

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 10, 2023



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Public Hearing

Amendment to Ordinance 459 Relating to User Fee for Courthouse Facilitator Program – Josie Delvin, Clerk

The Benton County Clerk is requesting an amendment to Ordinance 459, which would allow an increase in the Courthouse Facilitator user fee and would change the fee from \$25 per session to \$35 per session (30 minutes) with the Facilitator. These fees fund the Courthouse Facilitator Program, which was created to provide basic services to pro se litigants in family law cases. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the amendments to Ordinance 459 as presented. Motion carried.**

Scheduled Business

Reclassifying Code Enforcement Officer Position to Code Enforcement Supervisor – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director & Eric Wyant, HR Assistant Manager

One (1) Code Enforcement Officer I position was approved in the Public Safety Sales Tax budget at a grade 13 in the Planning Division. In an effort to enhance operations with the added position, the Community Development Department is requesting to reclassify the current Grade 14 Code Enforcement Officer position to a Code Enforcement Supervisor. Department leadership worked with HR to create a position classification description for the proposed Code Enforcement Supervisor position so HR could complete a compensation analysis. HR's recommendation is placement at Grade 16. The Code Enforcement Supervisor position is funded through current expense (Planning), and in coordination with Public Works will plan to pay a portion of the increase, up to 20% of the total salary, from the Public Works budget. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the reclassification of the Code Enforcement Officer position to a Code Enforcement Supervisor and salary placement; to approve the Transfer of Funds within Current Expense Fund 0010, Department 116 for Planning; and to approve the Transfer of Funds within County Road Fund 1010, Department 500 as presented. Motions carried.**

Code Enforcement Officer I Classification Description & Salary Placement – Greg Wendt, Community Development Director & Eric Wyant, HR Assistant Manager

One (1) Code Enforcement Officer I position was approved in the Public Safety Sales Tax budget at a grade 13 in the Planning Division. The Community Development Department worked with HR to create a position classification description for the position, so HR could complete a compensation analysis. HR's recommendation for the Code Enforcement Officer I position is at Grade 13. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the classification of the Code Enforcement Officer I position, and salary placement as presented. Motion carried.**

Chief Appraiser Position in Assessor's Office – Bill Spencer, Assessor & Eric Wyant, HR Assistant Manager

The Assessor has identified areas where he can create operational efficiencies within his office and be able to do so without a negative budget impact. The proposed re-organization would create a Chief Appraiser position, which was a position that previously existed in the office until it was eliminated in 2015, and would eliminate two (2) appraiser positions, one Commercial Appraiser, and one Residential Appraiser, which are currently unfilled. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Chief Appraiser classification description and salary schedule placement and to approve the line-item transfer to fund the Chief Appraiser position as presented. Motion carried.**

Benton Franklin Health District Board Members Interview Appointments Discussion – Commissioner Delvin

Due to changes in RCW, the Health Board is required to expand to include elected officials and community members. Applications have been received, and top applicants have been selected for interviews. The Health Board has requested that two (2) commissioners from each County sit in the interview panel. Commissioner Alvarez and Commissioner McKay volunteered, with Commissioner Delvin available to fill in if schedule conflicts arise.

Amending Bylaws & Rules of Procedure for the Board of Benton County Commissioners – Commissioner Delvin

The Board received input from the public regarding its agenda processes, and desires to amend the Bylaws & Rules of Procedure for the Board of Benton County Commissioners as follows:

- Section 3.1 “Regular Commission Meetings” to allow regular meetings outside the county seat, per RCW 36.32.080(3);
- Section 5.1 “Order of Business and Agenda” to include the “Pledge of Allegiance”, to move the “Public Comment” after “Review Agenda”, and to move some language related to “Other Business” to the final paragraph; and
- Section 5.2 “Agenda” to reflect the current requirements more accurately for placing items on the agenda.

The Board moved and seconded to approve the attached resolution Amending the Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Board of Benton County Commissioners, repealing and superseding Resolution 2019-737 as presented. Motion carried.

Other Business

Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) FY22-23 Training Funding – Commander Clarke, Benton County Sheriff’s Office

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs are providing funds to local law enforcement agencies to assist with the costs of training required by certain legislation enacted in 2021 and 2022, including:

- Use of Force – HB 1310 (Chapter 324, Laws of 2021);
- Duty to Intervene – SB 5066 (Chapter 321, Laws of 2021);
- Use of Force – HB 1735 (Chapter 4, Laws of 2022); and
- Use of Force – HB 2037 (Chapter 80, Laws of 2022).

The Benton County Sheriff’s Office (BCSO) has received the funds allocated for their agency in the amount of \$28,270.98 and recommends accepting the funds allocated for the 2022-2023 training funding provided by the Washington State Legislature. Funds are requested to be placed in the Sheriff’s Investigative Fund for flexibility in expenditure authority. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Sheriff’s Office to accept the funding under the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs FY22-23 training funding, released by the Washington State Legislature, in the amount of \$28,270.98. Motion carried.**

Grant Application to Washington State Department of Commerce for Recovery Center Housing – Matt Rasmussen, Deputy County Administrator

The County has identified recovery housing as a needed service in the region, and desires to add those services to be provided at the Recovery Center at the Old Kennewick General Hospital. Washington State Department of Commerce has an open grant opportunity for funding and staff recommends applying for said grant, under the Washington State Multifamily Housing Unit Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition Round II program in the amount of \$4,421,133. **The Board moved and seconded to approve submittal of a grant application in the amount of \$4,421,133 to the Washington State Department of Commerce, under the Washington State Multifamily Housing Unit Rapid Capital Housing Acquisition Round II program. Motion carried.**

Update on Horse Heaven Wind & Solar Project – Commissioner McKay; Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; and Michelle Cooke, Planning Manager

Staff updated to the Board regarding the Horse Heaven Wind & Solar project, including a presentation which was provided to staff and Commissioner McKay by Tri-Cities CARES last week. A Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) has been released, and County staff from various departments are reviewing it for potential road, water, and land use impacts. **No Board direction or vote.**

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