

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA
Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present: Chairman Will McKay
Commissioner Jerome Delvin via/WebEx
Commissioner Michael Alvarez
Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Absent: County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson (excused)

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Robert Heard, IT Manager; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Troy Grall, Juvenile; David Wheeler, Juvenile Administrator; Carlee Nave, HR Manager; Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; Michelle Cooke, Planning Manager; Amanda Hatfield, Elections; Elaine Osborne, Chief Deputy Clerk; DPA Ryan Brown; Treasurer Ken Spencer; Dale Wilson, Code Enforcement Officer; Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Stam.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of May 2, 2023 were approved.

Review Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Executive session – Potential Litigation
- Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County – Veterans Court
- Public Safety Sales Tax
- Letter of Support for Port of Kennewick

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “l”. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Coroner

- a. Contract w/Einan’s Deseret Memorial Chapel for Preferred Funeral Home Services

Information Technology

- b. Contract w/OneWorld Telecommunications for Site to Site Connections for Remote Office Locations
- c. Purchase of One Meraki Switch & Cabling for Elections Department from CompuNet, Inc.
- d. Copier Lease Agreement w/Ricoh USA, Inc. for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

Juvenile

- e. Agreement w/Pasco School District for Probation Liaison Program @ Chiawana High School
- f. Agreement w/Pasco School District for Probation Liaison Program @ Pasco High School

Public Safety Tax

- g. Contract Amendment w/Desautel Hege, Inc. for Public Safety Sales Tax Education
- h. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. 115 Radio Tower & Shooting Range

Purchasing

- i. Purchase of Security Video Server From URS Electronics, Inc. for the Elections Dept.
- j. Purchase of Traffic Message Boards From National Barricade & Sign Co. for Public Works
- k. Authorization to Advertise and Bid Quickseal Emulsified Asphalt Fog Oil Material

Sheriff’s Office

- l. Contract w/David Dean’s Auto Repair for Installation of Pit Bumpers for Patrol Vehicles

Public Hearing - Rural County Sales & Use Tax Levy Ordinance Revision

Adam Fyall presented the ordinance amendment for the Rural County Sales & Use Tax Levy to change the sunset date and extend the expiration from June 30, 2023 to July 31, 2032.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve amending Ordinance 332, Section 10, and Benton County Code 8.10.070 to extend the expiration date from June 30, 2023 to July 31, 2032. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Washington Counties Insurance Fund Update

Bobby Jackson, Executive Director, gave an update and briefly discussed the following:

- Health Benefits enrollment for employees

- 2022 – partnership with Rehn & Associates - flexible spending plans
- Expanded license to include property and casualty with Metlife
- Marketing strategies
- Annual Benefits Summit – Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick

Mental Health Component to Public Safety Tax Funded Juvenile Drug Court Program

Administrator David Wheeler, along with Superior Court Judge Jacqueline Stam, and Troy Grall, Juvenile Drug Court, presented the request for a mental health component to the Drug Court program, and briefly discussed the following:

- Referrals to Juvenile Drug Court have reduced – looked at how they could broaden needs with the therapeutic court model
- The Team discussed a mental health component and proposed the new name “Individual Treatment Court”. This would include drug court and the proposed mental health component
- No additional costs – would still be limited to 25 total currently funded
- Supported by local stakeholders

Matt Rasmussen said he agreed it was a good use of the public safety sales tax and very consistent with the Superior Court Adult Drug Court model, but they would just need to work out the accounting portion.

There was a discussion regarding the Washington instituted Juvenile Court Rule 7.16 limiting the Court’s authority to issue warrants. Judge Stam said the Bench submitted a letter to the State asking for that rule to be rescinded.

The Board unanimously agreed with moving forward.

Other Business

Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County - Veterans Court

Mr. Rasmussen presented the signed Interlocal Agreement with Franklin County for Veterans Court. He said they were successful in negotiating an agreement to allow Franklin County candidates to participate in the Benton County program and allow them to have those services until they could do their own program.

Franklin County paid for four slots, with the ability to add more if they wanted, in the amount of \$8,100.00 per candidate per year in the program. He said they currently had three eligible candidates to participate in the program.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement between Benton County and Franklin County for prosecution of Franklin County cases in Benton County Veterans Court. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Public Safety Sales Tax

Commissioner Alvarez asked DPA Ryan Brown if he was allowed to be one of the three committee members advocating for the sales tax. Mr. Brown said that he should not do that, but they could discuss it at a different time.

