



Minutes – Board of County Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA
Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present: Chairman Will McKay
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Commissioner Michael Alvarez
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Amanda Pearson

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Information Technologies Manager, Robert Heard; Human Resources Manager, Carlee Nave; Community Development Director, Greg Wendt; Treasurer, Ken Spencer, Chief of Corrections, Robert Guerrero; Custody Lieutenant, Kasey Kist; Public Works Operations Manager, Matt Mahoney; Civil Engineer, Cristina Woods; Security Program Coordinator, Steve Caughey; Auditor, Brenda Chilton

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 21, 2023 were approved.

Review Agenda

None.

Public Comment

None.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Payroll ~ Check Posting List for 11/15/2023
- b. Accounts Payable ~ Check Posting List for 11/17/2023 (orig)

Human Resources

- c. 2024 Bi-County Non-Bargaining Contribution to Insurance Benefits

Juvenile

- d. Contract with Technical Resource Management, LLC for Urinalysis Testing
- e. Contract with Stephenson Computer Consulting for Juvenile Tracking System Development and Maintenance

Purchasing

- f. Authorization for Advertisement and Bid Process for 2023 Crushing Project
- g. Purchase of Mower Booms from Alamo Group Inc. for the Public Works Department
- h. Payment Authorization to Pape Machinery for Installation of Mower Booms

Risk Management

- i. Appointing PayneWest Insurance as the Broker/Agent of Record for Insurance Policies and/or Bonds

Superior Court

- j. Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Judge Pro Tem Wages

Public Hearings

City of Benton City Franchise Renewal

Cristina Woods shared that Benton County received an application for a Franchise Order and Agreement for domestic water and sewer systems and facilities from the City of Benton City.

In accordance with RCW 36.55.040 and RCW 36.55.050, a public hearing must be held to allow public comment to the proposed franchise agreement prior to the final determination of the Board of County Commissioners. Subsequent to the public hearing, the Board may, upon its finding that the franchise agreement is in the best interest of the County, enter said agreement by resolution. The public hearing was advertised in the newspaper of record on November 8th and November 15th, 2023, in accordance with RCW 36.55.040, and a public hearing was held on November 28th, 2023, in accordance with RCW 36.55.050

Commissioner Alvarez asked for clarification if this was for renewal purposes; Cristina confirmed.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Franchise Order and Agreement with the City of Benton City by resolution. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

Scheduled Business

First Amendment to the Interagency Agreement with the Benton Conservation District for Implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program

In 2011 the Washington State Legislature passed legislation known as the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) - RCW 36.70A.700 - 760. The intent of the Voluntary Stewardship Program is to promote plans to protect and enhance critical areas within areas where agricultural activities are conducted, while maintaining and improving the long-term viability of agriculture in Washington State and reducing the conversion of farmland to other uses.

On January 10, 2012, Benton County adopted Resolution 2012-038, formally authorizing the County's participation in the Voluntary Stewardship Program. In 2015, the State provided adequate funding for the Program and Benton County was provided with a \$270,000 Washington State Conservation Commission grant, which allowed Benton County to initiate the development of a VSP Work Plan.

On July 18, 2023, Benton County approved a 2023-2025 Biennium VSP Contract No. K2407 between Benton County and the Washington State Conservation Commission to assist the County in Work Plan implementation as required for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

On September 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners re-entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Benton Conservation District to organize, facilitate, and provide leadership to the implementation of the work plan for Benton County.

On September 25, 2023, the Washington State Conservation Commission notified Benton County about an amendment to the 2023-25 biennium contract. This amendment increases the funding available for VSP monitoring activities from \$240,000 to \$287,000, an increase in \$47,000.00 for the biennium contract; and, On October 10, 2023, Benton County and the Washington State Conservation Commission approved a First Amendment to the 2023-2025 Biennium VSP Contract and increased the budget amount allocated to Contract No. K2407 by \$47,000.00. These funds are to be used for VSP monitoring activities in compliance with VSP Monitoring Expense Guidelines. With the \$47,000.00 budget increase, the legislature has increased the appropriated amount for Benton County's 2023-2025 VSP activities from \$240,000.00 to \$287,000.00.

With the first amendment to the 2023-2025 Biennium VSP Contract being complete, the next step is to amend the Interagency Agreement (Resolution 2023-624) with the Benton Conservation District to increase the cost of accomplishing the work required in the Agreement from \$240,000.00 to \$287,000.00 and amend Attachment Budget to include Task 4A Monitoring & Reporting.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the First Amendment to the 2023-2025 Interagency Agreement between Benton County and the Benton Conservation District which adds \$47,000.00 to Task 4A (Monitoring and Reporting) for a total Voluntary Stewardship Program budget amount not to exceed \$287,000.00. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology for the Ramp Litter Cleanup Program

Lieutenant Kist shared that the Benton County Corrections Department completed the grant application for the 2023-2025 Solid Waste Management Ramp Litter Cleanup Program from the Department of Ecology to be used towards the cost of offsetting the operation of an existing work crew for litter cleanup activities on state ramps located within Benton County jurisdiction.

The Department of Ecology notified the Corrections Department that they were awarded the grant in the amount not to exceed \$60,000 for said Program.

The Chief of Corrections, Robert Guerrero, recommends the Board accept the grant funding provided by the Washington State Department of Ecology for said program for the period commencing October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2025.

Commissioner Alvarez commented that he was happy that they are applying to grants to save taxpayer dollars.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve and authorize the Chairman Pro-Tem to sign the attached Agreement No. SWMRLCP-2325-BeCoSO-00003 between the Washington State Department of Ecology and Benton County Corrections Department for the Solid Waste Management Ramp Litter Cleanup Program not to exceed \$60,000. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

Commissioner McKay shared a Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) update from the conference last week.

Tort Claim:

Charles Crnkovich received 11/21/2023 CC2023-20
Jordan Conner received 11/27/2023 CC2023-21

Payroll

Check Date: 11/15/2023

Payroll Checks
Total all funds: \$122,408.96
Warrant #: 244285-244286
Direct Deposit #: 184980-185118

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers
Total all funds: \$22,304.12
ACH #: 1371

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 11/17/2023

Warrants #: 251140-251292
Total all funds: \$1,176,107.20

EFT's #:
Transfers #: 1348-1355, 1358, 1365-1370, 1372-1373
Total all funds: \$42,491.34

Resolutions

- 2023-804 2024 Bi-County Non-Bargaining Contribution to Insurance Benefits
- 2023-805 Contract with Technical Resource Management, LLC for Urinalysis Testing
- 2023-806 Contract with Stephenson Computer Consulting for Juvenile Tracking System Development and Maintenance
- 2023-807 Authorization for Advertisement and Bid Process for 2023 Crushing Project
- 2023-808 Purchase of Mower Booms from Alamo Group Inc. for the Public Works Department
- 2023-809 Payment Authorization to Pape Machinery for Installation of Mower Booms
- 2023-810 Appointing PayneWest Insurance as the Broker/Agent of Record for Insurance Policies and/or Bonds
- 2023-811 Line-Item Transfer, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123 for Judge Pro Tem Wages

- 2023-812 City of Benton City Franchise Renewal
- 2023-813 First Amendment to the Interagency Agreement with the Benton Conservation District for Implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program
- 2023-814 Agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology for the Ramp Litter Cleanup Program

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:13 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman