

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 21, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, July 21, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment 2020-001 to BCC 11.11.060 – Greg Wendt, Planning Manager

A text amendment is proposed to the County Zoning Regulations, which involves the Rural Land 5 Zoning District, to add veterinary facility as a conditional use. A veterinary facility is defined in Chapter 11.03 (187) as “a business establishment or facility which renders surgical and medical treatment to animals, and which includes inside or outside accommodations for animals.” On July 9, the Planning Commission conducted an open record public hearing to discuss the proposed amendment. At the conclusion of that hearing, the Planning Commission recommended approval, subject to ten (10) findings of fact. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission’s recommendation, findings, and conclusions as its own and to approve the resolution and adopt the ordinance amending BCC 11.11.060 (Ordinance Amendment File No. OA 2020-001). Motion carried.**

Public Hearing: Ordinance Amendment 2020-002 to BCC 17.10.090 – Greg Wendt, Planning Manager

A text amendment is proposed to BCC 17.10 Permit Review Process, which provides the process for project permit applications. The amendment involves correcting a code citation in Section 17.10.090 (2) Submission and Acceptance of Application. The citation for “ownership interest” has changed from BCC 9.08.020 (17) to BCC 9.02.040 (26). Correcting this citation will ensure consistency between regulations and compliance with other sections of the Benton County Code (BCC). **The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution and adopt the ordinance amendment to BCC Chapter 17.10, an ordinance related to permit processing; amending Ordinance 573, Section 1 and BCC 17.10.090. Motion carried.**

Public Hearing: Short Plat Vacation 2020-001 – Michelle Cooke, Principal Planner & Greg Wendt, Planning Manager

In February 2009, Short Plat 3178 was recorded under Auditor’s Fee Number 2009-002960, which created two (2) lots off 129 PR SE in Kennewick. This short plat also created a 10-foot irrigation easement and a 10-foot utility easement on the south 20 feet of Lot 1. The Planning Department received a request for vacation of the unused 10-foot irrigation easement and 10-foot utility easement, for the applicant to site an accessory shop building on the northern portion of the property. All concerned agencies were notified of the proposed vacation, and no concerns were received. The Planning Department recommends approval of the proposed vacation. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the vacation of the 10-foot irrigation easement and 10-foot utility easement located on the south 20 feet of Lot 1 of Short Plat 3178, records of Benton County. Motion carried.**

2021 Governmental Affairs Consulting Agreement – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator

Benton County has contracted with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs to provide the County with governmental affairs and lobbying services since 2017. Staff recommends maintaining the contract to provide continuing governmental affairs and lobbying services through 2021, as detailed in the contract’s scope of work. This contract will begin on January 1, 2021 and terminate on December 31, 2021 unless amended, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$39,580. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Consulting Agreement between Benton County and Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs for 2021 governmental affairs services as presented. Motion carried.**

Setting Salaries for Elected Officials for 2023 & 2024 – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

Approximately every other year, the Board of Commissioners sets the salaries of elected officials. The salaries are generally set 3-4 years in advance of the current year, to avoid changes to the salary of any elected official during their current term. Since 2016, salaries for elected officials have increased each year ranging from 1.5% increase to a 2.25% increase. The salaries of County Commissioners, Clerk, Coroner, Treasurer, Auditor, and Assessor are set at the same level. The salary of the County Sheriff is set at a higher level because the position used to also have oversight of the County Jail in addition to regular functions. The Prosecutor's salary is set by the State and via separate resolution. Salaries under consideration are for years 2023 and 2024. Salaries for 2021 and 2022 were set with Resolution 2018-477. These salaries take affect at the beginning of the next term of office for each elected official. **The Board gave staff direction to create a Resolution to set salaries for elected officials for 2023-2024, for approval on August 4, 2020.**

Other Business: Program Manager of the Year Award – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator & Drew Woods, Deputy Director for County Road Administration Board (CRAB)

Today, Benton County's Procurement/Contract Coordinator, Shannon Christen, was awarded the Washington State Association of County Engineers, County Road Administration Board (CRAB) "Program Manager of the Year Award." Shannon has been with Benton County for over 30 years and has been involved in capital projects for the past 7 years. She has worked on projects and purchases for the County Road Department and Fleet Maintenance Departments, as well as County-wide capital projects. In 2019, Shannon oversaw over 50 construction and maintenance projects, 10 major equipment purchases, and 30 service contracts – constituting over \$27 million in expenditures. Please join us in congratulating Shannon on this momentous achievement.

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