Mr. Rasmussen stated it was one of the topics for the Law & Justice Council at its next meeting and they had also received a letter from someone with recommendations for three candidates opposed to the sales tax.

Commissioner Delvin said it was his opinion individual Board members could say whatever they wanted. Mr. Brown said the Board could adopt a resolution either in favor or against.

Port of Kennewick Letter in Support

Adam Fyall presented a letter to the Department of Commerce in support of a state award the Port of Kennewick was pursuing regarding the Clover Island Restoration & Revitalization project.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the letter in support of the Port of Kennewick. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried

Law – Misdemeanor Drug Use

Chairman McKay asked if Benton County could do something similar to the cities regarding misdemeanor drug use in an officer's presence. Ryan Brown said they had three different meetings scheduled on this subject on how to address this or putting an ordinance on the books.

Executive Session – Review the Qualifications of a Candidate for Public Employment

The Board went into executive session at 9:31 a.m. for up to five minutes with Commander Cantu & Lieutenant Erickson to review the qualifications of a candidate for public employment. Also present were Matt Rasmussen and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out at 9:36 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the Salary Request Form as presented for Ricardo Espindola, Jr., Deputy Sheriff, effective May 9, 2023. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Executive Session – Potential Litigation

The Board went into executive session at 9:36 a.m. for up to 25 minutes with DPA Ryan Brown to discuss potential litigation. Also present were Special Counsel Ken Harper via/WebEx, Matt Rasmussen, Cami McKenzie, Greg Wendt, and Michelle Cooke.

The Board came out at 10:01 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Check Date: 05/05/2023

Payroll Checks

Total all funds: \$2,947,153.00

Warrant #: 244101-244125

Direct Deposit #: 179685-180311

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total all funds: \$2,570,747.72

EFT #: 420-426

ACH #: 760-770

Payroll Deduction Warrants

Total all funds: \$120,145.13

Warrant #: 245348-245358

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 04/28/2023

Warrants #: 245151-245204

Total all funds: \$272,267.64

EFT's #: 395-417

Transfers #: 720-730, 740-741

Total all funds: \$172,427.06

Check Date: 05/05/2023

Warrants #: 245359-245511

Total all funds: \$1,310,691.40

Transfers #: 771

Total all funds: \$1,475.79

Check Date: 05/05/2023

Warrants #: 245239-245347

Total all funds: \$749,078.89

EFT's #: 418-419

Transfers #: 742,744-746, 754, 756, 758-759

Total all funds: \$35,648.24

Resolutions

- 2023-356: Contract w/Einan’s Deseret Memorial Chapel for Preferred Funeral Home Services
- 2023-357: Contract w/OneWorld Telecommunications for Site to Site Connections for Remote Office Locations
- 2023-358: Purchase of One Meraki Switch & Cabling for Elections Department from CompuNet, Inc.
- 2023-359: Copier Lease Agreement w/Ricoh USA, Inc. for the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
- 2023-360: Agreement w/Pasco School District for Probation Liaison Program @ Chiawana High School
- 2023-361: Agreement w/Pasco School District for Probation Liaison Program @ Pasco High School
- 2023-362: Contract Amendment w/Desautel Hege, Inc. for Public Safety Sales Tax Education
- 2023-363: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. 115 Radio Tower & Shooting Range
- 2023-364: Purchase of Security Video Server From URS Electronics, Inc. for the Elections Dept.
- 2023-365: Purchase of Traffic Message Boards From National Barricade & Sign Co. for Public Works
- 2023-366: Authorization to Advertise and Bid Quickseal Emulsified Asphalt Fog Oil Material
- 2023-367: Contract w/David Dean’s Auto Repair for Installation of Pit Bumpers for Patrol Vehicles
- 2023-368: Rural County Sales and Use Tax Levy and the Rural County Capital Fund - Adoption of Ordinance 648 - Amending Chapter 8.10.070 of the Benton County Code
- 2023-369: Approving an Interlocal Agreement Between Benton County and Franklin County and Prosecution of Franklin County Cases in the Benton County Veterans Court

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:01 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman