



## Minutes – Board of County Commissioners

Regular Board Meeting  
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA  
Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m.  
*Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx*

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Will McKay (excused)

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Information Technologies Manager, Robert Heard; Human Resources Assistant Manager, Eric Wyant; Community Development Director, Greg Wendt; Sustainable Development Manager, Adam Fyall; County Clerk, Josie Delvin; Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Ryan Brown; Risk Manager, Treasurer, Ken Spencer; Security Program Coordinator, Steve Caughey; Information Technologies Analyst, Tim Brown; Chief Deputy Treasurer, Kirsten Yniguez; Auditor, Brenda Chilton

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of March 28, 2024, were approved.

### **Review Agenda**

None.

### **Public Comment**

Sherry-Elizabeth, in Prosser, submitted a packet for the Commissioners' review regarding the County Treasurer and County Assessor. She spoke about issues relating to mail fraud and fictitious addresses. She stated her concerns stem from incidents relating to her private land on Red Mountain.

Eileen Alexander, in Kennewick, thanked the Commissioners and shared comments relating to animal control. She also requested the Commissioners make a statement of support for the Sheriff's Office.

## **Consent Agenda**

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

### **Auditor**

- a. Payroll ~ Check Posting List for 03/05/24
- b. Payroll ~ Check Posting List for 03/15/24
- c. Payroll ~ Check Posting List for 03/20/24
- d. Accounts Payable ~ Check Posting List for 03/22/2024

### **Commissioners**

- e. Appointment of Kevin Kennedy as Voting Member to the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

### **Information Technology**

- f. Approval of Cellebrite UFED Software Subscription from Cellebrite, Inc. for the Sheriff's
- g. Approval of Verizon Wireless Equipment & Services for Push to Talk Wireless Project for the Corrections Department
- h. 2-Year Best Effort Internet Access Service Order from One World Telecommunications, Inc. for the Sheriff's Office
- i. Purchase of One PC and Two Monitors from Dell, Inc. for the Corrections Dept.

### **Purchasing**

- j. Contract w/Auto Rescue, LLC dba Ken's Auto Rescue for Towing Services
- k. Award of the Jail Door Systems Upgrade, Interview Area & Laundry Security Upgrade Project to Chervenell Construction Company
- l. Contract w/BNB Mechanical, LLC for On-Call Plumbing Maintenance & Repair Services
- m. Purchase of Two Refurbished Stretchers from Coast BioMedical Equipment for the Coroner's Office

## **Scheduled Business**

### **Appointment of Voting Member to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for the Wallula Gap Solar Project**

**Community Development Director, Greg Wendt**

On March 15, 2024, the Board of Commissioners received notice from Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) regarding the application for site certification from Wallula Gap Solar, LLC for the Wallula Gap Solar Project located in unincorporated Benton County.

Wallula Gap Solar Project is an application to construct and operate a 60-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project with an optional battery energy storage system (BESS).

The Facility is proposed to be located approximately 4 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Plymouth on parcels located north of SR-14, approximately 5 miles west of its intersection with Interstate 82. All Facility parcels are zoned Growth Management Act Agricultural District (GMAAD). The Facility will be located across a portion (approximately 437 acres) of three parcels owned by Farmland Reserve, Inc. (Landowner), and Facility area will be approximately 392 acres. Wallula Gap Solar has entered into a long-term lease with the Landowner for adequate acreage to accommodate the Facility for its operational lifetime.

Per RCW 80.50, Benton County is allowed to appoint one (1) voting member to the EFSEC council for this project. EFSEC is requesting the appointment be made by April 23, 2024.

Mr. Adam Fyall, Benton County Sustainable Development Manager, has shown an interest in serving on the council for the Board of County Commissioners.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Alvarez moved to approve the appointment of Adam Fyall for Voting Member to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for the Wallula Gap Solar Project. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried as presented.

**Official County Newspaper Bid Opening**  
**Clerk to the Board, Amanda Pearson**

This is the bid opening for the official county newspaper. Pursuant to RCW 36.72.075, annually the County is required to go out to bid to contract for a legal newspaper for the coming year. The Clerk of the Board is required to advertise at least five weeks in advance and the bid opening must be held at the first meeting in April.

The Notice of Bid Call for the Official Newspaper was advertised in the current legal newspaper, the Prosser Record Bulletin, on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

In addition to advertising, the Commissioners' Office provided notice (via email) to both known newspapers in Benton County – the Tri-City Herald and the Prosser Record Bulletin, as well as posted the notice on the county's website and bulletin boards.

One bid was submitted by the Prosser Record Bulletin.

A contract will be written up to award the County newspaper to the Prosser Record Bulletin and to the board at a later date.

**Other Business**

Commissioner Delvin commented on the Special Meeting Workshop coming up next week, regarding the Canine Shelter and clarified with Jerrod MacPherson, County Administrator, there would be no decisions made at that meeting. In closing, he stated his support for law enforcement.

Commissioner Alvarez addressed a public comment regarding support of law enforcement and also shared his four priorities for the county relating to: Office of Public Defense, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Court Room Security and the Canine Shelter.

**Payroll**

Check Date: 03/05/2024

Payroll Checks

Total All funds: \$3,123,847.19

Warrant #: 244373-244397

Direct Deposit #: 187489-188140

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total All Funds: \$ 2,712,238.91

EFT #: 834-840

ACH #: 1623-1633

Payroll Deduction Warrants  
Total All Funds: \$ 107,814.74  
Warrant #: 54435-254445

Check Date: 03/15/2024

Payroll Draw Checks  
Total All Funds \$ 125,797.13  
Direct Deposit # 188141-188285

Payroll Draw Deduction Transfers  
Total All Funds \$ 22,723.33  
ACH # 1658

Check Date: 03/20/2024

Payroll Checks  
Total All Funds \$ 26,151.36  
Direct Deposit # 188286-188306

Payroll Deduction Transfers  
Total All Funds \$ 6,052.86  
ACH # 1677,1682

### **Accounts Payable**

Check Date: 03/22/2024

Warrants #: 255061-255182  
Total All Funds: \$1,374,056.43

EFT's #: 843-847  
Transfers #: 1674-1676, 1678-1681, 1683-1684  
Total All Funds: \$29,757.60

### **Resolutions**

- 2024-0245 Appointment of Kevin Kennedy as Voting Member to the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- 2024-0246 Approval of Cellebrite UFED Software Subscription from Cellebrite, Inc. for the Sheriff's
- 2024-0247 Approval of Verizon Wireless Equipment and Services for Push to Talk Wireless Project for the Corrections Department
- 2024-0248 2-Year Best Effort Internet Access Service Order from One World Telecommunications, Inc. for the Sheriff's Office
- 2024-0249 Purchase of One PC and Two Monitors from Dell, Inc. for the Corrections Dept.
- 2024-0250 Contract with Auto Rescue, LLC dba Ken's Auto Rescue for Towing Services
- 2024-0251 Award of the Jail Door Systems Upgrade, Interview Area and Laundry Security Upgrade Project to Chervenell Construction Company

- 2024-0252 Contract with BNB Mechanical, LLC for On-Call Plumbing Maintenance and Repair Services
- 2024-0253 Purchase of Two Refurbished Stretchers from Coast BioMedical Equipment for the Coroner's Office
- 2024-0254 Appointment of Voting Member to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for the Wallula Gap Solar Project

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman