

**Benton County Law & Justice Council
Meeting Minutes – 1/13/16**

Present: Craig Littrell, City of Kennewick Police Department
Rusty Morris, Citizen Representative
Ray Kofoed, Citizen Representative
Fred Brink, Citizen Representative
Dave Giles, City of Prosser Police Department
Brian McElroy, City of West Richland Police Department
John Hansens, Benton County Coroner
Andy Miller, Benton County Prosecuting Attorney
Shon Small, Benton County Commissioner
Paul Parish, City of Kennewick Council Member
Jerome Delvin, Benton County Commissioner
Katy Butler, Benton County District Court Judge
Jacki Lahtinen, District Court Administrator
Pat Austin, Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court Administrator
Robert Swisher, Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge
Eric Hsu, Benton County Office of Public Defense
Denise Gerry, Benton County Office of Public Defense

Mental Health Court – Judge Butler

- New Manager – unable to attend due to being part time. She will be full time in February.
- Modeling mental health court after the City of Spokane's program.
- Met with the Cities and a MOA has been drafted.
- Educate the attorneys how this program will work.
- Research with the community regarding housing.
- Met with jail staff regarding programs and referrals.
- Goal is to start April 1, 2016.

Gang & Crime Prevention – Commissioner Delvin

- Discussed funding with Franklin County, Cities of Pasco and Kennewick
- Franklin County and City of Pasco do not have the resources.
- Discussed with Benton County Law Enforcement and Schools (hit a wall with the schools)
- Community Level – Chief Hohenburg is a possibility for a contact person.
- RFP – will be posted sometime in February or March.
- Broad scope of what could be included – schools, organizations (Boys & Girls Club, Kiwanis Club, etc.).

Public Safety Sales Tax

- **OPD** - \$85,000 approximately for a new contract defender in superior court for 2015. This has been put off until 2016 due to the anticipated increase in case filings.

- **City of Kennewick** – hired a lateral officer from Benton County, two entry level officers, one additional officer and one support staff. There will be four additional officer positions hired in January.
- **Superior Court** – new seventh judge was hired in October, 2015.
- **Adult Drug Court** – increased to 45 people (original capacity).
- **Juvenile** – functional family therapy program up to 25 people, drug court has doubled in size to 25 and SAP will double its case load to 30.
- **City of Prosser** - \$140,000 - a school resource officer and one part time administrative personnel were hired.
- **City of West Richland** –three funded positions including one sergeant have been hired.
- **Benton County Coroner** – fully staffed – not requesting funds at this time, possibly in the next budget cycle this will change.

Benton County Website

- The Public Safety Sales Tax is now an independent department and tab on the home page of the website.
- This is designed to connect to all of the information regarding the sales tax.
- There will be a direct link to all of the cities information.
- Expenditures – reports from each department or program. Eric Hsu is looking into linking a subpage for departments and city expenditures.

Adjourn meeting at 12:30 pm.