

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 1, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearings

Community Development Block Grant - CV1 - Tammy McKeirnan, Human Services

A public hearing is required for Benton County to apply to the State Department of Commerce for a grant application for the CDBG-CV1 2020/2021 grant in the amount of \$287,929.00. Additionally, certain requirements need to be met and Benton Franklin Community Action Connections is submitting the required quarterly reports, as accepted by Human Services. Ms. McKeirnan recommended the Board approve the Resolution authorizing the submittal of the grant application. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution as submitted and authorize Benton County Human Services to apply for the 2020/2021 CDBG-CV1 grant in the amount of \$287,929.00. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Scheduled Business

Letters to Washington State Attorney General & Washington State Patrol for Criminal Investigation - Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

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 presented the letters for the Board's consideration. **The Board moved and seconded to approve and send the letters as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Letter to Cities Regarding Work Crew Program - Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

Mr. Rasmussen presented a letter for the Board's consideration addressed to the cities of Kennewick, Richland, and West Richland in response to their request for a refund regarding work crew costs. 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. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the letter as submitted. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Authorization on Filling Positions - Lexi Wingfield, Human Resources Manager

The Board previously requested Human Resources to prepare a Resolution that required departments to receive Board approval prior to posting and filling vacant positions. Ms. Wingfield said there were currently 82 vacant and funded positions. She presented a Resolution requiring Board approval before posting and filling vacant positions, except for 10 positions specifically outlined, due to the fact they were already in the hiring process. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution requiring Board approval before posting and filling vacant positions as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Sheriff's Office Employees Counseling Contract - Lexi Wingfield, Human Resources Manager

The Board requested staff to explore options to provide the Sheriff's Office employees additional counseling services beyond those 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 is important and they were requesting to waive the regular contract approval protocol to get the contract approved sooner. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution authorizing the County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator to sign the counseling services contract for Sheriff's Office employees. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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