

# WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 19, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, July 19, 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 – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director*

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](#). After receiving public comments, the Board continued the public hearing until June 7, 2022 and again until July 19, 2022 to give the landowners in DID 9/9A an opportunity to re-establish its governing body. On July 12, 2022, the Board appointed Brian Ohler (Supervisory Position 1), Kelly Reed (Supervisory Position 2), and Brian Stott (Supervisory Position 3), to fill the vacant supervisory positions for DID 9/9A and pursuant to [RCW 85.38.070\(5\)](#), each appointment will last until the appointee, or a successor is elected and qualified at the next special district general election. With the recent governing body appointments, and upon reviewing the criteria in [RCW 36.96.010](#) regarding inactivity, it is recommended that additional dissolution hearings related to DID 9/9A not be scheduled. **The Board moved and seconded to find that DID 9/9A currently has a full governing body that meets the criteria for being active in RCW 36.96.010 and that additional dissolution hearings are not held at this time. Motion carried.**

## Scheduled Business

*Grant from Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority – Lieutenant Clark, Sheriff's Office*

The cities of Kennewick, Richland, West Richland, and Benton County have experienced significant increases in auto theft over the past year. Year-to-date, the Kennewick has experienced a 503% increase, Richland a 459% increase, West Richland a 250% increase, and Benton County a 96% increase, over the same period last year. Flock Falcon Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) captures evidence and uses machine learning to detect and deliver unbiased investigative leads to law enforcement. The cameras can also integrate information from national or state crime databases to provide real-time alerts when a vehicle associated with a known suspect, or a stolen vehicle passes the camera. Rat Trap II tire deflation devices are a hand-held device, which officers can deploy in the field when contacting stationary stolen vehicles. With the ability to quickly deploy the deflation system, law enforcement can prevent vehicle pursuits, reduce risk to the public, enhance officer safety and recover victim vehicles with minimal damage. On June 14, 2022, Kennewick Police Department submitted a multi-agency grant application for these devices. **The Board moved and seconded to accept the grant funding from Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority in the amount of \$33,589.00 to be applied to the purchase of 10 Flock Falcon Automatic License Plate Readers and 50 Rat Trap II devices. Equipment expenditures shall be paid out of the Sheriff Investigative Fund and grant funding reimbursements deposited back into the same fund. Motion carried.**

*2022 Local Heroes Grant Program – Sergeant Trevino, Sheriff's Office*

The Sheriff's Office requested authorization to apply for the 2022 Local Heroes Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000, to be applied toward registration and travel expenses for detectives to attend various crime scene, homicide, and forensics trainings. This grant program, offered through Gesa Credit Union, utilizes funds from every swipe of a co-branded Local Heroes Debit Card to support eligible organizations (fire departments, law enforcement, teachers, veterans, healthcare) in regions where Gesa is active and has physical locations. Funding is dependent upon funds raised the prior year and is awarded each September. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Sheriff's Office to submit the application for the 2022 Local Heroes Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000 to be applied toward the expense of sending detectives to various trainings. Expenditures shall be paid out of the Sheriff Investigative Fund and grant funding reimbursements deposited back into the same fund. Motion carried.**

### ***Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Coordinator Discussion – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager***

Two separate contracts were presented to the Board for consideration, regarding the new Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) Coordinator position and funding of that two-year position. The position is envisioned as a two-year limited term duration position that will coordinate with the YBIP Workgroup, stakeholders, regulators, and legislators. The YBIP Coordinator will be an employee of the Plauché & Carr firm co-located in Seattle and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The two agreements are: 1) Interagency Agreement with Department of Ecology for an amount of up to \$100,000 to put toward funding the YBIP Coordinator, with the intent being that Benton County and Ecology would split costs for the position 50/50; and 2) Personal Services Contract with Plauché & Carr LLP for payment of the contract for services rendered by the YBIP Coordinator. The total fiscal impact would be \$200,000 with \$100,000 received from Ecology which would be combined with a matching \$100,000 of County funds over the course of two years. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Interagency Agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology and to approve the Personal Services Contract with Plauché & Carr LLP in support of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Coordinator position. Motions carried.**

### ***Fairgrounds Operational Changes – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator, Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager, & Linda Ivey, Finance Manager***

Benton County has been gradually undertaking the process of reimagining the Fairgrounds property for the last decade or more, trying to find more ways to use the 170 acres creatively and efficiently. A big step was taken four years ago with the creation of the Fairgrounds Event Coordinator position, which has helped bridge the gap in repositioning the Fairgrounds into the larger event hosting market, booking over 60 events per year. This year, the County has undertaken a Fairgrounds Master Plan process, which will be concluding this fall, the culminate market research and an assessment of existing facilities as well as providing the County with the opportunity to rebrand and reimagine the Fairgrounds as an expansive, high-quality events center to meet and exceed the experience of our current and longstanding clients (including the Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo) while also attracting new clients and activities. As such, various operational changes are recommended in the initial stages of this process, which would result in a net staff increase of two (2) positions, with operational changes primarily funded utilizing ARPA funds, provided by the federal government for economic recovery purposes. Changes include the following:

- Change the name of Fund 0124101 from Fairgrounds O&M to Event Center
- Create four (4) new classification descriptions for the following positions:
  - Event Center Manager
  - Finance/Sales Specialist
  - Event/Sales Specialist
  - Event Center Maintenance Worker
- Eliminate the Fairgrounds Event Coordinator position
- Update the line item titles for two current Maintenance Worker positions to Event Center Maintenance Workers

**The Board moved and seconded to: approve the amendment to Resolution 01-072 to change the name of Fund 0124101 from Fairgrounds O&M to Event Center; to approve the Resolutions establishing the Event Center Manager, Finance/Sales Specialist, Event/Sales Specialist, and the Event Center Maintenance Worker classification descriptions as presented; to approve the presented Resolutions to establish the Event Center Manager as a grade 9 on the Administrator and Managers salary schedule and to establish the following positions on the non-bargaining salary schedule: the Finance/Sales Specialist and Event/Sales Specialist as grade 18, and the Event Center Maintenance Worker as grade 11; and to approve the Resolution and LIT to support the operational changes to Fund 0124101 Event Center as presented. Motions carried.**

## **Other Business**

### ***Agreement w/ Paramount Communications, Inc. for Fiber Optic Runs at Benton County Fairgrounds – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager***

The Benton-Franklin Fair Association requested the County expand its wireless network coverage to the south and west gate areas, and to accomplish that request additional fiber optic runs are needed. The IT Department worked with Paramount Communications, Inc. (on the Washington State Contract) to determine a quote for the necessary work, in the amount not to exceed \$15,878.00 excluding Washington State Sales Tax. Staff recommends approval of the agreement, as presented. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the agreement with Paramount Communications, Inc. for fiber optic runs at the Benton County Fairgrounds and to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of the Board. Motion carried.**

***Potential EFSEC Appointment for Wautoma Solar Project – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director***

On July 14, 2022, the Board of Commissioners received notice from Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) regarding the application for site certification from the Innergex Renewable Development for the Wautoma Solar Project located in unincorporated Benton County. Per RCW 80.50, Benton County is allowed to appoint one (1) voting member to the EFSEC council for this project. EFSEC is requesting the appointment be filled by August 8, 2022. Mr. Dave Sharp of Kennewick has shown an interest in serving on the council and has a long professional work history focused on engineering and power generation. Staff recommends appointment of Mr. Sharp to this appointment. **The Board gave staff direction to proceed with preparation of the necessary paperwork for the appointment, for final approval on the July 26, 2022 Consent Agenda.**

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