

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 17, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Scheduled Business

Wautoma Solar Panel Project Presentation – Ellen Bird & Nuno Louzerio, Innergex Renewable Energy

[Innergex Renewable Energy USA](#) is proposing to develop a solar energy project (currently targeting approximately 400 megawatts with a 4-hour battery energy storage system option) on private land in the [Wautoma Valley](#), NW Benton County and presented to the Board regarding the project. Innergex has begun engaging with surrounding landowners and local stakeholders. The proposed project is in the early stages of development, and Innergex expects changes to the project size and configuration in consideration of environmental, technical, and community input. Major environmental surveys have been completed, studies to secure interconnection and transmission service with BPA are underway, and an EFSEC permit application has been submitted. **No Board direction or vote.**

Line-Item Transfer to Change Vacant Court Reporter (Superior Court) Position to Assistant to Presiding Judge – Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager; Tiffany Runge, Superior Court Administrator; & Judge Burrows

Due to current Superior Court needs and to be more efficient, the Superior Court Administrator worked with both Benton and Franklin Counties Human Resources Departments and found that changing a vacant Court Reporter position to an Assistant to the Presiding Judge position will help the Superior Court accomplish its goals. The Court Reporter position is a bi-county non-bargaining grade 14, and the Assistant to the Presiding Judge is a bi-county non-bargaining grade 12. Staff recommended approval of the request. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the bi-county resolution changing position 1478 from a Court Reporter, bi-county non-bargaining grade 14 to an Assistant to the Presiding Judge bi-county non-bargaining grade 12. Motion carried.**

Supplemental Request to go to Public Hearing – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

The Department of Human Services was awarded three (3) new grants that were not included in the 2021-2022 budget process:

1. \$12,213,576 from Washington State Department of Commerce from the US Treasury for rent, utilities and By & For Agencies (C-TRAP-2) due to COVID-19.
2. An additional \$7,664,001 in Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) funds due to COVID-19.
3. \$4,875,836 from the US Treasury for rent and utilities (TRAP-2) due to COVID-19.

A Budget Supplement of the current year's expenditures budget is requested and must be approved in a public hearing. Staff recommends going to public hearing on June 7, 2022, for consideration of this supplemental budget request for the Human Services Fund. **The Board moved and seconded to approve going to public hearing on June 7, 2022, for the potential approval of the request for a budget adjustment for the Human Services Fund, number 0108101, in the amount of \$24,753,413. Motion carried.**

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Other Business

Recognition of Staff Years of Service – Commissioner Small

The Commissioners recognized the following staff for their years of service to the County:

15 Years: Richard Byrd, Elizabeth Lee, Lance Rendall, Kay Fairchild, Raul Rodriguez, Gerald Cole, Denise Gerry, Eric Hsu

20 Years: Carlos Trevino, Gerald Mercado, Scott Runge, Tammy McKeirnan

25 Years: Renee Munoz, Pei-Ling Kuh

30 Years: Sherry Bingman

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