

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting

Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Tuesday, June 14, 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:** Robert Heard, IT Manager; Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager (via/WebEx); Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; DPA Eric Andrews; Treasurer Ken Spencer; Cristina Woods, Public Works; Matt Mahoney, Operations Manager; Clerk Josie Delvin; Ryan Washburn, Therapeutic Courts; DPA Ryan Brown.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of June 7, 2022 were approved.

#### Agenda Review

The following items were added to Other Business:

- Therapeutic Court Grant
- Deputy Guild Juneteenth MOU

#### Consent Agenda

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

#### Corrections

- a. Line Item Transfer, 0000-101, Dept. 120

**Juvenile**

- b. Contract Amendment with Tri-Cities Chaplaincy
- c. Contract Amendment with DSHS – DCYF Agreement

**Office of Public Defense**

- d. Contract Amendment with Catherine Harkins

**Purchasing**

- e. Purchase Agreement with Brutzman’s Office Solutions – High Density Storage System
- f. Permission to Advertise and Proceed with Shooting Range Expansion – CB 22-06
- g. Contract Amendment with NaphCare – Health Care Services in the Jail

**Risk Management**

- h. Contract w/Phoenix Protective Corporation

**Public Comment**

None.

**Public Hearing - Franchise Renewal – Antonio Hermosillo**

Matt Mahoney and Cristina Wood listed the requirements for a franchise and presented the franchise renewal for Antonio Hermosillo for a Franchise Order and Agreement for irrigation lines and all systems.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Antonio Hermosillo. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**Public Hearing - Franchise Renewal – LightSpeed Networks**

Matt Mahoney and Cristina Woods listed the requirements for a franchise and presented the franchise renewal from LightSpeed Networks, Inc. dba LS Networks for a Franchise Order and Agreement for a fiber optics system and facilities.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with LightSpeed Networks, Inc., DBA LS Networks. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**Public Hearing - Franchise Renewal – Southgate Water System, Inc.**

Matt Mahoney and Cristina Woods listed the requirements for a franchise and presented the franchise renewal from Southgate Water System Inc. for a domestic water system and Facilities.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Southgate Water System Inc. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**Public Hearing - Franchise Renewal – Benton PUD**

Matt Mahoney and Cristina Woods listed the requirements for a franchise and presented the franchise renewal from Public Utility District #1 of Benton County for electric transmission lines, power line structures, telecommunications lines and all systems and facilities.

**Public Testimony**

Evan Edwards, Manager of System Engineering, Benton PUD, via/WebEx, expressed gratitude to Benton County and said he wanted to continue the good partnership.

As there was no one else present to testify, public testimony was closed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Public Utility District #1 of Benton County. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**Presentation from Zencity**

Commissioner Delvin said that Zencity was going to give a short presentation on their software program that he brought up at the last meeting to assist with the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Josie Peery via/WebEx gave a Powerpoint presentation on their software program and briefly discussed the following:

- Mission – better engage with residents and help the County hear from other residents by collecting data from county message boards, news sources, social media, and anything that was publicly available;
- Currently work with 350 local governments;
- Ability to create your own project to track topics;
- Example of how they helped get a bond get approved that was being consistently voted down; found where negative data was being discussed on different channels which helped them address the negative feedback.

Commissioner Small said he wanted to do whatever was possible to get the Public Safety Tax approved.

Commissioner McKay asked if they had reached out to Kennewick and Richland. They said they worked with Pasco but were not yet working with the other cities. Additionally, he wanted to know if they only focused on rural areas or would look at the information in the cities as well. Zencity replied that they looked at all data relating to the county, including big cities, small towns, and unincorporated areas as well.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Rasmussen follow up with Zencity and the Board would address it on June 28.

### **ARPA Business Resource Initiative Grant Program – Contract w/Chamber of Commerce**

Adam Fyall said they were proposing a contract with the Chamber of Commerce for the following amounts from the ARPA funds:

- \$3,462,000 – ARPA funds
  - \$3 million to assist local businesses coming out of the pandemic and future needs
  - \$420,000 to Chamber for direct costs
  - \$42,000 to Chamber for Administrative fee

Lori Mattson and Stephanie Barnard, Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Business Resource Initiative and discussed the following:

- Response to global pandemic
  - Rapid Response Resource guide
  - Rapid Response Call line
  - Rapid Response Grant program
  - Business Outlook Survey
  - Tri-Cities Open and Safe Coalition
  - Ask the Experts – webinar
- Business Challenges
  - Temporary or permanent business shutdowns
  - Significant revenue loss
  - New or increased taxes
  - Labor shortage
- Proposal
  - Provide support to businesses to offset adverse impacts to covid 19
  - Business Resource Navigator position – have Stephanie start immediately full time in this position – later would open to grant application – businesses would talk to Stephanie in person or on the phone, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece would be having grants available
  - Grants – workforce development; hiring bonuses; rent/utility assistance; digital transformation; outdoor space enhancements
  - Grant amounts – tiered by gross revenue – 6 to 10% benefit overall
  - Business criteria
- BRI Impact in Benton County – up to 1000 businesses would receive grant funds; 182,000 work/training hour for employees; up to 2,500 citizens would re-enter workforce; rent and utility assistance; outdoor enhancements would have long-term impacts
- Evaluation/Selection Process

Commissioner Delvin asked if the Board would get reports on the program, and they said they would like to come present to the Board regularly on the program.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved for approval of the new Standard Service Agreement with the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce for development and implementation of the Business Resource Initiative grant program, which will be financed with federal ARPA funds. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

### **Other Business**

#### **Therapeutic Court – Grant Application**

Ryan Washburn presented a Resolution authorizing District Court to submit a grant to the Administrative Office of the Courts for the 2022 supplemental budget for a new Misdemeanor Court in the amount of \$150,066. He felt they had a good chance of receiving the funds as last year the AOC was approving funding for new courts. The grant would fund the salary and benefits for a new Behavioral Health Specialist/Active Probation Officer, salary for Defense Counsel, staff training, equipment, and compliance monitoring costs for a new Therapeutic Court program to address the unmet needs of defendants with misdemeanor charges that were a direct result of substance use.

The Board asked if Mr. Washburn saw this as a grant that would continue and he said it was pretty competitive, but they would continue to apply. He said last year they received 24 applications and funded 12 and pretty much every county that has a therapeutic court has applied.

He said they had one open position that currently had the funds budgeted, and they would be reimbursed for that salary so would not be expanding at the moment. He said they would have to cap participants at 30 and then would need to look at hiring another case manager to increase that. He anticipated the program would fill up pretty quick.

The Board expressed concern about hiring new employees based on a grant if the grant went away.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Resolution designating the District Court Presiding Judge to sign the Therapeutic Court grant application with the AOC and authorize District Court to submit the application. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

#### **Deputy Guild Juneteenth MOU**

Lexi Wingfield via/WebEx presented an MOU with the Deputy Guild recognizing Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the MOU with the Deputy Guild as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 10:06 a.m.

## **Executive Session – Pending Litigation**

The Board went into executive session at 10:06 a.m. for up to 10 minutes with DPA Eric Andrews to discuss pending litigation. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Cami McKenzie, and Ryan Brown.

The Board came out at 10:13 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

## **Payroll**

Check Date: 06/03/2022

### Payroll Checks

Total all funds: \$2,515,961.72

Warrant #: 243656-243684

Direct Deposit #: 171433-172025

### Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total all funds: \$2,226,533.09

Taxes #: 101220601-101220612

ACH #: 2323-2329

### Payroll Deduction Warrants

Total all funds: \$115,421.11

Warrant #: 232728-232738

## **Accounts Payable**

Check Date: 06/10/2022

Warrants #: 232868-232870

Total all funds: \$75.00

## **Resolutions**

- 2022-402: Line Item Transfer, 0000-101, Dept. 120
- 2022-403: Contract Amendment with Tri-Cities Chaplaincy
- 2022-404: Contract Amendment with DSHS – DCYF Agreement
- 2022-405: Contract Amendment with Catherine Harkins
- 2022-406: Purchase Agreement with Brutzman’s Office Solutions – High Density Storage System
- 2022-407: Permission to Advertise and Proceed with Shooting Range Expansion – CB 22-06
- 2022-408: Contract Amendment with NaphCare – Health Care Services in the Jail
- 2022-409: Contract w/Phoenix Protective Corporation
- 2022-410: Granting a Franchise to Antonio Hermosillo to Place Irrigation Lines and all Systems and Facilities in County Road Rights of Way

- 2022-411: Granting a Franchise to Lightspeed Networks Inc. DBA LS Networks to Place Fiber Optics System and Facilities in County Road Rights of Way
- 2022-412: Granting a Franchise to Southgate Water System Inc. to Place a Domestic Water System and Facilities in County Road Rights of Way
- 2022-413: Granting a Franchise to Public Utility District #1 of Benton County to Place Electric Transmission Lines, Power Line Structures, Telecommunication Lines, and all Systems and Facilities in County Road Rights Of Way
- 2022-414: Approval of a Standard Service Agreement Between Benton County and the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce for Assistance with Implementing Benton County's Business Resource Initiative
- 2022-415: Authorizing the Submittal of a Grant Application to Supplement Funding for the Therapeutic Courts and Designating the District Court Presiding Judge to Sign the Application with the Administrative Office of the Courts
- 2022-416: Memorandum of Understanding Between Benton County and the Benton County Deputy Sheriff's Guild for Juneteenth

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:13 a.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman