

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA
Tuesday, August 1, 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 (Excused) via/WebEx

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; Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; Clerk Josie Delvin; DPA Ryan Brown; Treasurer Ken Spencer; Kirsten Yniguez, Deputy Treasurer; Sheriff Tom Croskrey; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Amanda Watts, District Court Administrator.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of July 25, 2023 were approved.

Review Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comment

Jim Atkins, Prosser, wanted to know who he could talk to about an amended OPD Superior Court Agreement and the new payment amount; expressed his concern about including typed names on signature lines for resolutions and contracts; and that if a harassment issue was verified against an elected official, that the public should be notified and make informed decisions when voting.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Check Posting List – Accounts Payable for 07/21/23

Corrections

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 120 for Overtime

Human Services

- c. Contract w/WA State Dept of Commerce, Community Services & Housing Division for Emergency Housing Fund Grant

Information Technology

- d. Extended Warranty for Maintenance & Support Agreement w/Justice AV Solutions, Inc. for Superior, District and Juvenile Courts Courtroom Recording Systems
- e. Desk Officer Reporting System Services From Lexis Nexis Coplogic Solutions for Sheriff's Office

Juvenile

- f. Program Agreement w/State of WA Dept. of Children, Youth & Families, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration for ACT Quality Assurance
- g. Program Agreement w/State of WA Dept. of Social & Health Services for Consolidated Services

Office of Public Defense

- h. Amended Superior Court Public Defense Services Agreement w/Keith Hilde

Public Safety

- i. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. No. 121 for Overtime
- j. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. 115 for Red Mt Radio Tower Road

Purchasing

- k. Authorization to Advertise & Bid for the Administration Building Tenant Improvement Project ~ CB 23-18

Workforce Development

- l. Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreement for Chairman Signature w/the One-Stop Partners of WorkSource Columbia Basin

Conversion of Deputy Position to Sergeant Position in the Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Croskrey, via/WebEx, presented a request to convert a deputy position to Sergeant position to work directly with new pro-active crime team and be liaison with other teams and the PA's office.

He said it would be Budget neutral for 2023-2024 and wanted to revisit the funding of the position in the future budgets.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Line Item Transfer to fund one additional Sergeant position in the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Benton County Policy Against Discrimination & Harassment & Reporting Procedures

Carlee Nave presented an updated Benton County Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment and Reporting Procedures that was last updated in 2008. She said the PA's office had started the update and she worked with them to complete the policy. It provided clarification of process and reporting relationships as well as updates to the list of protected characteristics and was in line with current legislation. It was reviewed and signed off by elected officials and sent to all labor representatives for review.

Commissioner Delvin asked about Mr. Atkins comments and whether investigations on elected officials were subject to release. Ms. Nave said the investigation reports, as well as Whistleblower complaints were subject to disclosure with certain exemptions. She said it was her intention moving forward, as new elected officials came on Board, to get affirmation of their understanding and agreement with the policy.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Benton County Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment and Reporting Procedures as presented. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation and Potential Litigation

The Board went into executive session at 9:10 a.m. with DPA Ryan Brown to discuss three separate pending litigations and one potential litigation for one hour until 10:10 a.m. Also present were special counsel Ken Harper via/telephone, Commissioner Alvarez via/telephone, Greg Wendt, Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, and Cami McKenzie. The Board came out at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Brown said the Board needed additional time and would go back into executive session for an additional 20 minutes to discuss pending litigation. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, Cami McKenzie, and Brenda Chilton.

The Board came out at 10:30 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Tort Claim

CC 2023-11: Received on 08/03/2023 from Richard Beamis

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 07/21/2023

Warrants #: 247730-247794

Total all funds: \$237,772.82

EFT's #: 522-525
Transfers #: 1003-1012, 1015, 1019-1020
Total all funds: \$23,275.17

Resolutions

- 2023-540: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 120 for Overtime
- 2023-541: Contract w/WA State Dept of Commerce, Community Services & Housing Division for Emergency Housing Fund Grant
- 2023-542: Extended Warranty for Maintenance & Support Agreement w/Justice AV Solutions, Inc. for Superior, District and Juvenile Courts Courtroom Recording Systems
- 2023-543: Desk Officer Reporting System Services From Lexis Nexis Coplogic Solutions for Sheriff's Office
- 2023-544: Program Agreement w/State of WA Dept. of Children, Youth & Families, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration for ACT Quality Assurance
- 2023-545: Program Agreement w/State of WA Dept. of Social & Health Services for Consolidated Services
- 2023-546: Amended Superior Court Public Defense Services Agreement w/Keith Hilde
- 2023-547: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. No. 121 for Overtime
- 2023-548: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 1480, Dept. 115 for Red Mt Radio Tower Road
- 2023-549: Authorization to Advertise & Bid for the Administration Building Tenant Improvement Project ~ CB 23-18
- 2023-550: Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreement for Chairman Signature w/the One-Stop Partners of WorkSource Columbia Basin
- 2023-551: Transfer of Funds Within Public Safety Tax Fund Number 1480 Department Number 121
- 2023-552: Adopting Benton County Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment and Reporting Procedures - Rescinding Resolution 08-750

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman