

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 1:30 p.m.  
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

*Meeting provided in person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically*

**Present:** Chairman Jerome Delvin  
Commissioner Shon Small  
Commissioner Will McKay  
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson  
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Robert Heard, IT Manager; HR Manager Lexi Wingfield; Commander Jon Law; Assessor Bill Spencer; Katie Gillies and Madison Murphy, Sheriff's Office; Undersheriff John Clary; Lieutenant Mathew Clarke; Lieutenant Erik Magnuson.

Chairman Delvin stated the interim appointment had to be someone from within the department to serve until the Republican Party submitted three names for the permanent appointment to serve until the next general election.

#### Discussion and Possible Appointment of Acting Benton County Sheriff per RCW 36.16.115

Ms. Wingfield, HR Manager, stated she provided eligible names from the department, from Sergeants up.

Chairman Delvin said the Commissioners each had a discussion with the Prosecuting Attorney's office and an issue of ethics was raised. If the Board appointed someone who had a claim against the County that could become a lawsuit, the County would be required to hire outside counsel. He expressed concern about this potential ethical issue that could cost the taxpayers a lot of money.

Commissioner Small said he shared the same concerns, but also expressed his respect for the individuals they were considering appointment and their integrity and credibility could not be questioned.

Commissioner McKay stated he hoped the individual selected could do a good job for the next four weeks and the permanent appointment recommended by the Republican Party could do a good job until the election.

**Executive Session - Evaluate Qualifications of Candidates for Appointment to Elective Office**

The Board went into executive session at 1:38 p.m. for up to 30 minutes to evaluate qualifications of candidates for appointment to elective office. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, Cami McKenzie, Lexi Wingfield, and DPA Ryan Brown.

The Board came out at 2:06 p.m. Chairman Delvin said the Board needed an additional 10 minutes.

The Board went back into executive session for an additional 10 minutes and came out at 2:19 p.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to appoint Jon Law as acting Benton County Sheriff. Commissioner McKay seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Small said there were a lot of good candidates but felt Jon Law was the best candidate.

Commissioner McKay said he hoped Mr. Law could take care of the issues in the Sheriff's Office and help make the County better.

Chairman Delvin said he was not able to support the position due to the ethical issues that were raised earlier, and he would wait to see what happened in the next four weeks. He said he hoped Jon Law would take the steps necessary to get things settled and he would wait for the Republican Party recommendations.

Upon vote, the motion carried with Chairman Delvin opposing.

Resolution

2021-638: Appointing Jon Law as the Interim Sheriff for Benton County

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:23 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman