

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; IT Manager Robert Heard; Finance Manager Linda Ivey; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Scott Souza, Chief of Corrections; Jail Captain Joshua Shelton; Clerk Josie Delvin; Treasurer Ken Spencer.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of May 19, 2020 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “aa”. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Auditor

- a. Lease Contract w/FruitSmart, Inc. for Space Rental Through CARES Act
- b. Lease w/ Pitney Bowes Mail Processing Equipment for Mail Handling
- c. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000
- d. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000

Commissioners

- e. Reappointment of Matt Berg to the Benton County Water Conservancy Board Conservancy Board

Corrections

- f. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000101, Dept. 120

Facilities

- g. First Amended Contract w/Johnson Controls, Inc. for HVAC As-Needed Repairs
- h. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110

Human Services

- i. First Amended Contract w/Sharon Adolphsen for Development Disabilities Services

- j. First Amended Agreement w/Children’s Developmental Center for Employment Services
- k. First Amended Contract w/Columbia Industries for Employment Services
- l. First Amended Agreement w/Goodwill Industries of the Columbia for Employment Services
- m. Update to Veterans Relief Fund Policies and Procedures to Allow for a Temporarily Increase of Veterans Benefits
- n. First Amended Agreement w/DSHS for Procedures on Long-Term Payables
- o. Agreement w/Franklin County and Kennewick Public Hospital District No. 1 to Secure a Feasibility Study of a Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Facility
- p. Expansion of the Emergency Housing Program Due to COVID 19

Juvenile

- q. Termination Contract Letter to A-One Refrigeration Heating for Kitchen Equipment Repairs

Parks

- r. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 126

Public Works

- s. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0101-101, Dept. 500
- t. Authorization to Proceed to Bid for the Finance Department Tenant Improvement and Restroom Addition Project at the Justice Center
- u. Award of Crack Seal Contract to Central Paving, LLC
- v. Award of Roadside Improvements Project to Double J. Excavating
- w. Contract w/Iron Horse Vac to Clean the Wash Bay Settling Tank @ the Kennewick Road Maintenance Facility
- x. Acceptance of Work Performed by Columbia Pumping & Construction for the Erickson Road Bridge Repair

Sheriff

- y. Closing the Violent Gang Task Force Petty Cash Fund Increasing the Investigating Petty Cash Fund; Rescinding Resolution 11-353 and Amending Resolution 10-583

Superior Court

- z. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0156-101, Dept. 000

Workforce Development Council

- aa. Re-Appointing Lori Mattson to the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council

Public Comment

Michael Novakovich, Visit Tri-Cities (via/teleconference) said they were supportive of reopening and said they were available to assist with the process, along with other local agencies.

Commissioner Delvin said the County could use help to get the message out to the public once the variance was approved.

Lease Agreement with Fair Association for Use of Benton County Fairgrounds

Adam Fyall presented the 2021-2025 Lease Agreement with the Fair Association for approval. He said that people were asking about the 2020 Fair and they did not know anything at this point but were staying the course and trying to have a 2020 event.

Highlights for the new lease included:

- 5-year lease (instead of 2-year)
- Changed rental structure to a set amount
- Expanded occupancy level for set up and cleanup (one week earlier and one week later)
- Included use of the shed at the Matheson pit for their storage use and they were encouraging the Fair Association to use it so the equipment was not up in the main area

Commissioner Small said this new lease included a reduction in price, extra space and extra time and offered in good faith. He wanted to make sure there would not be any defacing or covering up signs at the property as was done previously. Mr. Fyall said that message was communicated.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to enter into a new lease agreement with the Benton-Franklin Fair Association for a five-year term of 2021-2025 and authorizing the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Funding Agreement w/WA State Dept. of Children, Youth & Families for Construction and/or Remodel of an At-Risk Youth Services Center

Matt Rasmussen presented the funding agreement with the State for the construction and/or remodel of the Annex Building. He said the State authorized \$750,000 to Benton & Franklin Counties for this project. He indicated that Benton County would vacate the annex when the new Admin Building was complete. He said the agreements were ready to go and this would allow them to go forward to hire an architect to look at expanding the programs in Juvenile to give it some much needed space.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the attached Resolution and Funding Agreement with the Washington State Dept. of Children, Youth & Families for Construction. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Corrections Department Update

Chief Scott Souza and Linda Ivey updated the Board on the Corrections Department and briefly discussed the following:

- Thanked the Board for the locker room and all the work involved; 94 staff members were assigned lockers with showers available and the ability to change before and after work
- Construction project to be complete June 2. They planned to use those additional housing units (5) for quarantine housing, if needed.

- Covid impacts to the jail and contract prisoners: during construction they were down to 120 to 125 contract prisoners. Since Covid, the number for US Marshal contracts was at 40. The impact to the budget was a loss of \$271,425 per month, with a projected \$2,171,400 loss from May through December.
- The amount of contract prisoners (DOC and US Marshal) was out of their control – some have shut down across the state and were sheltering in place. They were reaching out to get other contracts, but the risk was too high with Covid positive prisoners.
- Local prisoners and early release was done with the assistance of PA’s office and Courts; they did not let out violent or potentially violent offenders and were still bringing them in and booking them.

Commissioner Small recommended the Board look at using extra funds in the Public Safety Tax to help offset some of these losses. The Board agreed and asked for some recommendations back from administration.

Ms. Ivey clarified the impact to the cities was 25% of the total estimated loss of \$2 million from the contract prisoners.

The Board agreed it did not want to take prisoners (that might be Covid positive) just for income. Chief Souza said they would be practicing all the safe procedures as they began to open back up, but it would impact their capacity by half. Additionally, he was down 9 correction officers (8 after next week). He indicated they were talking with other agencies about how to safely open the front doors, social distancing, testing and safely transporting prisoners.

