

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 20, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners' meeting, Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearings

SPV 2020-002 - Vacation of 10-Foot Irrigation Easement - Greg Wendt and Michelle Cooke, Planning

The owner of Lot 3 of Short Plat 2506 applied for a vacation of a 10-foot irrigation easement. Owners of property within 300 feet were notified, as well as all concerned agencies. The Kennewick Irrigation District commented they would not have any requirements since a five-foot irrigation easement currently existed along the turnaround easement located on Lot 3. Based on the information received, the Planning Department recommended approval of the proposed vacation of the 10-foot irrigation easement. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the vacation of the 10-foot irrigation easement running North to South through the east half of Lot 3 of Short Plat 2506 in Section 20, Township 8 North, Range 28 East, W.M. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Ordinance Allowing Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles on County Roads - Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

In 2013 the Washington State Legislature changed the law to allow Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATV's) to be used on County Roads and City Streets with speed limits of 35 miles per hour and less (RCW 46.09.455). Counties over 15,000 population and all Cities must specifically pass an ordinance allowing the use of WATV's.

In 2014 Benton County considered such an ordinance but ultimately decided against allowing WATV's based on potential risk and the lack of an interconnected network of eligible roads. Earlier this year the County reduced the speed limits on certain roads in the area around the City of Prosser which has prompted renewed public interest in allowing WATV's.

Currently 23 of 39 counties and approximately 32 cities allow WATV's in some fashion. Of our neighboring Counties only Klickitat and Walla Walla allow WATV's and those uses are extremely limited. Klickitat County limits WATV's to the area around the community of Glenwood with approximately 2.75 miles of road and Walla Walla limits to event specific purposes only. The City of Prosser and the City of Kennewick have elected to allow WATV's on their roadways.

On October 1, 2019 staff presented the concept of allowing WATV's on County Roads to the Board. The Board directed staff to prepare a draft ordinance and bring it back for further consideration. The County Engineer along with a representative from the Commissioners' Office, the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office worked in conjunction to prepare draft ordinance language. Delays resulted from the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, but the draft language was presented to the Board on August 25, 2020. At that time the Board gave direction to proceed with a public hearing in September or October.

The proposed language is intended to be compatible with the rules in the City of Prosser and City of Kennewick so that WATV users do not encounter significant rule changes when crossing jurisdictional boundaries.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution adopting the Ordinance Allowing Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles on County Roads and adding Chapter 10.13 to the Benton County Code. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled Business

Assessor's Office - Position Request for Office Assistant III to Be Posted & Filled - Bill Spencer, Assessor

The Board previously approved Resolution 2020-602 requiring Board approval prior to posting and filling vacant positions. The Assessor's Office requested this position be posted and filled since it is responsible for recording ownership transfers for all parcels in Benton County. **The Board moved and seconded to approve Position 1111, Office Assistant III in the Assessor's Office, to be posted and filled.** Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Agreement w/PowerDMS - Sheriff's Office - Commander Jon Law and Todd Carlson, Sheriff's Office

PowerDMS, Inc. is one of the only cloud-based software as a service platform that combines document management, training management and accreditation management. It has the ability to electronically alert users whenever a change may impact accreditation. PowerDMS, Inc. is widely used by many statewide law enforcement agencies, including 45 police departments and six Sheriff's Offices. Six government agencies also use PowerDMS, two being the City of Richland and the City of Pasco. The Washington State Patrol and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy are also users of PowerDMS. **Based on the recommendation of the IT Department, the Board did not approve this agreement.**

Other Business

Authorization to Purchase 2019 Ford Transit Cargo Van - Auditor Brenda Chilton and Robert Blain, Operations/Capital Programs

The Auditor received a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life for the public purpose of planning and operationalizing safe and secure election administration. A need exists for a cargo van for the Elections Department to use to transfer ballots and purchase of a vehicle is an allowable use of the grant funds. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the purchase of one 2019 Ford Transit Cargo Van from Columbia Ford as presented.** Upon vote, the motion carried.

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