

**MINUTES**

**BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Board Meeting  
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA  
Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 9:00 a.m.  
*Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx*

**Present:** Chairman Will McKay  
Commissioner Jerome Delvin  
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson  
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

**Absent:** Commissioner Michael Alvarez (Vacation – Excused)

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Robert Heard, IT Manager; Carlee Nave, HR Manager; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Clerk Josie Delvin; Treasurer Ken Spencer; Public Works Manager Matt Mahoney; Kirsten Yniguez, Deputy Treasurer; Chief Robert Guerrero; Glenn Vaagen, Communications Coordinator; Tom French, FG/Event Center Manager.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of June 6, 2023 were approved.

**Review Agenda**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Auditor

- a. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 102; Rescinding Resolution 2023-434 for Chief Accountant

Corrections

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1420, Dept. 000 for Washer Replacement

Fairgrounds

- c. Lease w/Horizon Tower, LLC for the Installation of Telecommunications Tower

Information Technology

- d. Purchase of Two Computers From Dell, Inc., for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Public Works

- e. Contract w/Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. for Asphalt Fog Oil Material

Purchasing

- f. Quit Claim Deed & Excise Tax Affidavit Transferring Property From the Benton-Franklin Juvenile Justice Center to the County of Benton
- g. Authorization to Advertise & Bid the Law Enforcement Training Center Project

Treasurer

- h. First Amended Contract w/Data Management Services for Updated Services to Convert Data

**Scheduled Business**

Chief Robert Guerrero presented a resolution authorizing the Corrections Dept. to apply for grant funding under the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. He said they were limited to one application per jurisdiction and wanted to participate in the grant process with the Sheriff's Office as follows:

- Purchase seven (7) body armor vests – cost of \$860.00 each – up to 50%
- Reimbursable back to the General Fund – it was not budgeted as a reimbursement, but the purchase was included in Corrections Budget Dept. 120.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the resolution approving the participation of the Benton County Corrections Department in the submittal of the application for the FY2023 grant funding under the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program. Chairman McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

**Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board Briefing**

Adam Fyall introduced Alex Conley, Executive Director for Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board. He said as a Board, they were trying to provide updates to the members.

Mr. Conley provided a Powerpoint and briefly discussed the following:

- Origin of the Board, interlocal agreements with 22 governments; since that time, one additional government joined
- Organization of the Board – governed by 10-member Board of Directors; consensus decision making; funded by WA Salmon Recovery Board and State funding

- Current Membership included Kittitas County, Yakima County, Benton County, and Yakama Nation
- Lead Entity for Yakima Basin, develop plans, coordinate, monitoring, outreach
- Funding Process
- Projects in Benton County
- Implementing the Plans
- Monitoring/Outreach
- Connections with Benton County

Chairman McKay asked if the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board had taken a position on removal of the dams. Mr. Conley said that none of that changed what they were trying to do with the Yakima Basin and what it did with their fish, so they had not taken a formal position on that subject.

### **Washington State Legislature Discussion**

Josh Weiss and Annika Vaughn, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Relations, discussed the following:

- 2023 Legislative Session – written report available
- Overview of 2023 Legislative Session
  - General and Political Context
  - Priorities
    - Flexibility for Meetings outside county seat
    - 3 Rivers Behavioral Health Recovery Center- \$5 million for residential in-patient treatment received in capital budget; total received \$9.295 million
    - .09 Rural County Sales Tax Extension – WSAC and State Auditor agreed on new reporting requirements – new standardized expenditure form in 2024
    - State-Shared Revenues – maintained or increased
  - Additional Legislative Issues
    - Housing
    - Public Safety, vehicular pursuits; Blake fix – not successful but a version of the bill passed
    - Finances
    - Transportation
- Next Session
  - Supplemental Budget Year - less opportunity for investments
  - Changes in Legislative Leadership
  - Potential Agenda Topics
  - 2024 Legislative Session begins January 8

Commissioner Delvin expressed appreciation for Gordon Thomas Honeywell being Benton County’s voice in Olympia and monitoring issues and said it had paid off.

