

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 9, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

*Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically*

**Present:** Chairman Jerome Delvin  
Commissioner Shon Small (via/WebEx)  
Commissioner Will McKay (via/WebEx)  
Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen  
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

**Absent:** County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson (Excused)

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Robert Heard, IT Manager; Clerk Josie Delvin; DPA Stephen Hallstrom; Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Michael McGhan, Public Works; Chief Scott Souza; Treasurer Ken Spencer.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 2, 2021 were approved.

#### Review Agenda

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- Add an executive session to discuss the County's position/strategy on a union grievance.

#### Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Chairman McKay moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "g". Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

#### Auditor

- a. Election Canvassing Board Appointment

#### Commissioners

- b. Appointment of Ivone Guillen to the Mid-Columbia Libraries Board of Trustees

**Human Services**

- c. Ratifying Grant Agreement w/Domestic Violence Services Expanding Shelter Beds

**Office of Public Defense**

- d. District Court Public Defense Services Contract w/John Gleason

**Public Safety Tax**

- e. Purchase of Thermal Equipment to Talos Tactical for Sheriff's Office

**Purchasing Dept.**

- f. Purchase of Vehicle Tires & Services for ER&R Equipment & Vehicles from Pasco Tire Factory
- g. Purchase of 72 Glock Pistols & 72 Trijicom Sights from Gunarama Wholesale, Inc. for the Sheriff's Office

**Public Comment**

None.

**Clerk's Office – Transfer of Funds – Public Safety Tax Funds - Training**

Clerk Josie Delvin presented a Line Item Transfer for authority to hire and train an employee and take advantage of the expertise of the current employee that was retiring. This would only be used for the training period until the employee retired.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to approve the Line Item Transfer as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Works – Purchase Vehicles from Columbia Ford for Corrections**

Michael McGhan and Chief Souza presented a request to purchase vehicles for the Corrections Department as follows:

- Corrections Department operates five vehicles that need replacement and are not in the ER&R replacement program. The request is to purchase one transport van to replace the current transport van and two Ford Escapes to replace four older day use vehicles that are getting high milage. This would save approximately \$70,000 over the biennium.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to approve the purchase of three vehicles for use by the Corrections Department from Columbia Ford as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**TRIDEC – 2021 Agreement**

Adam Fyall presented the 2021 Agreement with TRIDEC, Benton County's designated associate development organization.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small move to approve the standard service agreement with TRIDEC and authorize the Chairman to sign. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

### **Refinancing – Health District 2018 Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds**

Treasurer Ken Spencer and Jim Nelson, DA Davidson (via/WebEx) discussed the proposal for refinancing the health district building again and gave a Powerpoint presentation as follows:

- Overview
- Interest Rate Chart
- Estimated Savings with Prepay Penalty
- Bond Rating Grades
- Financial Management Policy
- Estimated savings with prepayment penalties - \$351,491.50
- Everything supported moving forward – subject to market conditions

The Board discussed a potential bond rating upgrade and Mr. Nelson said he would be happy to review the county's financial management policy and make suggestions; they would prepare an approximate 30-page rating presentation. This could potentially be a way to upgrade the county's bond rating.

Mr. Rasmussen said he would talk to Mr. Nelson and explore that possibility.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to approve going forward with bond refunding due to favorable interest rates and savings. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

### **Other Business**

#### **Blake Decision**

Chairman Delvin said he would like to have a discussion at some point about the impacts of the "Blake Decision" and how it will affect the County.

#### **Wind Farm Meeting**

Commissioner McKay said he was looking forward to the wind farm town hall meeting and wanted to point out to citizens that the Commissioners would not be making any decisions but wanted to forward a recommendation to EFSEC committee. However, he said the Governor would still have the final say on the decision. Additionally, he said that he received a spam phone call regarding this issue and was given the opportunity to be transferred to the County Commissioners to voice his opinion.

Commissioner Small asked if anyone knew what kind of jobs or income the wind farm would create or the cost of construction. Mr. Rasmussen said the report stated it would create 17 full

time jobs after construction, \$20 million in tax revenue over the life of the project (most of which would go to the State and School Districts), and an estimated \$1.7 billion in construction costs.

### COVID-19

Commissioner McKay again expressed his frustration about not receiving a response from the Governor's office to his requests for an answer regarding the maximum capacity standards set for school sporting events.

### **Executive Session – Labor Negotiations/Grievance Strategies**

The Chairman and Deputy County Administrator announced at 9:36 a.m. the Board would go into executive session for up to 30 minutes to discuss the following three (3) executive sessions: planning or adopting a strategy or position to be taken during a grievance proceeding (2) and the County's position in labor negotiations.

The Board briefly recessed to reconvene in the Executive Conference Room.

Present were Chairman Delvin, Commissioner McKay, Commissioner Small, Stephen Hallstrom, Lexi Wingfield, Matt Rasmussen, and Cami McKenzie. The Board came out of executive session and briefly recessed to reconvene back in the Commissioners' Conference Room.

The Board came out at 10:06 a.m. The Chairman announced that no decisions were made in executive session, but direction was given.

### **Resolutions**

- 2021-221: Appointment of Ivone Guillen to the Mid-Columbia Libraries Board of Trustees
- 2021-222: Ratifying Grant Agreement w/Domestic Violence Services Expanding Shelter Beds
- 2021-223: District Court Public Defense Services Contract w/John Gleason
- 2021-224: Purchase of Thermal Equipment to Talos Tactical for Sheriff's Office
- 2021-225: Purchase of Vehicle Tires & Services for ER&R Equipment & Vehicles from Pasco Tire Factory
- 2021-226: Purchase of 72 Glock Pistols & 72 Trijicom Sights from Gunarama Wholesale, Inc. for the Sheriff's Office
- 2021-227: Transfer of Funds Within Public Safety Tax Fund, Dept. 106
- 2021-228: Purchase of Vehicles from Columbia Ford – Corrections Dept.
- 2021-229: 2021 Agreement with TRIDEC for Economic Development Services

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:06 a.m.

---

Clerk of the Board

---

Chairman