

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Jerome Delvin (via/WebEx)
Commissioner Shon Small (via/WebEx)
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; Robert Heard, IT Manager; Alex Garcia, IT; Tammy McKeirnan, Human Services; HR Manager Lexi Wingfield.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 25, 2020 were approved.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 102
- b. Grant Agreement w/State of WA, Office of the Secretary of State to Establish a Student Engagement HUB @ WSU, Tri-Cities
- c. Award of Two Vote Armor Ballot Collection Boxes to Laser Fab

Commissioners

- d. Appointment of John Becker to the Badger Mt. Irrigation District
- e. Appointment of Darryll Olsen to the Badger Mt. Irrigation District

Facilities

- f. Ratifying An Emergency Purchase of Lexan Window Material for the Courtroom Technology Upgrade Project From Superior Glass

Fairgrounds

- g. Amending Resolution 2018-1029, Lease Agreement w/Benton-Franklin Fair Association

Human Services

- h. Contract w/WA State Dept. of Commerce for Community Development Block Grant

Juvenile

- i. Contract Amendment No. 1 w/Comprehensive Healthcare for Multi-Systemic Therapy
- j. Contract w/Jennifer Azure for Attorney Representation in BECCA Dockets

k. Truancy Contract w/Prosser School District

Public Works

l. Contract w/V K Powell Construction for the Courthouse Upgrades Project

Public Comment

None.

Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant – CV1

Tammy McKeirnan said that Human Services was requesting approval to move forward with the grant process in the amount of \$287,929.00 with the Department of Commerce for community development and housing priority needs.

As no one called in to the public comment line, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the Resolution authorizing Human Services to apply for the CDBG-CV1 2020-2021 grant in the amount of \$287,929.00 as presented. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Letters to Washington State Attorney General & Washington State Patrol for Criminal Investigation Request

Mr. MacPherson said the Board previously requested letters be drafted to send to the Washington State Attorney General and Washington State Patrol asking for a criminal investigation of Benton County Sheriff Jerry Hatcher regarding his possession of county-owned ammunition and firearms. Mr. MacPherson said he worked with the legal department in drafting the letters and presented them for the Board’s consideration.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved (as amended) to approve both letters to the Washington State Attorney General and Washington State Patrol as presented. Commissioner Delvin seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Small said this was not a witch hunt, as was being claimed by the Sheriff, but was a necessary request for a criminal investigation based on the circumstances over the last many months. The other Board members agreed.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Letter to Cities - Work Crew Program

Mr. Rasmussen said the County received a letter from its city partners regarding the work crew program. Due to COVID, the County had to stop the program and the cities requested a refund for the months of April, May and June. Mr. Rasmussen said that starting in July they reassigned the

corrections officers, thereby taking out a major expense of the program and it was now mainly a Benton County expense. He presented a letter for the Board's consideration addressed to the cities of Kennewick, Richland, and West Richland in response to their request. It outlined the current agreement with the cities for the work crew program and reminded them of the other partnerships between the cities and county where the cities were benefitting substantially. The letter denied the request for a refund and stated the County's desire to adhere to the work crew agreements so the program may continue.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the letter to the cities as presented. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Board Approval to Post and Fill Vacant Positions

Lexi Wingfield presented a Resolution based on the Board's direction to put a pause on posting and filling vacant positions. She said this was something the County had done in the past during difficult times and was not a new concept. The Resolution excepted 10 positions that were currently in the hiring process but required Board approval for hiring of any further vacant positions.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Resolution as presented to require Board approval to post and fill vacant positions except positions specifically outlined in the Resolution. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Sheriff's Office Employees Counseling Contract

Ms. Wingfield said she previously talked to the Board about adding some counseling services for the Sheriff's office employees beyond those currently provided by EAP. Ms. Wingfield said they reached out to a number of counselors and after talking with Deputies, selected one to move forward with a contract. However, providing these services as quickly as possible was important and they were requesting to waive the regular contract approval protocol to get the contract approved sooner. She said the Resolution would authorize the county administrators to sign contracts to get those services as soon as possible.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Resolution to authorize the County Administrator or Deputy County Administrator to sign the counseling services contract for Sheriff's Office employees. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Meeting Cancellation – Reminder

The Board reminded everyone there would not be a meeting on September 8, 2020 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Tort Claim

CC 2020-17: Received on September 1, 2020 from Nicky Creekmore

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 07/17/2020 (CORRECTION)

EFT #: 1348-1353
Transfers #: 07172001-07172011
Total all funds: \$705,664.54

Warrants #: 208066-208274
Total all funds: \$828,916.32

Check Date: 08/28/2020

EFT #: 1393-1417
Transfers #: 08282001-08282005
Total all funds: \$310,335.39

Warrants #: 209339-209430
Total all funds: \$220,623.96

Resolutions

- 2020-589: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 102
- 2020-590: Grant Agreement Secretary of State to Establish a Student Engagement HUB @ WSU, Tri-Cities
- 2020-591: Purchase Award of Two Vote Armor Ballot Collection Boxes to Laser Fab
- 2020-592: Appointment of John Becker to the Badger Mt. Irrigation District
- 2020-593: Appointment of Darryll Olsen to the Badger Mt. Irrigation District
- 2020-594: Ratifying An Emergency Purchase From Superior Glass
- 2020-595: Lease Agreement Amendment w/Benton-Franklin Fair Association
- 2020-596: Contract with Dept. of Commerce for Community Development Block Grant
- 2020-597: Juvenile Contract Amendment No. 1 - Comprehensive Healthcare
- 2020-598: Juvenile Contract w/Jennifer Azure – Attorney Representation in BECCA Dockets
- 2020-599: Juvenile - Truancy Contract w/Prosser School District
- 2020-600: Contract w/V K Powell Construction for the Courthouse Upgrades Project
- 2020-601: Human Services - Approval for Grant Application – CDBG – CV1 – Dept. of Commerce
- 2020-602: Requiring Board Approval Before Posting and Filling Vacant Positions
- 2020-603: Authorization for County Administrator to Sign Contract for Sheriff’s Office Employees Additional Counseling Services

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:26 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman