

# WEEKLY REVIEW



BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
February 4, 2020

*This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).*

## Main Topics Discussed

### *Strategic Planning for County Offices – Andy Miller, Prosecuting Attorney & Ryan Brown, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney*

The Prosecutor's Office presented regarding the laws and requirements regarding the locations of County Offices and Departments with relation to the County Seat, located in Prosser. Approximately 16 years ago, the County had to defend its decision to locate multiple offices in Kennewick, in addition to offices in the County Seat, in the Washington State Supreme Court. The Prosecutor's Office wished to update and remind the County's current elected officials that we must always maintain offices, departments, and services in the County Seat (Prosser). The Commissioners appreciated the update and wished to remind Benton County citizens that the County has continued to maintain its services in Prosser and at this time has no intention of relocating the County Seat, as the location of County Seat has historical value and importance, while also providing offices and services to the larger population base in Tri-Cities. Auditor Brenda Chilton stated that her office still considers Prosser to be their home base, while still considering and balancing the needs of the Tri-Cities and Prosser communities. Treasurer Ken Spencer stated that the Treasurer's Office has locations in Prosser and Kennewick, with tax collection services provided mostly in Kennewick and finance and accounting mostly in Prosser. **No Board direction or vote.**

### *Recovery Center Feasibility Study – Gary Long, Kennewick Public Hospital District Commissioner*

The Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition and Kennewick Public Hospital District presented to the Commissioners regarding potentially turning the old Trios Hospital into a Recovery Center. The Coalition was formed about a year ago by a group of professionals and general individuals to work on issues in our community centered around substance abuse. One of the issues they have been working on is developing treatment options (detox, inpatient and outpatient services, sobering services, etc.) so residents of our community can receive help locally instead of having to be transferred to a facility out of town. They wish to conduct a feasibility study to determine if the hospital would: 1) structurally meet the needs; and 2) be financially viable. The feasibility study will cost approximately \$48,000, and the Kennewick Public Hospital District agreed to pay half of the cost, plus any additional cost overruns. The Coalition requested that Benton County pay not to exceed \$12,500 for a portion of the feasibility study. **The Board moved and seconded to allocate funds within the Human Services Fund in the amount of up to \$12,500 to pay for a portion of the feasibility study as presented. Motion carried.**

### *Position Requests and Discussion – Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager*

Over the past several months, the HR Department has been contacted by numerous departments/offices about the need for additional positions. The County has continued to improve efficiencies in technology and has maintained lower levels of staffing. At this time, the HR Manager would like to start the discussions of overall County staffing needs to determine where needs are and how/when they can be appropriately addressed. The following three positions are being requested: 1) HR Generalist (Human Resources), Non-Bargaining Grade 14 (\$22,000); 2) Information Systems Analyst III (Information Technology), Courthouse Union Grade 16 (\$50,000); and 3) Administrative Clerk (Sheriff's Office), Sheriff's Office Clerical Union Grade 9 (\$72,225). **The Board gave direction to staff to create a plan for staff growth and impacts to budget and requested that the three (3) positions brought forth today be tabled for further discussion and possible decision next week.**

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