

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 24, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners' meeting, Tuesday, November 24, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearings

Broadview Water Association Franchise - Cristina Woods

Benton County received an application for a Franchise Order and Agreement for a private domestic water pipeline from Broadview Water Association. Benton County Public Works recommends the Commissioners approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Broadview Water Association, subject to the 6 items listed in the report to the Commissioners. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Broadview Water Association, subject to the 6 items listed in the report to the Commissioners. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Badger Mountain Irrigation District Franchise Renewal - Cristina Woods

Benton County has received an application for a Franchise Order and Agreement for a domestic and irrigation water transmission and distribution lines from Badger Mountain Irrigation District. Benton County Public Works recommends the Commissioners approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Badger Mountain Irrigation District, subject to the 6 items listed in the report to the Commissioners. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Badger Mountain Irrigation District, subject to the 6 items listed in the report to the Commissioners. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Adoption of Final Biennium Budgets for 2021-2022 - Linda Ivey

The following budgets and resolutions were presented for adoption:

- Certifying Current Expense Levy for 2021 - no increase to the levy rate; increasing the levy base and banking the 1% for future years.
- Certifying Road Levy for 2021 - no increase to the levy rate; increasing the levy base and banking the 1% for future years.
- Declaration of Substantial Need - this is required for the regular property tax levy because the inflation rate is less than 1% - setting the limit factor up to 101%.
- Certifying Budgeted Taxes for Collection in 2021 - have given notice to the public of the estimated collection rate for 2021.
- Adoption of Final 2021-2022 Benton County Budgets - made the change of reducing wages and benefits for 21 positions in the Corrections Department and moving \$3.6 million over to the contingency department, however, budget totals remain unchanged.

The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Resolutions Certifying Current Expense Levy for 2021, Certifying Road Levy for 2021, Declaration of Substantial Need, Certifying Budgeted Taxes for Collection in 2021, and Adoption of the Final 2021-2022 Benton County Budgets as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled Business

Rescinding Resolution 2020-602 - Matt Rasmussen

The Board previously approved Resolution 2020-602 requiring Board approval prior to posting and filling vacant positions. Although being fiscally conservative, particularly during the pandemic remains important, with the adoption of the new budget, approval for posting and filling vacancies is no longer necessary. However, with the potential of continued reduced revenues due to the pandemic, it is still expected that Department

Managers and Elected Officials will review each vacancy, taking into account ongoing expenditure and revenue projections for their department, and determine if that position needs to be filled or not. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2020-602 Requiring Board Approval Before Posting and Filling Vacant Positions, Effective January 1, 2021.** Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Position Requests – Juvenile Justice – Darryl Banks

The Board previously approved Resolution 2020-602 requiring Board approval prior to posting and filling vacant positions. The Legal Processing Unit will have a full-time Legal Secretary IV position vacated on December 4, 2020. If this position is filled in-house, they are requesting to backfill the subsequent open position of a Legal Processing Assistant III. Both positions are essential to maintaining court functions that contribute to the efficient operations within the Juvenile Justice Center, plus other clerical support services. **The Board moved and seconded to approve posting and filling the Legal Secretary IV position and backfill the Legal Processing Assistant III position if the Legal Secretary IV position is filled in-house.** Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Community Development Dept. Reorganization – Jerrod MacPherson and Lexi Wingfield

With the creation of the Community Development Department and with recent retirements in vital positions, a reorganization and request to fill a position is recommended. As part of this reorganization, the Community Development Department would be comprised of three divisions, including Planning, Building and Canine Control. The following steps are recommended as part of this phased reorganization:

- Adopt the Director of Community Development job description.
- Change the Plans Examiner/Building Inspector classification into an Assistant Building Manager classification (reclassifying an existing position).
- Place the Assistant Building Manager position as a grade 16 on the non-bargaining salary schedule.
- Approve a line item transfer to change the title of the Plans Examiner/Building Inspector to an Assistant Building Manager.
- Resolution 2020-602 requires Benton County Board of Commissioners approval prior to posting and filling vacant positions. Canine Control is a department of two and with the recent promotion of the current Canine Control Officer II to the Canine Control Supervisor after a retirement, it is imperative that the Canine Control Officer is hired.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution to create the Director of Community Development job description; to approve the Resolution to create the Assistant Building Manager job description; to approve the Resolution placing the Assistant Building Manager as a grade 16 on the non-bargaining salary schedule; to approve the Line Item Transfer to change the Plans Examiner/Building Inspector to an Assistant Building Manager; and to authorize position 1181, Canine Control Officer II, to be filled as a Canine Control Officer I.

