

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 6, 2021



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, April 6, 2021. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Continued Hearing on Ordinance Amendment to BCC 11.15 & BCC 11.17 – OA 2021-001 – Michelle Cooke, Assistant Planning Manager

The Planning Division and Planning Commission forwarded an ordinance amendment to the Board with a recommendation for approval that would increase the setback requirements from property lines, dwellings, and road rights-of-way for wind turbines located in the Rural Lands 20 Acre and GMA Agricultural zoning districts. Specifically, the ordinance amendment proposed an increase from 1,000 feet to 1,640 feet for the setback to dwellings. The setback from property lines and road rights-of-way are both a distance equal to wind turbine height, plus 50% of that height. The proposal would also amend meteorological towers used to gather data to assess wind and solar energy potential. A public hearing was held on March 9, 2021 by the Planning Commission and, after taking testimony and discussion amongst the Commission, they voted unanimously to forward a recommendation for approval of the proposed amendments, subject to five (5) Findings of Fact. The Board opened the continued public hearing from last Tuesday, March 30, 2021 to today, April 6, 2021, to consider testimony on the matter before making their final decision on the matter. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Planning Commission's Findings and Conclusions as its own and approve the proposed zoning amendment, amending Ordinance 611, Chapter 11.15.060, 11.17.040, and 11.17.070 as noted in Casefile OA 2021-001. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Designation of Benton County's Official Associate Development Organization (ADO) – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

Every two (2) years, counties in Washington are required to designate an official Associate Development Organization (ADO) – a non-profit organization that serves as the primary economic development partner for the county. This designation is then registered with the Washington State Department of Commerce, who works directly with the ADO on various matters. Notably, the ADOs had CARES Act funds channeled through their organizations directly from the State. The ADOs also get some annual funding of their own through the Department of Commerce. The Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) has been Benton County's ADO for many years, and it has been and continues to be a good relationship. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County worked closely with TRIDEC on the development and implementation of the CARES Act Community Support Grant Program. TRIDEC has confirmed their desire to remain the Benton County ADO and, as such, staff is recommending TRIDEC as the Benton County ADO for the 2021-2023 biennium. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution designating the Tri-City Development Council as Benton County's official Associate Development Organization for the 2021-2023 biennium. Motion carried.**

Official County Newspaper Bid Opening – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

Pursuant to RCW 36.72.075, the County is required to seek bids annually for the official county newspaper. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is required to publish notice and notify local publications. At the time of the meeting, the Commissioners had received two (2) bids – Tri-City Herald and Valley Publishing

Company (Prosser Record Bulletin). The Board directed staff to review the received bids in detail and bring forth a contract for recommendation and potential approval at a later date.

Proclaiming April 2021 National County Government Month – Commissioner Delvin

Each year since 1991 the Washington State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties have encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs, and services. This year, through the Washington State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties, counties across the nation (including Benton County) will be demonstrating how “Counties Matter” by declaring April 2021 as National County Government Month. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the proclamation and hereby declare April 2021 as National County Government month in Benton County, and in so doing demonstrate how “Counties Matter” especially in supporting the health, wellbeing, and safety of our residents and businesses. Motion carried.**

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