

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 4, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearings

Adoption of 2021-2026 Six-Year Road Program – Doug D’Hondt, County Engineer

A Six-Year Road Program is required to be prepared every year, in accordance with [WAC 136-14-050](#) and [WAC 136-20-060](#), describing the road maintenance and improvement program. A program has been prepared for 2021-2026 for Commissioners’ review and public hearing. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the 2021-2026 Six-Year Road Program as presented. Motion carried.**

Application for Franchise, Eddie Farms, Inc. – Cristina Woods, Engineering Tech III

Benton County has received an application from Eddie Farms, Inc. to establish a Franchise Order and Agreement for an irrigation pipe within Benton County road right of way. The franchise application for a single irrigation pipe to cross N Griffin Road, to supply irrigation water between parcels 107941000003002 and 108942000001000. The Public Works Department recommends approval of the Franchise Order and Agreement with Eddie Farms, Inc., subject to six (6) items as listed. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Eddie Farms, Inc., subject to the six (6) items listed in the report to Commissioners. Motion carried.**

Application for Franchise, Paterson Heights Water Association – Cristina Woods, Engineering Tech III

Benton County has received an application to establish a Franchise Order and Agreement for a domestic water system from Paterson Heights Water Association. The Public Works Department recommends approval of the Franchise Order and Agreement with Paterson Heights Water Association, subject to six (6) items as listed. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Paterson Heights Water Association, subject to the six (6) items listed in the report to the Commissioners. Motion carried.**

Application for Franchise, Sundance Improvement Association – Cristina Woods, Engineering Tech III

Benton County has received an application to establish a Franchise Order and Agreement for a domestic water system and facilities from Sundance Improvement Association. The Public Works Department recommends approval of the Franchise Order and Agreement with Sundance Improvement Association, subject to six (6) items as listed. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Sundance Improvement Association, subject to the six (6) items listed in the report to the Commissioners. Motion carried.**

Budget Adjustments, 2019-2020 Current Expense, Dept. 139 & Dept. 121 – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

The Finance Manager presented two (2) budget adjustments for Public Hearing:

1. Benton County was awarded \$11,099,000 in CARES Act funds due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), via Resolution 2020-391. This award was received after the completion of the 2019-2020 budget process. Therefore, a Budget Supplement of the current year’s expenditures budget is requested and must be approved in a Public Hearing. This budget adjustment is budget neutral, as eligible expenditures are reimbursed. The Finance Manager recommends approval of the budget adjustment for Current Expense, CARES Act, Department 139 as presented.

2. 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 of the current year's expenditures budget is requested and must be approved in a public hearing. This award is received over a three-year time period, with anticipated expenditures in the 2019-2020 budget of \$110,800. This budget adjustment is budget neutral, as eligible expenditures are reimbursed. The Finance Manager recommends approval of the budget adjustment for Current Expense, Sheriff Patrol, Department 121 as presented.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the requests for a budget adjustment for Current Expense, CARES Act, Department 139, in the amount of \$11,099,000 and for Current Expense, Sheriff Patrol, Department 121, in the amount of \$110,800. Motion carried.

Scheduled Business

Request for Legal Defense by Sheriff Hatcher in Recall Petition Effort – Andy Miller, County Prosecutor

Sheriff Jerry Hatcher submitted a request to the Benton County Prosecutor's Office for the County to provide legal representation for his defense related to the recently filed recall petition against him. Prosecuting Attorney Andy Miller presented the request to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to [RCW 4.96.041](#), both the Prosecuting Attorney and the Board of County Commissioners must approve utilizing any County resources for such a defense. **The Board moved and seconded to deny County representation to Sheriff Hatcher in the recall petition. Motion carried.**

Other Business

CARES Act Funding for Marketing in Relation to COVID-19 – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

As part of the on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Benton and Franklin Counties desire to partner to produce more public awareness and education television, radio, and social media outreach materials. Staff has been working with Visit Tri Cities, who has helped produce other marketing materials related to COVID-19, to develop a program for the outreach effort. Benton and Franklin Counties intend to use a portion of the CARES act funding they have each received to pay for the costs of the outreach. Staff requested approval from the Board to continue developing the outreach program and will bring back final agreements at a later date. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the staff recommendation as presented. Motion carried.**

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