

# WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
March 29, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

## Public Hearing

### *Wholesail Networks, LLC for Telecommunications Network – Cristina Woods, Engineering Tech III*

Benton County Public Works received an application for a Franchise Order and Agreement for a telecommunications network and associated facilities within County Road right of way from Wholesail Networks, LLC. The Public Works Department has reviewed the request and recommends approval subject to six (6) conditions. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Wholesail Networks, LLC, subject to the six items listed. Motion carried.**

### *Zayo Group, LLC for Fiber Optic Telecommunications Facility – Cristina Woods, Engineering Tech III*

Benton County Public Works received an application to renew a Franchise Order and Agreement for fiber optic telecommunications facilities within County Road right of way from Zayo Group, LLC. The Public Works Department has reviewed the request and recommends approval subject to six (6) conditions. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Zayo Group, LLC, subject to the six items listed. Motion carried.**

## Scheduled Business

### *Setting Salaries for Elected Officials for 2025 & 2026 – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator*

Approximately every other year the Board of County Commissioners sets the salaries of elected officials. The salaries set are generally for 3 and 4 years in advance of the current year. This is to avoid changes to the salary of any elected official during their current term. Since 2016, salaries for elected officials have increased each year ranging from a 1.5% increase to a 2.25% increase. The salaries of the County Commissioners, Clerk, Coroner, Treasurer, Assessor and Auditor are set at the same level. The salary of the County Sheriff was set at a higher level because that position used to have oversight of the jail in addition to their regular functions. That salary was reduced to be in line with the other elected officials (effective 2023) when the jail was split to its own department in 2019. Salaries under consideration are for years 2025 and 2026. Salaries for 2023 and 2024 were set with Resolution 2020-511. These salaries take effect at the beginning of the next term of office for each elected official. **The Board gave staff direction to continue to evaluate elected officials' future salaries and to bring forth a resolution for consideration and potential approval at a future meeting.**

## Other Business

### *Discussion on Project Management Services – Robert Blain, Director of Operations & Capital Programs*

The Board continued the discussion on potentially executing a contract with Hill International for assistance with projects using the progressive design build method of procurement and construction management. In addition, the Board discussed potentially hiring a contracted County employee, Construction Manager position to fulfill the needs for these projects. **The Board gave staff direction to work with HR to develop a Construction Manager job description and contract, for consideration and potential approval at a future meeting, to work in conjunction with Hill International.**

## Executive Session

*Evaluate Qualifications of Applicant for Public Employment – Undersheriff Law & Commander Clarke*

The Board moved and seconded to approve the salary request form, as presented, for Branden DeMyer. Motion carried.

###

Contact: Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator

[Shyanne.Palmus@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:Shyanne.Palmus@co.benton.wa.us) | 509-222-3760