

# WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 12, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

## Public Hearing

### *Short Plat Vacation – SPV 2022-001 – Michelle Cooke, Planning Manager & Andrea Watts, Associate Planner*

On June 29, 1995, Short Plat 2199 was recorded under Auditor's File Number 1995-14142, creating four residential lots. With the creation of the four lots, a 20-foot drainage easement was established which runs north/south along the east side of Lot 1 and east/west through the southern portions of Lots 1 through 4 of Short Plat 2199. The parcels are located approximately 700 feet southeast of the intersection of Reata Road and Bermuda Road in the Kennewick area of unincorporated Benton County in Section 10, Township 08 North, Range 28 East, W.M. The applicant, Brad Tapani, is requesting to vacate the 20-foot drainage easement created on Short Plat 2199 in its entirety. The applicant will be required to record and develop a new engineered drainage easement on Lots 1-4 as well as the adjacent unplatted parcel 1-1088-200-0003-000 to the south. Owners of property within 300 feet of the subject parcel and all concerned agencies, including Benton County Public Works, were notified of the proposed vacation and no unresolved objections or concerns have been received to date. **The Board moved and seconded to approve SPV 2022-001 for the vacation of a 20-foot drainage easement on Lots 1 through 4 of Short Plat 2199 conditioned on the recording and development of a new engineered drainage easement on Lots 1-4 of Short Plat 2199 and the unplatted parcel to the south. These documents must be recorded within 1 year of the date of approval by the Board or this approval will be null and void. Motion carried.**

## Scheduled Business

### *Governmental Affairs & Lobbying Services Discussion – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator*

Staff presented a brief update to the Board regarding its governmental affairs and lobbying services at both the State and Federal level. The County has contracted with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs (GTH) since 2017 to provide state-level governmental affairs and lobbying services and since 2021 for federal-level services. Staff would like to recommend continuing these contracts into the next biennium and having the contracts be 2- year terms to align with our budget (rather than the 1-year contract terms we have had thus-far). Since contracting with GTH, the County has secured nearly \$12 million in state and federal funding for major capital projects as well as advocating for the State to pay for its fair share of even-year election costs, which we anticipate would save the county approximately \$500,000 in 2022 and 2024 elections. Based on fees proposed by GTH, the County would pay \$137,500 in 2023 (\$53,500 for state and \$84,000 for federal level services) and \$144,316 in 2024 (\$56,116 for state and \$88,200 for federal level services). **The Board gave staff direction to proceed with contracting with Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs for 2023-2024.**

### *Public Safety Sales Tax Public Info & Outreach Discussion – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator*

On May 20, 2022, the County opened a Request for Proposals (RFP) and quotes from interested firms for assistance in building a public information, education, and outreach efforts to inform the community about the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) upcoming ballot initiative for Fall 2023. The RFP closed June 3, 2022 with only one (1) proposal and quote received: Desautel Hege (DH), Spokane, WA in the amount of \$39,200 + 8% technology fee and any additional hourly fees. Services proposed include information-gathering and research regarding current public awareness and understanding of PSST, including planning and strategy session with County staff; development of message platform and project priorities, including detailed description of ballot initiative; and creative asset development, including informational videos, social media posts, and ongoing media relations services. **The Board gave staff direction to proceed with contracting with DH for public information and outreach services as presented, for final consideration and approval at a later date.**

### *Public Safety Sales Tax Budget Policy Discussion – Commissioner Small*

The Board directed staff to determine how much funding would be freed up by reducing the current cash reserve from 12 months to 6 months and to come back to the Board at a later date with a proposal for how to hold a new request for proposals (RFP) process to allocate those funds.

###

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