

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Law and Justice Council**  
**Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Benton County Justice Center**

**Present**

Chuck Torelli – City of Kennewick Council Member  
Brigit Clary – City of Richland Police Chief  
Rob Guererro – Benton County Corrections Chief  
Dave Wheeler – Benton County Probation Manager  
David Giles – City of Prosser Police Chief  
James Bell – Benton County District Court Judge  
Jennifer Azure – Benton County District Court Judge  
Ryan Lukson – Benton County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Jared Kelly – West Richland Police Department Commander  
Thomas Croskrey – Benton County Sheriff  
Tiffany Runge – Superior Court Administrator  
Will McKay – Benton County Commissioner  
Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk  
Trevor White – Kennewick Police Department Commander  
Joe Burrowes – Superior Court Judge  
Diana Ruff – Superior Court Judge  
Cameron Fordmeir – Citizen Member  
Fred Brink – Citizen Member

Meeting called to order at 12:00 by Sheriff Tom Croskrey

**Introductions**

All members presented introduced themselves and Sheriff Croskrey introduced Katie Gillies as his CFO and the Clerk to the Council who will be present to take meeting minutes.

**New Business**

**1. New Citizen Members Approved by BC Commissioners – Brian Ace and Cameron Fordmeir**

- Cameron Fordmeir – Sheriff Croskrey introduced him and welcomed him to the Council

**2. Discussion on PSST reserve amounts by each jurisdiction.**

- Sheriff Croskrey asked Commissioner Will McKay how the County came to have a reserve in Benton County with opening up more funds.
  - Commissioner Will McKay discussed that it was the County’s goal to have one year in reserve, but now they are working on getting to a six-month reserve. Commissioners’ office staff is submitting a new budget for 1/1/23 that will include the new requests. And anyone that has applied for funding in the past is invited to apply for funding again.
  - Council Member Chuck Torelli asked how much funding is open, Ryan Lukson and Commissioner Will McKay discussed it was probably around 6 million.

- Chief Clary stated that someone in her department called the County and said they were turned down for submitting for PST funds, Ryan Lukson believes it has to do with it being county vs. city.
- Ryan Lukson discussed recurring expenses being submitted and additional bodies is what everyone needs, pushing for more bodies.
  - Commissioner Will McKay discussed the concern of hiring more staff and then laying off and everyone is hurting for staff again
  - Ryan Lukson discussed they would rather lay off then not get more bodies vs. losing people due to burnout.
  - Judge Joe Burrowes would hope everyone at the table could agree we all need more people.
- Commissioner Will McKay brought up that educating the community about PST is necessary, we are using the funds and what is supported by the funds
  - Council Member Chuck Torelli thought it would be good if someone was writing opinion pieces for local paper or working to educate the community
  - Commissioner Will McKay stated that Commissioner Delvin pushed to hire company to educate and push out the message regarding PST
    - Discussed that the main points to educate people is what can be gained and educate about what can be lost

### **3. Any information from Yakima about their strategy/plan for passing of their PSST.**

- In Chief Guerrero's absence, everyone agreed to move this forward to the following meeting, and Commissioner Will McKay and Sheriff Croskrey will be reaching out to Yakima to understand what they are doing –
  - Commander White to ask Chief Guerrero if he was taking the lead
- Big push to understand what Yakima is doing and ask the question of what they are doing
- Council Member Chuck Torelli – constituents concerned that we are just funding bodies so that the tax can never go away
- Judge Joe Burrowes – was there a strategy and group put together in 2014. Sheriff Croskrey is going to get ahold of Al Wehner regarding the plan from the previous time this tax was on the ballot

## **Old Business**

### **1. Confirmation from jurisdictions on PSST Commissioned Officer/Deputy allocation:**

- a. BCSO – 27, KPD – 15, RPD – 12.5, WRPD – 3, Prosser PD – 2 – **Total of 57 Commissioned Officers within Benton Co. agencies funded by PSST.**

It was discussed what positions in each jurisdiction – put document on our individual websites – Commissioner Will McKay will gather additional data with his staff

## **Other Business**

- Council Member Chuck Torelli recommends everyone look at Yakima's website because they have good information on their website
- Can someone have County Commissioner staff do a fact sheet – Commissioner Will McKay will take lead on this