Chairman McKay discussed the new building codes/energy codes and said that Washington State had the toughest codes in the country, beating California and Oregon, and wanted to know how best to fight it. He said it was his understanding it was going to cost between \$11 to \$12 million for Benton County to get to the new building codes. He said he was currently building an apartment complex, and if he had permitted it now, versus last year, it would have cost an extra \$500,000.00.

Representative Bryan Sandlin, via/WebEx, said he just received a text from Representative April Connors and that she would be working with Representative Mike Chapman and Representative Sam Low outside of session on affordable housing options. Additionally, that he appreciated the Gordon Thomas Honeywell group and their professional approach and accurate information. Additionally, Benton County had good representation with Representatives Barnhard and Connors, who were outstanding freshman legislators and very effective.

#### Special Guests

- Senator Perry Dozier agreed the team Benton County had working for them were fantastic. He discussed the .09 rural tax issue and monthly meetings outside the county seat. He added that only 28% of Republican bills were passed; they felt defeated, but some important issues were passed.
  - Benton County Highlights – Three Rivers Behavioral Health Recovery Center received \$5 million; Habitat for Humanity; a playground for Kiwanis; Dept. of Corrections roof replacement; water supply money; money received for Red Mountain 224 improvements
  - Dam removal issue was a constant battle, and the State was still putting money into studying replacement of the energy with removal of dams and more to replace irrigation/transportation if removed
- Rep. Stephanie Barnard commented that Josh Weiss and Annika Vaughn were very effective, and it was really helpful to see them working hard for Benton County. She said that Benton County had a really good reputation on the other side and were respected, and nine legislators were working for Benton County.
  - Energy Regulations - She said they were hearing from all over the State that the energy regulations were extremely burdensome. However, they were fighting the good fight to make bad bills less bad. She said it was a good idea to send info directly to them because they used that in communications, and personal examples were taken into consideration when testifying. Currently, they were talking about all things nuclear, and she was working in the Economic Development committee to access grants/funds from the Dept. of Commerce and trying to get a hold of that federal money and bring it into Washington State instead of raising taxes.

#### **Other Business**

Commissioner Delvin said it was time to bring back Flip Flop Friday and provide an appreciation barbecue day for Benton County employees. He said he would work out the details and plan that for a Friday in September.

**Payroll**

Check Date: 06/05/2023

Payroll Checks

Total all funds: \$3,006,423.92

Warrant #: 244126-244146

Direct Deposit #: 180453-181089

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total all funds: \$2,615,227.96

EFT #: 459-465

ACH #: 854-866

Payroll Deduction Warrants

Total all funds: \$117,822.52

Warrant #: 246274-246283

**Accounts Payable**

Check Date: 06/06/2023

Warrants #: 246284

Total all funds: \$250.00

Check Date: 06/09/2023

Warrants #: 246352-246537

Total all funds: \$1,363,771.92

EFT's #: 466

Transfers #: 878, 880-883

Total all funds: \$22,491.58

P-Cards #: 879

Total all funds: \$342,977.02

**Resolutions**

2023-436: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 102; Rescinding Resolution 2023-434

2023-437: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1420, Dept. 000 for Washer Replacement

2023-438: Lease w/Horizon Tower, LLC for the Installation of Telecommunications Tower

2023-439: Purchase of Two Computers From Dell, Inc., for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office

2023-440: Contract w/Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc. for Asphalt Fog Oil Material

2023-441: Quit Claim Deed & Excise Tax Affidavit Transferring Property From the Benton-Franklin Juvenile Justice Center to the County of Benton

- 2023-442: Authorization to Advertise & Bid the Law Enforcement Training Center Project
- 2023-443: First Amended Contract w/Data Management Services for Updated Services to Convert Data
- 2023-444: Submittal of the application for the FY2023 grant funding under the Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:12 a.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman