

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 12, 2020



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 12, 2020. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Change Order No. 6 w/ Banlin Construction for the Justice Center Plumbing & Water Intrusion Project – Robert Blain, Director of Operations & Capital Programs

On June 4, 2019 the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 2019-470 and executed a contract with Banlin Construction, LLC for the Justice Center Plumbing and Water Intrusion Project in the amount of \$2,469,154.90 plus WSST. Five previous change orders have been approved for a combined total of \$294,153.89 plus WSST and an additional 53 contract days. Additional unforeseen items have been identified to complete the project, included in Change Order No. 6:

1. Adding a ramp at the new door in Pod K. Total cost: \$4,556.88.
2. Additional work in Pod K including plumbing routing changes, shower pan modifications, change in shower rod and curtain attachment, stainless steel wraps at the new door, a new exhaust fan, and relocation of existing electrical. Total cost: \$17,973.65.
3. Additional work in Pod T including plumbing changes, tile demolition and reinstallation, and an access panel and locks. Total cost: \$11,053.67.
4. Fabrication, installation, and painting a handrail for the existing and new ramp access into Pod K. Total cost: \$3,418.36.
5. Waterproofing the plumbing chases, per square foot price in the bid proposal. Total cost: \$12,235.93
6. Replacement of fiberglass sinks in the two janitor closets with stainless steel sinks. Total cost: \$5,845.23

These changes, combined into Change Order No. 6, are a total cost of \$55,083.75 plus WSST from the Capital Projects Fund and will not increase the contract time. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Chairman to sign Change Order No. 6 with Banlin Construction, LLC for the Justice Center Plumbing and Water Intrusion project increasing the contract amount by \$55,083.75 plus WSST for a new contract amount not to exceed \$2,818,392.54 plus WSST. Motion carried.**

Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program – Katie Gillies, Sheriff's Office CFO & Lisa Small, Corrections Department Procurement/Contract Coordinator

The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) release applications for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program, which aids eligible states, local governments, and tribes in preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). Approximately \$850 million is available through the CESF Program to help public safety agencies address the COVID-19 pandemic. Benton County is eligible for \$58,008 to be used for law enforcement purposes through this grant program. Allowable projects/programs include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment, hiring supplies, training, travel expenses, and addressing the medical needs of inmates. The Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Benton County Corrections Department worked together to prepare an itemized budget for each department for expenditures related to current and future expenditures and/or purchases in relation to COVID-19. Any amount of grant funds awarded to Benton County shall be divided between the Sheriff's Office, for \$26,059, and the Corrections Department, for \$31,949, to help offset the unexpected costs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Board moved and seconded to concur with the recommendation and authorize the Chairman to sign the application for funding under the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program in the amount of \$58,008 to be applied toward the allowable projects and purchases related to COVID-19. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Energy Communities Alliance Letter – Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager

The Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) put together a short letter, addressed to Congressional leadership, in support of a proposed \$7 billion stimulus package for the Department of Energy (DOE) Environmental Management Program (Hanford's program within DOE). This letter was circulated to local jurisdictions last week, with the request that said jurisdictions sign the letter of support. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter as presented on behalf of the Board in support. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Joint County Letter to Governor Inslee on COVID-19 Response – Commissioner Delvin

Benton County has been asked to join 13 other counties throughout the State in signing a letter addressed to Governor Inslee requesting that he allow counties to launch a joint effort to halt the spread of COVID-19 within their communities, while simultaneously allowing businesses to begin reopening. Counties throughout the state have been receiving plans from businesses detailing how they plan to safely reopen their operations while maintaining the health and safety of their patrons and the community. The counties are urging the Governor to allow local governments to lead the recovery effort, with the support of the State, to appropriately address the unique needs of each individual county. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the letter as presented on behalf of the Board in support. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Proposed Letter to Governor Inslee on Reopening Restaurants – Commissioner Small

Commissioner Small received a letter from a coalition of Benton and Franklin County restaurants and bars that have developed guidelines for the food service industry reopening. This coalition has requested that the County assist them with petitioning the Governor to allow the progression through the reopening phases to occur at a quicker pace in Benton and Franklin Counties than what is required in more densely populated counties. Commissioner Small requested that staff create a letter addressed to Governor Inslee outlining the requests of the coalition, including their original letter and their proposed guidelines for reopening. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the Chairman to sign the proposed letter, once completed, on behalf of the Board in support of reopening Benton County restaurants and other food service establishments. Motion carried.**

Other Business: Human Services & Programs During COVID-19 – Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Manager

The Human Services Manager presented to the Board three (3) items of importance, related to COVID-19 response.

1. Human Services requested that the Board allow their department to add an additional \$500,000 to the Emergency Housing Program (available through the end of 2020). This funding is already available and would be used for: 1) rapid rehousing for homeless persons needing assistance to secure permanent housing, and 2) eviction prevention which would be used for rental or utility assistance for persons that have faced difficulty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Screening for program eligibility occurs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during regular business hours. Due to COVID-19, these screenings will take place over the phone by calling (509) 737-2946. To be eligible for assistance, individuals must meet program income requirements. In addition, the department will prioritize assistance to individuals and families in the most need. **The Board moved and seconded to authorize the use of an additional \$500,000 from the Homeless Housing Fund as presented. Motion carried.**
2. Staff proposed an increase in allowable funding for veterans applying for assistance through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Additional details will be provided at next week's Board meeting on May 19.
3. The Affordable Housing Fund (2060) is supported with document recording fees and is used for capital projects. The spending for this fund is reviewed by a steering committee with representatives from all the cities in Benton County as well as County representatives. The steering committee will be holding a meeting next week to discuss how much money to release, after which a Request for Proposals will be issued by the Human Services Department at a later date.

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