

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 20, 2022



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Whitstran Heights Water Association Franchise Renewal – Cristina Woods, Engineering Technician III

Benton County received an application for a Franchise Order and Agreement for a water pipe and all systems and facilities from Whitstran Heights Water Association. Public Works staff recommends approval of the application as presented. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with Whitstran Heights Water Association. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Jail Use Agreement – Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

A Jail Use Agreement has been negotiated with the following agencies, individually: City of West Richland, City of Richland, City of Prosser, and City of Kennewick. The agreements currently in place will expire on December 31, 2022 and the County Administrator has been negotiating a new agreement with the Cities for a new agreement, effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Agreements for Use of Jail Facilities between Benton County and the Cities of West Richland, Richland, Prosser, and Kennewick, effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026 as presented. Motions carried.**

Budget Update – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager; Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator; and Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator

Staff provided an update to the Board regarding the 2023-2024 biennial budget process. Staff has received the Departments' budgets, as required by the Budget Call, and is in the process of reviewing the submissions. The County is also in the process of converting its financial software. The preliminary budget, including the Departments' revenue and expenditure submittals, will be presented to the Board on October 11, 2022. Budget workshops are scheduled for October 26 and October 27, for elected officials to discuss their requests with the Board. Staff is currently working on Commissioner Delvin's request for wage increases for the Courthouse Union and are determining potential options for inclusion in the budget recommendation. Staff will present their budget recommendations to the Board on November 1, 2022, and request approval to proceed to public hearing for final approval of the 2023-2024 Budget. The public hearing to adopt the Final 2023-2024 Budget is preliminarily scheduled for November 29, 2022. **No Board direction or vote.**

Other Business

State Auditor's Office Engagement Letter – Aileen Coverdell, Accounting Services Manager/Chief Accountant

The Auditor's Office presented a letter to the Board from the Office of the Washington State Auditor regarding the audits to be performed, including the nature and limitations of the audits, as well as the responsibilities of the parties. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the letter as presented.**

Certificate of Recognition: Nancy Richman – Commissioners

The Board recognized and congratulated Nancy Richman, Records/Office Manager for the Clerk's Office, for over 41 years of service to Benton County as she prepares for her retirement.

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