

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 22, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearings

Determination of Inactive Special Purpose District: Drainage Improvement District 9/9A – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director

This is a public hearing to take public comment on whether Drainage Improvement District 9/9A meets the criteria for being 'inactive' as provided in RCW 36.96.010 (Dissolution of Inactive Special Purpose Districts). Drainage Improvement District 9/9A is generally located 0.35 miles north of the city limits of Prosser, along the north side of Old Inland Empire Highway and south of Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District main canal. The County received notice from the County Auditor on March 31, 2021 and again on February 18, 2022 that Drainage Improvement District 9/9A appears to be inactive and has not had a governing board for many years, despite repeated efforts by the county to recruit eligible candidates to administer the district. Drainage Improvement District 9/9A has not carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was created within the preceding consecutive five-year period and has not held an election for the purpose of electing a member of the governing body within the preceding consecutive seven-year period. The last election was held in February 2012. Additionally, the district has been determined to be unauditible by the State Auditor. If the Board determines that Drainage Improvement District 9/9A meets the criteria for being inactive, it is recommended that a second public hearing be held to consider the dissolution of the district. **The Board moved and seconded to continue the public hearing to June 7, 2022 at 9 AM. Motion carried.**

Determination of Inactive Special Purpose District: Drainage Improvement District 10 – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director

This is a public hearing to take public comment on whether Drainage Improvement District 10 meets the criteria for being 'inactive' as provided in RCW 36.96.010 (Dissolution of Inactive Special Purpose Districts). Drainage Improvement District 10 is generally located 1.9 miles west of the city limits of Prosser, along Old Inland Empire Highway and includes portions of Hicks Road, W. Johnson Road and is south of a portion of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District main canal. The County received notice from the County Auditor on March 31, 2021 and again on February 18, 2022 that Drainage Improvement District 10 appears to be inactive and has not had a governing board for many years, despite repeated efforts by the county to recruit eligible candidates to administer the district. Drainage Improvement District 10 has not carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was created within the preceding consecutive five-year period and has not held an election for the purpose of electing a member of the governing body within the preceding consecutive seven-year period. The last election was held in February 1958. If the Board determines that Drainage Improvement District 10 meets the criteria for being inactive, it is recommended that a second public hearing be held to consider the dissolution of the district. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the resolution with the determination that Drainage Improvement District 10 meets the criteria in RCW 36.96.010(3) for being inactive and requests that a public hearing be scheduled to consider the dissolution of Drainage Improvement District 10, pursuant to the proceedings provided in RCWs 36.96.030 through 36.96.080. A public hearing will be held June 7, 2022 to consider the dissolution of Drainage Improvement District 10. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Contracts w/ Hill International – Robert Blain, Director of Operations & Capital Programs

The Board discussed executing a contract with Hill International for assistance with projects using the progressive design build method of procurement and construction management. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the County Administrator to execute the contract with Hill International, to ensure certain deadlines are met. Motion carried.**

Booking Restrictions for Benton County Jail – Rob Guerrero, Interim Chief of Corrections

The Interim Chief of Corrections presented to the Board regarding proposed implementation of booking restrictions for the Benton County Jail. District Court has rescinded Administrative Order 22-001, which lifts the booking restrictions that were previously put in place during a COVID outbreak in January and creates a hardship for the jail. With the booking restrictions lifted, the jail population would increase and there would be a need to open another housing unit. The jail currently has five vacant Corrections Officer positions, with three (3) applicants in the background phases of applying. Along with the vacancies, nine officers are on light duty or are not at work due to medical issues. To open a housing unit with current staffing levels would result in requiring officers to fill positions and result in an additional cost in overtime pay of approximately \$290,000 over the next nine months. Staff requested the Board to approve the implementation of booking restrictions and authorize the Corrections Department to send a letter to local agencies outlining the booking restrictions. These restrictions would be reevaluated within the next 6 months (per the attached letter through June 31, 2022). **The Board moved and seconded to approve the booking restrictions for the Benton County Jail and authorized the Benton County Corrections Department to send notice to local agencies regarding the booking restrictions. Motion carried.**

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