Benton County Noxious Weed Budget Presentation – Konrad Kauer

The Noxious Weed Control Board is required to submit their operating budget to the Board of Commissioners for approval. On October 28, 2020 a public hearing was held by the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board and was unanimously approved. The 2021-2022 Operating Budget for the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board was presented for Board approval. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution adopting the 2021-2022 Operating Budget for the Benton County Noxious Weed Control Board as presented.** Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Feasibility Study Results – Behavioral Health Recovery Center – Kyle Sullivan

On February 4, 2020 the Kennewick Public Hospital District (now known as the Two Rivers Health District), requested the County assist them, in collaboration with the Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition, to pay for a feasibility study to determine the financial and operational potential of transforming the old Trios Hospital building on Auburn Street in Kennewick into a behavioral health recovery center. The center would include treatment for mental health, substance use disorders, crisis services, residential treatment, etc. to make it a “one stop” treatment center. Lee Kerr, Superintendent for Two Rivers Health District, presented the feasibility study that included the business plan and conversion costs for construction as follows:

- Purchase price for the facilities (the entire quadrant): \$1.6 million
- A & E Fees: \$1,120,000
- Construction Costs - \$11,200,000
- Sales Tax - \$963,200
- Total - \$14,883,200

Next steps include:

- Completing the purchase agreement (\$600,000 available from the District)
- Fund raising plan
- Seeking endorsement of the project from the County (and the other entities) for inclusion in the budget request to the State. They were seeking the full \$15 million in the State Capital budget and indicated it was looking very promising, but the outcome was unknown. If they did not receive the full amount from the State, they would continue with their fundraising efforts locally. This site was perfectly zoned, in a well-established vicinity where medical services have been taking place for over 60 years. Additionally, they received no negative responses (in particular, to the site). **The Board agreed to endorse the project and said it would sign a letter of support.**

Other Business

Contract with Ideal Option – Lisa Small and Chief Scott Souza

The Corrections Department previously received a grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority and the contract with Ideal Option was paid for with that grant. The contract was extended through the end of October however, Ideal Option has continued to provide services without a contract. In anticipation of receiving additional grant funding, they requested Board authorization to have the County Administrator sign the anticipated grant approval and contract with Ideal Option, retro back to the end of September. **The Board moved and seconded to allow the County Administrator to sign on behalf of the Board the grant agreement with Washington State Health Care Authority and Ideal Option. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Purchase & Installation by Pape Machinery – Michael McGhan

Benton County ER&R Department has a John Deere motor grader #0540 that the transmission has failed internally requiring replacement. The motor grader is only halfway through it's expected lifecycle and is prudent to repair. Due to propriety parts and programming, the repair needs to be done at a certified John Deere dealer and a quote was solicited from Papé Machinery in Pasco, WA, the only John Deere certified dealer in this area in the amount of \$17,380.97 plus WSST. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution for the purchase and installation of a remanufactured transmission in a John Deere Motor Grader #0540 from Pape Machinery as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried.**

Early Retirement Incentive – Matt Rasmussen and Lexi Wingfield

Due to a significant reduction in staff in the Corrections Department, staff presented the idea of offering an early retirement incentive since there were several long-term employees who were near retirement. Additionally, they asked if the Board was interested in looking at a county-wide incentive program. After researching policies of other agencies, they were looking at two options (based on either age, or years of service with Benton County and no age requirement). **The Board agreed to have staff explore the idea of a county-wide early retirement incentive, with a proposal to be brought back in December.**

Letter to Cities – Jail Use Agreement – Jerrod MacPherson

A letter was presented for Board consideration responding to the Cities' proposal for a new jail use agreement and their arbitration demand. The letter included a counterproposal and outlined steps to move forward with the arbitration process since the cities demanded arbitration. **The Board moved and seconded to approve sending the proposed letter to the cities as presented. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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