting on the Sherriff to make a final decision on a candidate.

Crystal Updated the Civil Service Commission on the Records Clerk vacancy. Conditional offer was made to a candidate.

Crystal updated the Civil Service Commission on the Lead Civil Clerk promotion opportunity. Crystal suggested to use the same process that was used for the Records Sergeant promotion in 2018, CS Commission Agreed. A better update will be made on the next Civil Service meeting once Crystal meets with the Under Sherriff.

Unscheduled Business: Steve Hallstrom suggested we start looking at making some changes to our Civil Service Rules.

Adjourn: 11:23 A.M.



Mary Anne Hutchins, Chairman

6-15-21

Date



Crystal Arreola, Civil Service Chief Examiner

06/18/2021

Date

BEFORE THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

WHEREAS, pursuant to chapter 70.48 RCW, the Benton County (County) Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) passed a resolution during its regularly scheduled meeting on October 22, 2019, separating control and administration of the Benton County Jail (Jail) from the Sheriff's Office (SO), effective at 12:01 AM on October 23, 2019, when the County assumed the control and administration of Jail operations; and

WHEREAS, control and administration of the Jail was transferred from the SO to the newly created Benton County Department of Corrections (Corrections), overseen by a department manager; and

WHEREAS, without notice, effected Jail employees lost "Civil Service" status and protections within the contemplation of chapter 41.14 RCW, effective at 12:01 AM on October 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, numerous Jail employees contacted the Civil Service Commission (Commission), including appearing at a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, regarding their ability to apply for future SO job openings within the purview of Civil Service, without a requirement of additional involvement in the Civil Service application process at the beginning, irrespective of having successfully followed Civil Service rules and procedures to have previously obtained gainful employment in the Jail prior to October 22, 2019; and

WHEREAS, upon review of information provided, and the unique facts surrounding the separation of the Jail from the SO, the Commission contemporaneously approved former SO employees working in the Jail on October 23, 2019, retaining the ability to transfer County employment in the Jail to the SO if hired, without the requirement of applying through Civil Service, including testing, for a period expiring October 22, 2022; **NOW, THEREFORE,**


BE IT RESOLVED, the Civil Service Commissioner of Benton County hereby memorializes its previous action permitting SO employees in Civil Service "covered" Jail positions on October 23, 2019, and without having separated from service in the Jail, to apply for SO positions without a requirement of participating in the Civil Service process, including testing, from October 23, 2019, through October 22, 2022.

DATED this 15 day of June, 2021.


Mary Anne Hutchins, Chair


Paul Hart, Member


Patty Wilson, Member


Attest.....
Crystal Arreola, Chief Examiner/Secretary

Constituting the Civil Service Commission
of Benton County, Washington