The Board gave direction for Ms. Ivey to look at how to assist the cities with up to \$1/2 million from the PST fund.

Mr. MacPherson said there was another individual that had difficulty connecting with the phone lines during the public comment section. The Board agreed to hear from that individual.

Discussion on Applying to the Governor’s Office for a Variance to Move to Phase 2

Jerrod MacPherson discussed the Phase 2 application process and said the Health District was the entity that put the application together. He said they prepared a resolution authorizing moving forward with that application process. The Health District would be meeting with their senior staff and health officer and it was their hope to have the application ready to go for consideration by the end of the week or early next week.

Commissioner Delvin commented they started this process last week and they had a plan to move forward and then were told on Monday the process had changed. They were trying to adapt to the changes and new rules that included working with the jail, nursing homes, and hospitals.

Mr. MacPherson said the Health District was also looking at a modified Phase 1.5 (not quite Phase 2). They wanted to push forward with Phase 2, but also wanted to be ready for Phase 1.5 if 2 was not approved. He said they would be working with TRIDEC and the regional Chamber to see how they wanted it to look for the community.

Commissioner Small read the entire resolution for application for Phase 2 into the record.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the Resolution approving submittal of the Application for Benton County to move to Phase 2 of the Safe Start Washington Plan in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Chairman Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Public Comment – Continued

Gloria Lion (?) (via/teleconference) discussed her concern about the data that was being released and the numbers appeared to be incorrect regarding positive cases, etc. She requested the County Commissioners to do an investigation of who had died from Covid-19, not just with it and get an accurate number of deaths.

Commissioner Delvin said he did not believe the Board had authority to do that, but they could encourage the Coroner or maybe the State had the resources to do that investigation. Possibly when the Legislature went back into special session they could look at the matrix and healthcare system.

She also expressed concern about rumors that elected officials and others were receiving financial gain for not opening and other Covid related rumors. The Board assured her they were just rumors.

Dori Ruzzo, via/teleconference, asked about funding for the Health District and if there would be interruptions in their funding for programs.

Commissioner Delvin said they were working with the Health District and there was federal funding available to help them with their budget. Additionally, they would be applying for contract tracers and hoped to get some of that funding. Commissioner Small said they were not planning to cut funding to the Health Department.

The Board agreed that it might have to have an emergency health board meeting and then a special emergency Commissioner board meeting to move this forward.

Mr. MacPherson also reminded the Board about the special board meeting this afternoon to review applications for the Public Safety Tax Fund.

Tort Claims

CC 2020-11: Received May 27, 2020 from LuAnn E. Davison

CC 2020-12: Received June 1, 2020 from Lane K. Kroll

Account Payables

Check Date: 05/22/2020

EFT's: 1276-1279

Transfers #: 05222001-05222004

Total all funds: \$36,211.33

Warrant #: 206656-206768

Total all funds: \$1,408,780.55

Total amounts approved by fund can be reviewed in the Benton County Auditor's Office.

Resolutions

- 2020-349: Lease Contract w/FruitSmart, Inc. for Space Rental Through CARES Act
- 2020-350: Lease w/ Pitney Bowes Mail Processing Equipment for Mail Handling
- 2020-351: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000
- 2020-352: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000
- 2020-353: Reappointment of Matt Berg to the Benton County Water Conservancy Board Conservancy Board
- 2020-354: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000101, Dept. 120
- 2020-355: First Amended Contract w/Johnson Controls, Inc. for HVAC As-Needed Repairs
- 2020-356: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110
- 2020-357: First Amended Contract w/Sharon Adolphsen for Development Disabilities Services
- 2020-358: First Amended Agreement w/Children's Developmental Center for Employment Services
- 2020-359: First Amended Contract w/Columbia Industries for Employment Services
- 2020-360: First Amended Agreement w/Goodwill Industries of the Columbia for Employment Services
- 2020-361: Update to Veterans Relief Fund Policies and Procedures to Allow for a Temporarily Increase of Veterans Benefits
- 2020-362: First Amended Agreement w/DSHS for Procedures on Long-Term Payables
- 2020-363: Agreement w/Franklin County and Kennewick Public Hospital District No. 1 to Secure a Feasibility Study of a Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Facility
- 2020-364: Expansion of the Emergency Housing Program Due to COVID 19
- 2020-365: Termination Contract Letter to A-One Refrigeration Heating for Kitchen Equipment Repairs
- 2020-366: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 126
- 2020-367: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0101-101, Dept. 500
- 2020-368: Authorization to Proceed to Bid for the Finance Department Tenant Improvement and Restroom Addition Project at the Justice Center
- 2020-369: Award of Crack Seal Contract to Central Paving, LLC
- 2020-370: Award of Roadside Improvements Project to Double J. Excavating

- 2020-371: Contract w/Iron Horse Vac to Clean the Wash Bay Settling Tank @ the Kennewick Road Maintenance Facility
- 2020-372: Acceptance of Work Performed by Columbia Pumping & Construction for the Erickson Road Bridge Repair
- 2020-373: Closing the Violent Gang Task Force Petty Cash Fund Increasing the Investigating Petty Cash Fund; Rescinding Resolution 11-353 and Amending Resolution 10-583
- 2020-374: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0156-101, Dept. 000
- 2020-375: Re-Appointing Lori Mattson to the Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Council
- 2020-376: Lease Agreement with Fair Association for Use of Benton County Fairgrounds
- 2020-377: Funding Agreement - WA State Dept. of Children, Youth & Families for Construction and/or Remodel of an At-Risk Youth Services Center
- 2020-378: Approval to Submit Application to the Governor's Office for a Variance to Move to Phase 2

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:58 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman