

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 25, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Scheduled Business

Agreement w/ WA State Parks & Recreation Commission for Boating Safety & Education Services – Commander Clarke, Sheriff's Office

The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) received a Letter of Award for FY2022 stating the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission (WSPRC) is awarding the BCSO the Recreational Boating Safety Federal Financial Assistance Grant in the amount of \$12,173.96 through a different agreement. The attached Intergovernmental Agreement between WSPRC and BCSO is to establish a cooperative framework between State Parks and BCSO to enhance the performance of boating safety and education, with the goal to reduce the number and severity of recreational boating casualties of all types associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe and enjoyable boating environment for all users. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement #LE: MLE1200 between Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission and Benton County Sheriff's Office for the performance of boating safety and education services and authorize the Benton County Sheriff to sign the agreement. Motion carried.**

Grant Award from WA State Parks & Recreation Commission for the 2022 Federal Financial Assistance Grant Program & Boating Safety – Commander Clarke, Sheriff's Office

The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) submitted the grant application for the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission (WSPRC) 2022 Federal Financial Assistance Grant Program for the Recreational Boating Safety Program. The BCSO received a Letter of Award for FY2022 stating the WSPRC is awarding the BCSO the Recreational Boating Safety Federal Financial Assistance Grant in the amount of \$12,173.96 (referenced in the previous presentation). This is the first year that WSPRC issued a formal contract between the Federal Financial Assistance Grant (at the Federal level) and Benton County Sheriff's Office as a Subrecipient. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Recreational Boating Safety Federal Financial Assistance Grant Award from the Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission in the amount of \$12,173.96, for the use of marine enforcement, vessel safety inspections, education, training, and equipment for recreational boating safety and authorizes the Benton County Sheriff to sign Agreement No. MLE 123-109. Motion carried.**

Grant Agreement w/ WA Traffic Safety Commission for Tri-Cities Walker Safety Project – Commander Clarke, Sheriff's Office

The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) received an Interagency Agreement from Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) outlining grant funding for traffic safety grant project 2022-AG-4410-Tri-Cities Walker Safety Project, to conduct overtime high-visibility enforcement traffic safety emphasis with the goal of reducing traffic crashes. Said patrol emphasis shall be conducted on specific dates from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022. The overall Region 14 Funding is \$30,000, shared amongst all Region 14 agencies, with Benton County's estimated budget grant funding set at an amount not to exceed \$1,500. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Interlocal Agreement and authorizes the Benton County Sheriff to sign Agreement 2022-AG-4410-Tri-Cities Walker Safety Project. Motion carried.**

Amended Social Media Policy & Procedures – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator

The presented Resolution and amended Social Media Policy & Procedures are intended to address the need for technology to be available to Benton County employees and departments to communicate with the public and further define the policy of the County. A revision to the original policy, approved per Resolution 2017-589, was necessary to include additional definitions, clarify professional use, and expand upon the guidelines for removing comments and/or blocking. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Benton County Social Media Policy & Procedures and to rescind Resolution 2017-589. Motion carried.**

2022 Federal Legislative Agenda – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator

Benton County's 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda outlines and articulates the primary policies, projects, and programs that the County will emphasize during the upcoming 2022 federal legislative session and throughout the year. This document represents the County's top legislative priorities and was compiled with input from County staff and our federal-level consultants from Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution adopting the Benton County 2022 Federal Legislative Agenda. Motion carried.**

Benton County Economic Development Plan – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

Staff presented a revised draft Benton County Economic Development Plan to the Board, seeking direction on how to proceed. The Plan has been a statement about how the County conducts economic development activities and does not require a formal hearing process. However, staff wishes to receive comments for interested parties and the public, with the intent to adopt the plan in February 2022. **The Board gave staff direction to proceed as suggestion for adoption of the plan at a later date.**

Position Request for Transportation Planning Coordinator – Karlee Ainsworth, HR Assistant Manager & Doug D'Hondt, County Engineer

The County Engineer has identified a need to create a Transportation Planning Coordinator position and has worked with Human Resources (HR) to create a classification description, proper placement on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule, an updated Public Works Department organizational chart, and the necessary line-item transfer to fund the position. The position is already funded and currently classified as Engineering Tech III, with a change in title necessary to serve the needs of the department. **The Board moved and seconded: to approve the Transportation Planning Coordinator classification description; to approve the position as a grade 17 on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule; to approve the Benton County Public Works Department organizational chart; and to approve the line-item transfer within the County Road Fund. Motions carried.**

Position Request for Principal Planner – Karlee Ainsworth, HR Assistant Manager & Greg Wendt, Community Development Director

The Community Development Director and Planning Manager have identified a need to create a classification description for a Principal Planner and they have worked with Human Resources (HR) to create a classification description, proper placement on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule, and the necessary line-item transfer to fund the position. The position is already funded and currently classified as Senior Planner, with a change in title necessary to revert back to the previous title. **The Board moved and seconded: to approve the Principal Planner classification description; to approve the position as a grade 18 on the Benton County Non-Bargaining salary schedule; and to approve the line-item transfer within Current Expense, Department 116 (Planning). Motions carried.**

Other Business

Upcoming Board Meetings – Commissioners

The Board cancelled the February 22, 2022, Board meeting (following the President's Day holiday), per the Board's policy to cancel meetings following holidays. In addition, March 1, 2022 is the first available meeting to host a quarterly Board meeting at an alternate location in the evening. The Board indicated that they would like to hold the first meeting of the last month of each quarter to be held at an alternate location. These meetings would be on March 1, June 7, September 13, and December 6 at the Benton County Administration Building (7122 W Okanogan Place, Building E, Kennewick). The March 1 meeting will be held at 6 PM, with the times for other meetings to be determined at a later date.

Continued Long Term Care Premiums Discussion – Karlee Ainsworth, HR Assistant Manager

Due to the ongoing uncertainty with the future of the Washington State Long Term Care program and its current pending legislation before the State, the Board directed staff to not collect the premiums for the program in the February payroll.

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