

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Surplus of Real Property on Pendleton Rd – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

In 1995, the County was granted a parcel of land from the Kiona Irrigation District. The parcel was a portion of an abandoned railway parcel and was given to the County at no cost. The intent of the transfer was that the County would work with the adjoining property owners to split up the strip of land and attach it to each of their properties, thereby extinguishing the parcel. The County did split off two small sections and transferred them to the adjoining landowners in 1995; but for whatever reason, did not complete the work for the remaining property. The transfers were done at no cost to the adjoining landowners except for a \$500 fee to be paid to the irrigation district. Earlier this year, the adjoining landowners approached the County about completing the project. The County is agreeable to transferring the property but does not have the resources to complete the work. The landowners have indicated a willingness to hire their own surveyor to complete the necessary subdivision work and to prepare and record all necessary deeds to complete the transfer. The County believes that if the landowners take on this burden, then there should be no charge for the property as it was gifted to the County originally with the express intent that these transfers be completed. The irrigation district has also indicated that they no longer want to collect the \$500 fee that was originally requested with the first two transfers. To proceed, the County must declare the property surplus. The Board may also direct a method of sale which, in this case, would be direct negotiation with the adjoining landowners, pursuant to the Benton County Real Property Management Policy. **The Board moved and seconded to declare parcel number 131072000003005 surplus and direct staff to negotiate the transfer of said property to the adjoining property owners in accordance with the Benton County Real Property Management Policy. Motion carried.**

6-Year Transportation Improvement Program – Matt Mahoney, Public Works Operations Manager & Brian Malley, Transportation Planning Coordinator

A 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is required to be prepared every year describing the road maintenance and improvement program (commonly known as “6-Year Road Program” or “6-Year Plan”). Upon the effective date of January 1 of the first year of program, the approved 6-Year TIP supersedes any previously approved TIP. WAC and RCW requirements are that 6-Year TIPs shall include any new or enhanced bicycle or pedestrian facilities or other changes that promote non-motorized transit, and that the annual Bridge Report be consulted during the preparation of the plan. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the 2023-2028 6-Year Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Engagement Letter w/ Thaxton Parkinson for Legal Services for Progressive Design-Build Projects – Robert Blain, Director of Operations & Capital Programs

Per Resolution 2022-275, the Board of County Commissioners ratified a contract with Hill International, Inc. to provide the County assistance with the Progressive Design-Build Process. Hill International, Inc. suggested we look further into engaging with outside legal counsel to assist the County with the legal portion of the Progressive Design-Build Process. After conferring with the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office about engaging outside legal counsel, it was decided that it is prudent to engage outside legal counsel with expertise in the Progressive Design-Build Process to act as a resource for legal counsel within the Prosecutor’s Office. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Engagement Letter with Thaxton Parkinson, PLLC. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Budget Update & Public Safety Sales Tax Discussion – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator; Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator; & Linda Ivey, Finance Manager

Staff discussed with the Board opening another Request for Proposals (RFP) for an additional \$4.5 to \$5 million of Public Safety Sales Tax funds that are being released. Any applicants that previously applied and were either not funded or were partially funded need not reapply, as their requests will automatically be included in the pool of requests. New requests for funding will be considered, including one-time capital purchases and ongoing expenses (for 2023-2024 only). Staff is working on a detailed schedule for the RFP, and information (including the application packet) will be posted on the County's website at <https://www.co.benton.wa.us/pview.aspx?id=10881&catid=46>. **The Board gave staff direction to proceed with opening another Request for Proposals for Public Safety Sales Tax funding.**

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