

WEEKLY REVIEW



BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 5, 2020

This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 5, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – Brenda Chilton, Auditor

The Auditor presented to the Board of Commissioners regarding three topics related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

- CARES Act Grant Agreement w/ State of Washington: The Auditor's Elections Division will be receiving a federal grant from the CARES Act to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for the 2020 Federal election cycle." Benton County will be allocated \$251,113.95 (of which \$209,261.63 is federal funds and the remaining are matching funds from the State of Washington), to furnish the necessary personnel, equipment, material and/or service(s) for elections in response to coronavirus.
- Health & Security Coordinator Position in Elections Department: The Auditor's Office Elections Division will be receiving two federal grants. One from the CARES Act (mentioned above) and the other for federal funding for increased security measures related to the 2020 election cycle. Given the additional responsibilities associated with the administration of these grants, it is necessary to create a temporary, special-duty assignment position within the Elections Division titled Health & Security Coordinator, to be in place May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This position will be filled by an existing Auditor's Office employee, and be placed at a Grade 13 on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule.
- CARES Act Grant and Health & Security Coordinator Line Item Transfer: A line item transfer is necessary to appropriate the funding for the two federal grants received by the Auditor's Office (mentioned above) as well as the Health & Security Coordinator temporary position.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the three resolutions as presented: CARES Act Grant Agreement w/ State of Washington, Health & Security Coordinator Position in Elections Department, and the CARES Act Grant and Health & Security Coordinator Line Item Transfer. Motion carried.

Other Business: Letter to Governor Inslee – Commissioner Delvin

Commissioner Delvin requested that staff draft a letter to Governor Inslee regarding the reopening of the State and the County. In the letter, Commissioners urged the Governor to reopen the State and County and provide specific timelines for the phased reopening mentioned on various occasions, as well as the ability to reopen based on a regional approach and in a responsible, timely manner. It is the position of the Board that nearly everything in the Benton County community should be allowed to reopen by the end of May, with appropriate controls and safety measures in place. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the letter as presented. Motion carried.**

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