

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA
Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present: Chairman Shon Small
Commissioner Will McKay
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
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; Clerk Josie Delvin; Treasurer Ken Spencer; Deputy Treasurer Kirsten Yniguez; Sustainable Development Manager Adam Fyall; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Tim Brown, IT.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 25, 2022 were approved.

Agenda Review

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Auditor – Voting Center Lease Termination and Approval of New Lease
- Executive Session – Review Performance of Public Employee

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “e”. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Assessor

- a. Agreement w/Just Appraised for Tracking & Auditing Business Personal Properties & Exemptions

Fairgrounds

- b. Lease Agreement w/Tri-City Racing Association

IT

- c. Add-On Software License Agreement w/I3 Imagesoft

Public Works

- d. Interlocal Agreement w/City of Richland for Equipment & Services

Purchasing

- e. First Amendment w/Schindler Elevator for Maintenance & Repair

Public Comment

None.

Other Business

Voting Center Lease Termination and Approval of New Lease

Auditor Brenda Chilton presented a lease termination for the space at the Old Chucky Cheese building. She said leasing that space presented some challenges with the kitchen and so they looked at the space next store (old Brutzman’s Office Supply). They met with IT, Facilities and Robert Blain and then negotiated a lease termination and new lease for the other space, which was more conducive to what was needed for the voting center. If the Board agreed, the new lease would start today, and the termination of the old lease would be effective March 15, 2022.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Chairman of the Board be authorized to sign the Lease Termination Agreement and new Lease between BWR Holdings LLLP and Benton County as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner McKay asked about the space and whether it included the music store as well. Ms. Chilton said it was only the Brutzman’s building, and the space would be more transparent for observers and the small space up front would improve the voter service area.

Upon vote, the motion carried.

Radio Tower

Commissioner Delvin discussed SECOMM, the past and current management, and problems they were having with equipment and administration. Currently there were 14 positions open at the 911 call center. He said they would be having a strategic meeting on February 10 with all the users to discuss becoming an independent agency. The discussion would be about continuing to pay user fees but contract out for legal and administrative duties. SECOMM would potentially be a separate stand-alone agency with a director and its own CAD system.

Lifepoint Agreement Update

Commissioner Delvin said they were still negotiating terms of the agreement. They had a productive meeting with Lifepoint and Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Sullivan were also talking to the State.

Mr. Rasmussen said he had resolutions prepared to form independent advisory committees for review at the bi-county meeting. Additionally, they were working on a progressive design build for this project and wanted to be able to use ARPA dollars as leverage for additional funding. He said he did not want to say for sure that construction would begin in the Fall, but they were working towards that, but needed to work out the terms of the purchase.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:25 a.m.

Executive Session – Review Performance of Public Employee

The Board went into executive session at 9:25 a.m. for up to 15 minutes with Jerrod MacPherson to review the performance of a public employee. Also present were Matt Rasmussen and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out at 9:38 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the new employment agreement with Jerrod MacPherson effective February 1, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the new employment agreement with Matthew Rasmussen effective February 1, 2022. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Tort Claim

CC 2022-05: Received on February 2, 2022 from Daniel Charles Penselin

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 01/28/2022

Warrants #: 227189-227258
Total all funds: \$539,123.81

EFT's #: 2118-2119
Transfers #: 01282205-01282208
Total all funds: \$33,546.99

Warrants #: 227259-227437
Total all funds: \$1,008,001.23

EFT's #: 2120-2145
Transfers #: 01282201-01282204
Total all funds: \$1,667,029.97

Resolutions

- 2022-102: Assessor - Agreement w/Just Appraised
- 2022-103: Lease Agreement w/Tri-City Racing Association
- 2022-104: Add-On Software License Agreement w/I3 Imagesoft
- 2022-105: Interlocal Agreement w/City of Richland for Equipment & Services
- 2022-106: First Amendment w/Schindler Elevator for Maintenance & Repair
- 2022-107: Lease Termination and Lease Agreement Between BWR Holdings LLLP And Benton County - Voting Center
- 2022-108: Employment Agreement With Jerrod B. MacPherson - County Administrator
- 2022-109: Employment Agreement With Matthew S. Rasmussen - Deputy County Administrator

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman