



Minutes – Board of County Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting
Benton County Administration Building
Commissioners' Hearing Room, Kennewick, WA
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 AM

Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

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

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; Public Works Manager, Matt Mahoney; Clerk, Josie Delvin; Prosecuting Attorney, Eric Eisinger; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Ryan Brown; Risk Manager, Adam Morasch; Treasurer, Ken Spencer; Financial Analyst, Veronica Bivens; Superior Court Judge, Joe Burrowes; Superior Court Administrator, Tiffany Runge; Chief of Corrections, Robert Guerrero; Finance Manager, Linda Ivey; District Court Administrator, Amanda Watts; Assistant District Court Administrator Judy Docken; Security Program Coordinator, Steve Caughey; Event Center Manager, Tom French; Procurement/Contract Coordinator, Danica Hope; Director of Operations & Capital Assets, Robert Blain; Communications Coordinator, Glenn Vaagen; Sheriff's Office Chief Financial Officer; Katie Gillies

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve Commissioner McKay to run the meeting as Chair. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion; the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 5, 2024, were approved.

Review Agenda

Jerrod MacPherson added the following:

- PA's Office Reimbursement for Relocation for Ereik Puccio

Public Comment

Lonzo from Kennewick shared comments in support of previous statements a commissioner made about observing illegal immigrants at airports. Further, he commented on unlawful orders and violations of oaths of office relating to the constitution.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Payroll ~ Check Posting List for 02/15/2024
- b. Accounts Payable ~ Check Posting List for 03/01/2024

Commissioners

- c. Surplus and Disposition of Personal Property

Information Technology

- d. Expenditure Coding Correction; WSU Extension Department 108 and Central Services Fund 5020 for Copier Lease
- e. Expenditure Coding Correction; Prosecuting Attorney Department 117 and Central Services Fund 5020 for Copier Lease
- f. Purchase of Two Laptops, Two Docks, & Four Monitors for Office of Public Defense from Dell Inc.

Public Works

- g. Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2150 CRP – District Line Chandler – Deck Repair
- h. Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2149 CRP – County RT 12/Active – Transportation Path Repairs
- i. Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2154 CRP – 2023 Intersection Safety & Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements
- j. Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2155 CRP – Tier 1 Intersection Audio & Visual Upgrades
- k. Approving Local Agency Project Prospectus and Local Agency Agreement for County Road Project (CRP) CE 2150 CRP - District Line Chandler - Deck Repair

Purchasing

- l. Authorization to Advertise and Bid CB24-04 Furnishing Road Surfacing Materials

Sheriff's Office

- m. Moorage Agreement with Port of Kennewick to Maintain a Boat Slip for the Sheriff's Office Marine Safeboat

Treasurer

- n. Second Agreement to the New York Mellon Contract for Investment Security Assets Services

Scheduled Business

Insurance/Risk Management Request for Court Security Positions

Adam Morasch and Carlee Nave

Court security has been identified as a priority for the County. In response, Risk Management has collaborated with Superior Court, District Court, Sheriff's Office, Human Resources, Finance, County Administration, and the Commissioners, to develop the Court Security position.

Creation of the new position will enable the County to provide robust security to the Superior and District Courts, while allowing the Sheriff to redirect resources to the broader needs of the County.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve the Court Security classification description and salary schedule placement. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve a Transfer of Funds within the Insurance Management Fund 5040, for 3 Court Security positions. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve the Transfer of Funds within the Public Safety Tax Fund 1480, from Department 115 to 135 Administration, for 3 Court Security positions. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

Reallocation of Resources - Add Two Positions

Judge, Joseph Burrowes and Superior Court Administrator, Tiffany Runge

To improve court operations within the Superior Court courtrooms, the Superior Court bench and Court Administrator are requesting a reorganization with the General Fund, Fund 0010, Superior Court Department 123. The reorganization is budget neutral for the 2024 budget cycle and will continue to be budget neutral for the 2025-2026 budget cycle. Superior Court is requesting the reorganization be effective April 1, 2024 as follows:

- Bailiff Position 51380 would end.
- Bailiff Position 51485 would end.
- Case Manager 1 Position 51803, Grade 1 Bi-County Non-Barg is added.
- Case Manager 1 Position 51804, Grade 1 Bi-County Non-Barg is added.
- The Case Manager 1 position is an existing job classification and description.
- The difference in the budget allocations for 2024 will be added to the overtime baseline to remain budget neutral.

