

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 21, 2021



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Short Plat Vacation, SPV 2021-005 – Michelle Cooke, Assistant Planning Manager

On August 24, 2004, Short Plat 2831 was recorded under Auditor's File Number 2004-030296, creating two residential lots from Lot 1 of Short Plat 1746 which was recorded under Auditors File Number 1991-012401. With the creation of the two lots, a 20-foot ingress-egress and utility easement was established on the southern 300 feet of the west 10 feet of Lot 1 and the east 10 feet of Lot 2 of Short Plat 2831. The parcels are located approximately 930 feet west of the end of Harrington Road in the West Richland area of unincorporated Benton County. The applicant, Ryan Hone, is requesting the vacation of the 20-foot ingress-egress and utility easement that is located on the southern 300 feet of the west 10 feet of Lot 1 of Short Plat 2831 and the southern 300 feet of the east 10 feet of Lot 2 of Short Plat 2831. The Benton Rural Electric Association approved the applicant's request with the condition that a separate utility easement be recorded for existing utility facilities on the parcels. Owners of property within 300 feet of the subject parcel and all concerned agencies, including Benton Rural Electric Association, were notified of the proposed vacation and no unresolved objections or concerns have been received to date. **The Board moved and seconded to approve SPV 2021-005 for the vacation of a 20-foot ingress-egress and utility easement located on the southern 300 feet of the west 10 feet of Lot 1 and the east 10 feet of Lot 2 of Short Plat 2831. Motion carried.**

Ordinance Amendment OA 2021-004 – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director & Michelle Cooke, Assistant Planning Manager

The proposed ordinance amendment updates the regulations in the Benton County Zoning Ordinance, including updates to the following:

- a. Chapter 11.15 Rural Lands Twenty Acre District (RL-20), amending BCC 11.15.060(i) and (k) to remove wind turbine farm and solar power generator facility, major requirements;
- b. Chapter 11.17 Growth Management Act Agricultural Zoning District (GMAAD), amending BCC 11.17.070(j)(q) and (z) facilities for power generation other than nuclear fueled, wind turbine farms, and solar power generator facility, major uses from requiring a conditional use permit;
- c. Chapter 11.33 Light Industrial District (LI), amending BCC 11.33.030(q) to add a single wind turbine less than 60' and related support structures to allowable use requirements;
- d. Chapter 11.33 Light Industrial District (LI), amending BCC 11.33.060(l) to add a single wind turbine exceeding 60' or a wind turbine farm as uses requiring a conditional use permit;
- e. Chapter 11.35 Heavy Industrial District (HI), amending BCC 11.35.030(r) to add a single wind turbine less than 60' and related support structures to allowable use requirements; and
- f. Chapter 11.35 Heavy Industrial District (HI), amending BCC 11.35.060(j) to add a single wind turbine exceeding 60' or a wind turbine farm as uses requiring a conditional use permit.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 30, 2021 and, after taking testimony and discussion, voted in favor of forwarding a recommendation of approval, subject to nine (9) findings of fact. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission's Findings and Conclusions as its own and approve the proposed amendments relating to renewable energy uses requiring a conditional use permit and amending the sections as noted in Planning casefile OA 2021-004. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Request to Extend Temporary Housing Program Navigators in Human Services – Tammy McKiernan, Human Services Budget & Finance Analyst

The Board had previously approved two (2) Temporary Housing Program Navigators, positions 1267 and 1270, for funding until the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance Grant or December 31, 2021, and one (1) additional Temporary Housing Program Navigator, position 1260, until the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance Grant or December 31, 2022. Human Services staff recommends that all three (3) positions be extended for the duration of the grant, which is now June 30, 2025, or if the grant ends sooner, whichever is first. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Line-Item Transfer to extend the funding for three (3) Temporary Housing Program Navigators (positions 1267, 1270, and 1260) through June 30, 2025 or until the Emergency Rental Assistance Grant ends, whichever is sooner. Motion carried.**

Request to Change Assistant Planning Manager to Planning Manager – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director & Karlee Ainsworth, Assistant HR Manager

The Community Development Director is requesting to change the Assistant Planning Manager to Planning Manager, effective January 1, 2022. The position already has a job classification and a grade established, as a Grade 8 on the Administrators' Managers and Assistant Managers Salary Schedule. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Line-Item Transfer to change the Assistant Planning Manager to Planning Manager, effective January 1, 2022. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Discussion on Washington State Long Term Care Act Tax – Karlee Ainsworth, Assistant HR Manager

With the recent announcement by the Governor's office of the Governor's order for the Employment Security Department to pause the Long-Term Care Tax Deduction collection associated with the Washington Cares Fund until April, the Human Resources Department and Auditor sought direction from the County Commissioners on how to handle the deductions on a County level. The Governor's order to pause the tax collection did not address what the County should do, and Human Resources presented 3 different options including, collect the tax as the law currently states, pause the collection of the tax for the month of January and await further clarification from the Governor's office, or pause the collection of the tax indefinitely, and await further direction. The Commissioners opted to pause the collection of the tax on a County level until January at which point the Human Resources office will watch for and bring back to the Board any new information. **The Board moved and seconded to pause the collection the WA CARES Act Long-Term Care (LTC) Tax premiums for County employees for the month of January 2022. Motion carried.**

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