

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 14, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Public Hearing: Adopting Legislation to Authorize a Sales and Use Tax for Affordable & Supportive Housing – Kyle Sullivan, Department of Human Services Manager

In 2019, the Commissioners adopted Resolution 2019-677 declaring the County's intent to adopt legislation pursuant to [RCW 82.14.540](#) to authorize a sales and use tax for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable and supportive housing as well as for the operations and maintenance costs of affordable or supportive housing at the maximum rate established for counties. This tax is credited against the 6.5% state sales tax collected and, therefore, will not result in a higher sales and use tax within Benton County. The resolution that accompanies the proposed ordinance also authorizes the creation of a special revenue fund called the "Affordable and Supportive Housing Fund" (#0159101), into which the revenue collected will be placed. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the ordinance to implement the additional sales tax collection and authorize the creation of an Affordable and Supportive Housing Fund. Motion carried.**

Public Hearing: 2020-2025 Six-Year Road Program – Doug D'Hondt, County Engineer

In 2017, the County was awarded a grant of \$463,800 through the Highway Safety Improvement Program for the design and construction of the 2017 Roadside Improvement Project. An amendment to the 2020-2025 Six-Year Road Program is proposed to include this project, which was approved via Resolution 2018-137A for inclusion on the 2018-2023 Six-Year Road Program but was not included in the 2019-2024 or 2020-2025 Six-Year Road Program. **The Board moved and seconded to amend the 2020-2025 Six-Year Road Program to include the 2017 Roadside Improvement Project. Motion carried.**

Preliminary Plat Approvals – Greg Wendt, Planning Manager and Michelle Cooke, Senior Planner

The Planning Department presented three (3) preliminary plat approvals for consideration:

1. Preliminary Plat of Grace Estates – SUB 2020-001: The applicant wishes to subdivide approximately 9.37 acres into seven (7) residential lots. The preliminary plat is known as Grace Estates. The land is zoned Urban Growth Area Residential. The average lot size in the development is approximately 1.25 acres and the lots are proposed to be served by a new public road and individual wells and septic systems. The property lies south of North River Road, east of Moore Road in unincorporated Prosser. On June 9, 2020, at the conclusion of an open record hearing, the Planning Commission voted (5-0) to forward a positive recommendation to the Commissioners subject to eight (8) findings of fact and eighteen (18) conditions of approval. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation, findings of fact, and conditions and approve the preliminary plat of Grace Estates – SUB 2020-001. Motion carried.**
2. Preliminary Plat of Orchard View – SUB 2020-002: The applicant wishes to subdivide approximately 9.1 acres into 29 residential lots. The preliminary plat is known as Orchard View. The land is zoned Urban Growth Area Residential. The average lot size in the development is approximately 11,378 square feet and the lots are proposed to be served by new public roads, city water, and city sewer services. The property is located southwest of the intersection of E. 19th Avenue and S. Gum Street in unincorporated Kennewick. On June 9, 2020, at the conclusion of an open record hearing, the Planning Commission voted (5-0) to forward a positive recommendation to the Commissioners subject to eight (8) findings of fact and twenty-one (21) conditions of approval. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation, findings of fact, and conditions and approve the preliminary plat of Orchard View – SUB 2020-002. Motion carried.**

3. Preliminary Plat of Shaw Vineyard Estates – SUB 2020-003: The applicant wishes to subdivide approximately 71.10 acres into 8 residential lots. The preliminary plat is known as Shaw Vineyard Estates. The land is zoned Rural Lands Five Acre District. The average lot size in the development is approximately 8.45 acres and the lots are proposed to be served by new public roads and individual wells and septic systems. The property lies west of Harrington Road and South of Horn Rapids Drive in unincorporated West Richland. This property is also subject to the Benton County Rural Water Supply Program. On June 9, 2020, at the conclusion of an open record hearing, the Planning Commission voted (5-0) to forward a positive recommendation to the Commissioners subject to eight (8) findings of fact and sixteen (16) conditions of approval. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission’s recommendation, findings of fact, and conditions and approve the preliminary plat of Shaw Vineyard Estates – SUB 2020-003. Motion carried.**

CARES Act Community Support Grant Program with TRIDEC – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Dev. Manager

Staff presented a service agreement to contract with TRIDEC, in the amount of \$115,000, to assist the County with implementation and facilitation of a temporary cash grant program, funded by the CARES Act, intended to inject relief funds into the Benton County business community. Benton County has received funds from the federal government and passed through the State Department of Commerce for the County’s use in meeting unexpected and immediate hardships at the County and throughout the community. A portion, approximately \$3.5 million, of these funds will be disbursed to businesses and non-profit organizations in Benton County through a cash grant program. County Administration wishes to call upon the expertise and resources of TRIDEC, longtime economic development partner, to get these funds into the community efficiently, effectively, and transparently. The County intends to open the application window on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 2 PM after the conclusion of a short press conference, with all funds required to be disbursed by the County by October 31, 2020. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the standard service agreement with TRIDEC for assistance in implementation of the CARES Act Community Support Grant Program. Motion carried.**

Supplemental Appropriation Requests – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

The Finance Manager is requesting a Public Hearing on August 4, 2020 to hear requests for budget adjustments for the following items:

1. Current Expense, CARES Act, Department 139: The County was awarded \$11,099,000 in CARES Act funding due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency, via Resolution 2020-391. This award was received after completion of the 2019-2020 budget process. Therefore, a budget supplement is requested and must be approved via public hearing. In addition, a new department is requested in the Current Expense Fund, Department 139.
2. Current Expense, Sheriff Patrol, Department 121: Benton County was awarded \$250,000 for the FY19 BJA STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Training Program via Resolution 2019-752. This award was received after the completion of the 2019-2020 budget process. Therefore, a budget supplement is requested and must be approved via public hearing. The award is over three years, with anticipated expenditures in the 2019-2020 budget of \$110,800.

The Board moved and seconded going to Public Hearing on August 4, 2020 for the potential approval of the request for a budget adjustment for: 1) Current Expense, CARES Act, Department 139 and 2) Current Expense, Sheriff Patrol, Department 121. Motion carried.

Ratifying First Amendment to DSHS Agreement for Employment Services Programs – Kyle Sullivan, Department of Human Services Manager and Mari Clark, Developmental Disabilities Employment Specialist

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) would like to extend the current contract with the Benton County Department of Human Services for the purpose of advancing the state legislative policy to provide a coordinated and comprehensive state and local program of employment services for persons with developmental disabilities. Due to a hiring and contract freeze at the state level, this contract was not sent to the County until the day the original agreement expired. The County Administrator approved the contract, under the authority granted per Resolution 2020-258, so the agreement did not expire. The Board must now ratify said amendment. **The Board moved and seconded to ratify the signed First Amendment to Agreement Number 1963-58964 Benton County Resolution 2020-258 between Developmental Disabilities Administration and Benton County Department of Human Services, and to authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. Motion carried.**

Amendment No. 1 to BCES Interlocal Agreement – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

For the past several years, Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) has been working on ways to improve the coverage of the 800MHz radio system and fill gaps in service. Studies have been conducted and the results of those studies have indicated that adding a new communications tower on Red Mountain and making necessary upgrades to the existing Golgotha repeater site will greatly improve system coverage. In October 2018, the Board authorized up to \$2.5 million to be spent to complete the Red Mountain town project (Resolution 2018-749). Since that time, staff has been working with BCES to determine the final site location and get necessary agreements in place to proceed. Due to the length of time since the original authorization, the cost of the project has increased. Staff now estimates the project may take \$3 million to complete the tower construction and repeater upgrades. In addition, up to \$2 million of additional funds is needed to obtain right of way for and construction of an access road to the tower site, with work to be completed by Benton County staff. This amendment is needed to continue moving forward with the project. This project will be paid for from the Benton County Public Safety Sales Tax in an amount up to \$5 million. **The Board moved and seconded to approve Amendment No. 1 to the 2018 Second Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement for Benton County Emergency Services. Motion carried.**

Public Safety Sales Tax Funding Recommendations – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

On March 10, 2020 staff presented to the Board of Commissioners regarding opening a Request for Proposals (RFP) for soliciting proposals for 2021-2022 Public Safety Sales Tax funding. This RFP was open from April 1, 2020 through May 15, 2020 to both internal County departments as well as non-profit community applicants. All RFP submissions were presented to the Board of Commissioners by their respective County department or community agency on either June 2, 2020 (external requests) or on June 4, 2020 (internal departments). A review committee consisting of one Commissioner, County Administrators, and County finance and communications staff reviewed the submitted proposals after a legal review was completed to determine the legal applicability of the request to the Public Safety Sales Tax ballot title (Proposition 14-5). After a thorough review, the attached funding recommendations were finalized by the review committee for Commissioner consideration and possible decision. Once a final funding determination is made by the Board of Commissioners, staff will prepare contracts with the approved external agencies. All approved internal requests will be included in the upcoming budget process. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the 2021-2022 Public Safety Sales Tax funding recommendations as presented and directed staff to proceed with the necessary contracting or budget processes, for final approval at a later date. Motion carried.**

Joint Purchasing Agreement with Benton County Fire District #2 for Shallow Water Rescue Boat – Commander Jon Law, Benton County Sheriff's Office and Chief Ron Duncan, Benton County Fire District #2

Benton County Fire Protection District #2 (BCFPD #2) and Benton County Sheriff's Office wish to jointly purchase a RockProof boat, River Rocket Rescue boat, Model 1872 and trailer that will be used by both agencies for rescue missions along the Columbia and Yakima Rivers in accordance with the presented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Sheriff's Office has requested and received approval from the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission to utilize a portion of the Vessel Registration Feed funds for the purpose of funding half the purchase price of the vessel. The vessel will be jointly purchased by the two agencies, with BCFPD #2 funding one half of the purchase price and Benton County Sheriff's Office funding the other half of the purchase price, not to exceed \$35,000 plus applicable WSST. The vessel will be titled to BCFPD #2, subject to the termination provisions in the presented MOU. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign the Interlocal Joint Purchasing Agreement, MOU, and Resolution between Benton County Fire Protection District #2 and Benton County Sheriff's Office for the purchase of a RockProof boat. Motion carried.**

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