Commissioner McKay asked what the number of cases are that need to be re-done due to recording issues.

Commissioner Alvarez shared that he appreciated Superior Court looking to reallocate funds and save taxpayers money.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve Transfer of Funds, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

Other Business

Prosecuting Attorney's Office Reimbursement for Relocation for Erik Puccio
Prosecuting Attorney, Eric Eisinger

The candidate will be a new full-time regular non-bargaining employee who currently lives in Chattaroy, Washington, which is 163 miles from the Benton County Justice Center via the most direct route. The difference between the distance from his current residence to the Benton County Justice Center and his current residence to his current employer in Spokane is less than 200 miles. Under

Section I, paragraph 2 of the Policy, the County Commissioners may authorize relocation reimbursement for an applicant who will increase his or her commute by less than 200 miles. Here, Mr. Puccio's relocation to the Tri-Cities would increase his commute by approximately 144 miles.

Finding qualified candidates to fill Deputy Prosecuting Attorney positions in the current job market is not an easy task, particularly experienced prosecutors with more than 15 years of criminal law experience as Mr. Puccio has, and therefore, when a qualified candidate from outside the area is found, reimbursing them for relocation expenses is recommended

Commissioner McKay asked questions relating to requirements of reimbursable amounts relating to the \$5,000.

Commissioner Alvarez asked about the actual position in the budget.

MOTION: Commissioner McKay moved to approve Reimbursement for Relocation for Erek Puccio up to \$5,000 as presented. Commissioner Alvarez seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

County Clerk, Josie Delvin, shared that she is happy to see Superior Court adding Case Manager positions as the workload has been falling onto her office. She also thanked staff for their help navigating the construction projects relating to the new Clerk Office and Jury Assembly Room.

Commissioner Alvarez reminded the room that he and Commissioner Delvin were in Phoenix at the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) and Waste Management Symposium (WMS) relating to clean up of Hanford.

Commissioner Delvin shared that they had a good meeting with the Department of Energy (DOE).

Payroll

Check Date: 02/15/2024

Payroll Draw Checks

Total of all Funds: \$122,100.19

Warrant #: 244372

Direct Deposit #: 187349-187488

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total of all Funds: \$22,141.21

ACH #: 1593

Accounts Payable

Check Date: 03/01/2024

Warrants #: 254390-254434

Total of all Funds: \$414,926.57

EFT #: 833

Transfers #: 1607-1608, 1615-1618

Total of all Funds: \$22,0037.61

Resolutions

- 2024-0189 Surplus and Disposition of Personal Property
- 2024-0190 Expenditure Coding Correction; WSU Extension Department 108 and Central Services Fund 5020 for Copier Lease
- 2024-0191 Expenditure Coding Correction; Prosecuting Attorney Department 117 and Central Services Fund 5020 for Copier Lease
- 2024-0192 Purchase of Two Laptops, Two Docks, & Four Monitors for Office of Public Defense from Dell Inc.
- 2024-0193 Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2150 CRP – District Line Chandler – Deck Repair
- 2024-0194 Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2149 CRP – County RT 12/Active – Transportation Path Repairs
- 2024-0195 Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2154 CRP – 2023 Intersection Safety & Pedestrian Crossing Enhancements
- 2024-0196 Initiating a County Road Project (CRP): CE 2155 CRP – Tier 1 Intersection Audio & Visual Upgrades
- 2024-0197 Approving Local Agency Project Prospectus and Local Agency Agreement for County Road Project (CRP) CE 2150 CRP - District Line Chandler - Deck Repair
- 2024-0198 Authorization to Advertise and Bid CB24-04 Furnishing Road Surfacing Materials
- 2024-0199 Moorage Agreement with Port of Kennewick to Maintain a Boat Slip for the Sheriff's Office Marine Safeboat
- 2024-0200 Second Agreement to the New York Mellon Contract for Investment Security Assets Services
- 2024-0201 Job Descriptions & Classifications for Court Security Position
- 2024-0202 Transfer of Funds, Fund No. 5040, Dept. 000
- 2024-0203 Transfer of Funds, Fund No. 1480, Dept. 135
- 2024-0204 Transfer of Funds, Fund No. 0010, Dept. 123
- 2024-0205 Reimbursement for Relocation Expenses for Erek Puccio

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:28 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman