

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 19, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Public Hearing: Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant Public Service Funds– Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Manager

Benton County is applying to the Washington State Department of Commerce for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$65,884.00 for public service activities in coordination with Benton-Franklin Community Action Connections, who is submitting quarterly reports which are acceptable to the Benton County Department of Human Services. These grant funds would be used to increase access to direct public services for low- and moderate-income persons in Benton County, including utility services, transportation services, and more. **The Board moved and seconded to designate Chairman Beaver, Benton County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson, and Department of Human Services Manager Kyle Sullivan as the authorized Chief Administrative Official and authorized representatives to act in all official matters in connection with this application and Benton County's participation in the Washington State CDBG Program, that the Board of Benton County Commissioners accepts the current 2019 grant requirements for Benton-Franklin Community Action Connections, and the new 2020 grant requirements for the Community Development Block Grant Public Service Funds. Motion carried.**

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant Application for Sundance Improvement Association – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

Benton County is being asked to sponsor a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on behalf of the Sundance Improvement Association for renovation of their community water system in Finley. This application represents the second time that the County has been asked to sponsor a CDBG for improvement of a community water system, the first being the ongoing Plymouth Water District project. This CDBG would be used for project monies for community development. Sundance Improvement Association has retained the services of Harms Engineering as the project manager, who is preparing the application to Commerce to be submitted in June. The requested grant amount is up to \$900,000 for the drilling and equipping of a community well, plus up to \$10,000 for Benton County administrative expenses. **The Board moved and seconded that Benton County apply for a Community Development Block Grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce in an amount of up to \$900,000 for the drilling and equipping of a community well for the Sundance Improvement Association and that the Chairman be authorized to sign any paperwork associated with said application. Motion carried.**

Grant w/ US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Manager

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has entered into an agreement with Benton County Department of Human Services to operate the Benton County Shelter Plus Care Program through the 2020 Continuum of Care Program Grant Agreement. This program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, providing funding efforts to quickly rehouse homeless individuals (including unaccompanied youth) and families, promote access to an effective utilization of mainstream programs, and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The total grant amount is \$107,283.00. **The Board moved and seconded to approve signing Original Continuum of Care Program Grant No. WA0072LOT011912, 2020 Continuum of Care Program Grant Agreement with United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. Motion carried.**

Veteran's Relief Fund Discussion – Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Manager

The Department of Human Services continued their discussion with the Board regarding temporarily increasing the allowable eligible dollars for the Veteran's Relief Fund, in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. The Department of Human Services is proposing an increase of \$1,000 of assistance per eligible veteran, for a total of \$240,000 to the Veteran's Relief Fund until December 31, 2020. **The Board gave direction to prepare a resolution and documents for approval at the June 2, 2020 Board meeting.**

Other Business: Special Duty Assignment Position – Brenda Chilton, Auditor

Auditor Chilton addressed the Board to provide clarification regarding a previously approved special duty assignment position in her office, specifically to correct the position's placement on the Benton County Non-Bargaining salary schedule. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the amended placement of the special duty assignment position, previously approved, to be placed on the salary schedule as a 13H and not a 13B as previously approved. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Reopening Benton County – Commissioner Delvin

Commissioner Delvin mentioned that he had been on a conference call with Governor's staff on Friday regarding the possibility of larger counties to begin applying for waivers and approval for moving through the reopening phases as outlined by the Governor's office at a quicker pace.

Other Business: Positive Press for Benton County – Commissioner Small

Commissioner Small requested that Benton County staff do more to get positive outreach and exposure on the things Benton County is doing to help the community during the COVID crisis.

Other Business: Max Benitz Day Proclamation – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

A citizen had requested that the Commissioners make a proclamation to declare May 21, 2020 "Max Benitz Day" in honor of former Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr. Commissioner Benitz passed away on July 11, 2019 and was a Benton County Commissioner for 16 years, as well as dedicated Commissioner for Port of Benton and the West Benton Regional Fire Authority. **The Board moved and seconded to honor the legacy of former Commissioner Benitz by proclaiming May 21, 2020, the date of his next birthday, as "Max Benitz Day." Motion carried.**

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