

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 7, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, June 7, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Continued – Determination of Inactive Special Purpose District Drainage Improvement District 9/9A – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

A public hearing was held on March 22, 2022, 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). After receiving public comments, the Board of Commissioners continued the public hearing until June 7, 2022, to give the landowners in DID 9/9A an opportunity to find the required number of Board members necessary to have a governing body. County staff has learned individuals living in the area are trying to keep the DID active. To assist them, Staff is recommending that additional time be granted to determine the appointees and begin the necessary appointment process. **The Board moved and seconded to grant additional time to determine Drainage Improvement District 9/9A appointees for its governing body and continue the public hearing until July 19, 2022. Motion carried.**

Dissolution of Inactive Special Purpose District Drainage Improvement District 10 – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

Drainage Improvement District (DID) 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. On March 22, 2022, the Board held a hearing where it was determined that DID 10 meets the criteria for being "inactive" as provided in R.C.W. 36.96.010. The special purpose district currently has no active governing body. As provided in RCW 36.96.010(3) a special purpose district such as DID 10 is deemed to be "inactive" and thus subject to dissolution if (1) it has not carried out any of the special purposes or functions for which it was formed within the preceding consecutive five-year period; or (2) no election has been held for the purpose of electing a member of its governing body within the preceding consecutive seven-year period; or (3) it has been determined to be unauditably by the Washington State Auditor. Dissolving the district will eliminate administrative burdens imposed on the County and reduce costs to taxpayers. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the resolution and ordinance to dissolve Drainage Improvement District 10 pursuant to chapter 36.96 RCW. Motion carried.**

Ordinance Amendment to County Public Records Policy, BCC 5.14 – Adam Morasch, Risk Manager & Mary Christen, Administrative Assistant

Benton County is proposing an amendment to Benton County Code 5.14 Public Records, Ordinance 442, Ordinance 582, and Ordinance 638 with a focus on the following:

- Amending BCC 5.14.070 (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) updating department addresses and phone numbers;
- Amending BCC 5.14.070 (b) removing Benton County Corrections Department, adding it to BCC 5.14.070 (e);
- Amending BCC 5.14.120 (b) removing Table 5.14-1 Fee Schedule and adding it to the end of BCC 5.14.120.
- Adding BCC 5.14.120 (i) adopting fees for the redacting of body worn camera recordings;
- Amending BCC 5.14.120 Table 5.14-1 Fee Schedule adding fees for redacting of body worn camera recordings.

Approval of the above changes would allow the County to recover reasonable costs associated with staff's time-consuming efforts to redact body-worn camera footage prior to disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the proposed public records amendment to Ordinances 442, 582, and 638, and Benton County Code Chapter 5.14. Motion carried.**

Budget Adjustment for Human Services – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager & Tammy McKeirnan, Human Services Budget & Finance Analyst

The Department of Human Services, Fund 0108101 was awarded 3 new Grants due to COVID-19 that were not included in the 2021-2022 budget process.

- Benton County was awarded \$12,213,576 from Washington State Commerce from the US Treasury for rent, utilities and By & For Agencies (C-TRAP-2).
- Benton County was awarded an additional \$7,664,001 in Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP).
- Benton County was awarded \$4,875,836 from the US Treasury on May 10, 2021, for rent and utilities (TRAP-2).

A Budget Supplement of the current year's expenditures budget is requested and must be approved in a Public Hearing. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the request for a budget adjustment for the Human Services Fund, fund number 0108101, in the amount of \$24,753,413. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Recognition of Employee Service - Commissioners

The Board recognized multiple employees for their years of service to the County.

- 15 Years: Megan Killgore, Anthony Von Moos, Glenn Hannaman, Cheryl Pochert, Kirsten Yniguez, Kasey Kist, Clayton Rawlings, and Dallas Murry
- 20 Years: Darrell Isaacson, Vicki Bourbon, and Gordon McMaster
- 25 Years: Terry Bloor and Yvonne Perez
- 30 Years: Richard Elledge, Gloria Caldwell, and Sarah Wagar-Weidner

Payment Authorization to Ennis-Flint for Purchase of Thermoplastic Markings for Public Works – Matt Mahoney, Public Works Operations Manager

The Public Works Department uses thermoplastic markings on county roads to mark crosswalks, railroad crossings, etc. There are only 2 vendors in the United States that supply thermoplastic markings. Both of these vendors were solicited, and the quotes provided are as follows: Traffic Safety Supply – Portland, OR \$11,284.06 including WSST and Ennis-Flint – Greensboro, NC \$12,761.93 including WSST. Traffic Safety Supply provided the lowest quote however they did not provide pricing for all requested material, therefore, the County Engineer recommended the purchase of thermoplastic markings from Ennis-Flint, Inc. of Greensboro, NC. The materials were prematurely ordered prior to the Board approving the purchase by Resolution and the product has been received. The County Engineer is seeking authorization by the Board for payment to Ennis-Flint, Inc. in the amount of \$12,761.93 including WSST. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the payment of \$12,761.93 to Ennis-Flint, Inc. of Greensboro, NC for Thermoplastic markings to be used by the Public Works Department. Motion carried.**

Open Bargaining Discussion – Commissioners & Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager & Stephen Hallstrom, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

The Board had a discussion with HR and legal regarding the potential of having open bargaining sessions with unions. The Board gave direction to staff to reach out to each of the unions and discuss the possibility of having open bargaining sessions and posting of written offers during the bargaining process.

Communications Coordinator Updated Classification Description & Salary Schedule – Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager & Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

County Administration has identified a need to update the Communications Coordinator classification description to adequately document newly assigned tasks. The Human Resources department worked with the Deputy Administrator to update the classification description as presented. In addition, presented is the appropriate placement on the Benton County non-bargaining salary schedule at a grade 17 to ensure consistency and the line-item transfer to fund the position. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Communications Coordinator classification description as presented, to approve the Communications Coordinator as a grade 17 on the Benton County Non-Bargaining Salary Schedule, and to approve the line-item transfer to fund the position. Motions carried.**

Appointment of Members to the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

Pursuant to Resolution 2022-147 of the Benton County Commissioners and Resolution 2022-043 of the Franklin County Commissioners, a behavioral Health Advisory Committee was formed in March of 2022. Since then, the Counties have held an open solicitation for committee members for the various sectors of the community as dictated by the Boards. Benton County staff reviewed the applications for each sector and has prepared a list of names recommended to fill each position representing Benton County. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution appointing members to the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee for the term of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025. Motion carried.**

Executive Session

Washington Opioid Distributor Settlement - Commissioners

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson settled the State of Washington's lawsuit against the three largest opioid distributors – McKesson, AmerisourceBergen, and Cardinal Health – for \$518 million payable over 17 years.

Two things need to happen for this settlement to be finalized:

1. All Washington local governments that filed suit against these opioid distributors need to sign the attached Participation Form releasing their claims and then dismiss them with prejudice.
2. Ninety percent (90%) of Washington local governments with a population of over 10,000 that did not file a lawsuit against these opioid distributors need to sign the Participation Form releasing their potential claims.

If the requisite participation by the local governments is not met, there will not be a settlement, and no one will receive any of the monies from this settlement. Benton County is an eligible local government that can participate in this settlement. The State and representatives of the eligible local governments are negotiating an agreement to split portions of the settlement. If this settlement is finalized, Benton County will have discretion to earmark a portion of these resources to combat the opioid epidemic in our community and these resources could start flowing into our communities this year to abate the opioid crisis that continues to devastate families. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign Subdivision Settlement Participation Form.**

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