



Minutes – Board of County Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA
Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present:

Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Commissioner Michael Alvarez
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Amanda Pearson

Absent: Chairman Will McKay (excused)

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy County Administrator, Matt Rasmussen; Information Technologies Manager, Robert Heard; Human Resources Manager, Carlee Nave; Community Development Director, Greg Wendt; Public Works Manager, Matt Mahoney; Clerk, Josie Delvin; Auditor, Brenda Chilton; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Ryan Brown; Court Administrator, Amanda Watts; Security Program Coordinator, Steve Caughey

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 14, 2023 were approved.

Review Agenda

Jerrod MacPherson added the following:

- Executive session contract negotiations

Public Comment

Jim Atkins shared that he felt the three-minute rule is outdated and that last week he had to rush through his statements. He further commented on a previous resolution regarding Orthophotography that included a variety of acronyms that he did not understand and requested that these technical terms be spelled out to help readers comprehend the subject matter. Mr. Atkins ended his comment period asking about the fairground's feasibility study and thanked the commissioners for allowing him an extra minute to speak.

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:

Auditor

- a. Accounts Payable ~ Check Posting List for 11/09/2023A
- b. Accounts Payable ~ Check Posting List for 11/09/2023B

Commissioners

- c. Appointment of Carol Moser to the Benton Franklin Board of Health

Human Resources

- d. 2024 Non-Bargaining & Elected Official Contribution to Insurance Benefits

Office of Public Defense

- e. Agreement w/WA State Office of Public Defense for Grant Funding

Prosecuting Attorney

- f. Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 117 for Wages - Temporary Help
- g. Engagement Letter with Kutak Rock, LLP

Purchasing

- h. Ratification of Contract w/Central Washington Asphalt, Inc. for Red Mt Access Road Project
- i. Reciprocal Access Easement Agreement for Red Mountain Access Road Project
- j. Permission to Proceed with Advertisement & Bid for the Election Center Remodel Project

Superior Court

- k. Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Wages – Administrator
- l. Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Wages – Office Support

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Body-Worn Camera Grant Application

Chief Financial Officer, Katie Gillies, and Accreditation Coordinator, Charles Glasscock explained that Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are seeking applications for grants from agencies that have implemented or will be implementing body-worn camera programs during the period between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024. Two of the categories that may be funded by the grants are “costs associated with public records requests for body-worn camera footage” and “hiring of personnel necessary to operate a body-worn camera program”.

The Benton County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) has implemented a body-worn camera program and is fielding significant numbers of public records requests for body-worn camera footage. BCSO’s Records Sergeant is dealing with significant public records request overflow due to the volume of requests.

Benton County Sheriff’s Office recommends applying for funding under the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Body-Worn Camera Grant application for FY2024 in the amount of \$37,875.38 to reimburse the County for 50% of the Records Sergeant’s salary, 25% of a Records Clerk’s salary and an annual fee for additional licenses from Axon Enterprises for electronic storage for the period of the grant.

MOTION: Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve a resolution authorizing the Benton County Sheriff’s Office to submit an application for funding under the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Body-Worn Camera Grant application for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of \$37,875.38. Commissioner Delvin seconded. Upon vote the motion carried, as presented.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

The Board went into executive session at 9:14 a.m. for up to 10 minutes with Ryan Brown and Greg Wendt. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, and Amanda Pearson.

The Board came out at 9:24 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Executive Session – Contract Negotiations

The Board went into executive session at 9:25 a.m. for up to 5 minutes with Carlee Nave. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, and Amanda Pearson.

The Board came out at 9:30 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 11/9/2023

Transfers #: 1346
Total all funds: \$417,843.19

Check Date: 11/9/2023

Warrants #: 250877-251035
Total all funds: \$1,949,606.43

EFT's #: 688-691
Transfers #: 1342, 1345
Total all funds: \$28,766.48

Resolutions

- 2023-793 Appointment of Carol Moser to the Benton Franklin Board of Health
- 2023-794 2024 Non-Bargaining & Elected Official Contribution to Insurance Benefits
- 2023-795 Agreement w/WA State Office of Public Defense for Grant Funding
- 2023-796 Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 117 for Wages - Temporary Help
- 2023-797 Engagement Letter with Kutak Rock, LLP
- 2023-798 Ratification of Contract w/Central Washington Asphalt, Inc. for Red Mt Access Road Project
- 2023-799 Reciprocal Access Easement Agreement for Red Mountain Access Road Project
- 2023-800 Permission to Proceed with Advertisement & Bid for the Election Center Remodel Project
- 2023-801 Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Wages – Administrator
- 2023-802 Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Wages – Office Support
- 2023-803 Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs FY2024 Body-worn Camera Grant

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman