

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 23, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, August 23, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Scheduled Business

First Amendment to Contract for Sale of Real Estate – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

The County executed a purchase and sale agreement to buy the Old Kennewick General Hospital from RCCH Trios Health, LLC (AKA Lifepoint) on June 24, 2022. That agreement had a provision in it that the County license a space in the Spaulding Building back to RCCH Trios Health that they would sub-license to the Kennewick Hospital District for an administrative and training space. Last week, the attorney from Lifepoint reached out to the County to inform us that they had secured another location for the administrative and training space. They asked if the County would be willing to delete the license from the purchase and sale agreement. The license would have generated \$500 annually in revenue. That was estimated to cover the costs of the use of the space by the licensee. Not having the license should have little to no impact financially. **The Board moved and seconded to approve a resolution amending the purchase and sale agreement and related documents pertaining to the purchase of the Old Kennewick General Hospital and former Auburn Campus between RCCH Trios Health, LLC and Benton County. Motion carried.**

Opioid Settlement Agreement – Ryan Brown, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Washington State sued three pharmaceutical companies and Benton County entered into a similar lawsuit with Washington municipalities to get relief from injuries resulting from the opioid crisis. Washington State has entered into a settlement agreement to receive \$518 million dollars over 17 years if certain conditions are met. Local governments will only be able to share in the settlement funds if they execute a Subdivision Settlement Participation Form and Allocation Agreement, which was presented to the Board for consideration. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Subdivision Settlement Participation Form and Allocation Agreement and authorized the Chairman to sign the documents as presented in the Opioid Settlement case with the State of Washington. Motion carried.**

Other Business

Discussion of Code Enforcement – Commissioners; Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; & Michelle Cooke, Planning Manager

Commissioner McKay shared that he had received concerns from the public regarding a code violation and the County's process for abatement. Staff discussed the County's current process, including civil infractions and criminal misdemeanors, as well as the potential for alternatives such as an Abatement and Lien program. Also discussed were current and future staffing levels and the overall number of cases processed each year by the Code Enforcement Officer. Currently, Benton County only has one (1) Code Enforcement Officer, who has been handling an average of 150-180 cases per year. **The Board gave direction to continue the discussion, including abatement and lien programs and the possibility of adding assistance for code enforcement in the planning division.**

Letter to Fair Board – Commissioner Small

Commissioner Small brought up that in August 2019, the County officially dedicated the arena at the Benton County Fairgrounds as the McDaniel Arena, including installation of signage – in honor of Dan McDaniel, long-time Fair Association Board member and champion of the Fairgrounds and its activities. In the years since the dedication, the arena sign has been covered with advertising banners and other promotional materials during the Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo. Commissioners expressed their disappointment in the continued covering of the sign, though acknowledge the need for advertising and marketing. **The Board moved and seconded to have staff prepare a letter to the Fair Association, in similar fashion to one sent August 2019, and authorized the Chairman to sign. Motion carried.**

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