

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
August 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr.
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Adam Fyall, Community Development Coordinator; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Human Services Administrator Ed Thornbrugh; DPA Ryan Brown; Deputy Treasurer Erhiza Rivera.

Workshop Agenda

Transportation Partnership

Commissioner Bowman said he was invited to be part of a steering committee of people involved in transportation issues. He said the primary purpose of the group would be to provide information to the legislature to pressure them to do something about transportation. He said there would be a few meetings and he would accept the invitation to attend, with the Board's concurrence. The Board agreed.

Salmon Walk

Commissioner Bowman reported on his attendance of the salmon spawning event.

Symposium for Superior Court

Commissioner Bowman said he was invited by the Office of Superior Court to attend a symposium for judges and other individuals regarding budgeting for their office. The Board concurred with Commissioner Bowman attending.

Human Services Update

Ed Thornbrugh said they were working on a scope of work and proposed budget for the agreement with the architectural firm and were on track to meet the deadline for the study for a CCRC.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 9, 2010 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “n”, pulling “i” (PA Line Item Transfer). Commissioner Bowman seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Central Services

- a. Purchase Agreement w/Trebron Company, Inc. for Anti-Virus Subscription
- b. Contract w/A & B Asphalt, Inc. for Sidewalk and Root/Drain Repair
- c. Lease Agreement w/Columbia Basin Pigeon Club

Juvenile

- d. Contract Amendment, #0663-98393-05, W/Dept. of Social and Health Services
- e. Food Service Contract Amendment w/Aramark Correctional Services
- f. Truancy Contract w/Prosser School District

Personnel

- g. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0504-101, Dept. 000

Planning

- h. SPV 09-03 – Vacation of 20 foot Drainage Easement in Badger View Estates

Prosecuting Attorney

- j. Employer Contract w/State of Washington Work Study Program

Public Works

- k. Public Hearing Authorization for Six-Year Road Program
- l. Approval of Franchise to Washington State University
- m. Vacation and Abandonment of Road Right of Way of Dunham Road
- n. Final Assessment Roll Amendment for County Road Improvement District #15, Cottonwood Drive

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:05 a.m.

City of Richland Local Revitalization Fund

Gary Ballew, City of Richland presented a proposed interlocal agreement with the City of Richland to participate in the local revitalization fund (state’s program for tax increment financing). He reviewed the proposed revitalization area (Horn Rapids Industrial Park) and said they were projecting it would take 5 to 6 years to develop. Additionally, he said the Port of Benton had already approved its participation. Mr. Ballew said Richland’s 2009 submittal was 1.2 seconds below the funding line along with proposals from five other cities, but the projects have now been approved in the 2010 Legislative Session. He said they would resubmit the application in September.

Commissioner Benitz agreed with partnering on this project and said he would support the interlocal agreement.

DPA Ryan Brown asked if the boundaries followed existing parcel lines and Mr. Ballew said no, but they were going through an action to segregate the property so it would follow parcel lines.

Commissioner Bowman said he would approve the concept, pending an action to approve the contract.

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved adoption of the interlocal cooperation agreement relating to Revitalization Area for Industry, Science and Education with the City of Richland, approval pending PA's review and authorizing the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Benitz seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:30 a.m.

Ordinance Amending Chapter 8.20 BCC – Telephone Excise Tax

Jim Barber, BCES, provide the draft ordinance including the update for the increase in the tax and also the collection from DOR. He said it looked like DOR would be responsible for sending out letters to carriers.

DPA Ryan Brown said the State mandated the change of collecting the tax (regardless of authorization of the tax increase) and it would need to change. He said the State also authorized the broadening of the tax base to increase and authorized the Board to increase the rate of the tax from 50 cents to 70 cents. He said the Board needed an ordinance to change the collection method regardless of what it decided to do about the other two issues. He said the ordinance had everything in it and the Board should decide what it wanted in and what it wanted out. He added that the Board could remove language at the public hearing, but could not add it back in.

Commissioner Benitz asked Ms. Rivera, Treasurer's Office, if they were comfortable with the new process. Ms. Rivera said they were and wanted to know if there was a duration period set on the payment method.

Mr. Barber said the effective date was January 1 for the new collection method and any increases would also be January 1.

Chairman Beaver asked about the language regarding loss of funding. Mr. Barber said the County would lose state support for 911 if it decided not to increase the tax.

Commissioner Benitz asked about receiving support from the cities on the 911 tax and asked SECOMM to send out a letter asking for support. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Bowman said that WSAC was looking at these issues regarding the State's heavy-handedness and the requirement that the County enhance the program or lose state support. He said he was not in a hurry to approve this because he wanted to know more about it and was still

uncomfortable until he knew more. Additionally, he said as part of the information he received he wanted to know how much the state and locals were now receiving since the tax was implemented.

Commissioner Benitz recommended the Board set a public hearing for the last week in September and go through the process (using the proposed draft as a basis), and get the cities to weigh in.

The Board agreed.

Mr. Brown asked if this would change how Benton County has been using its 50-cent tax. Mr. Barber stated that this legislation tightened up the funding so it would be used for 911 specific and there was a possibility that it would be used differently.

Vouchers

Check Date: 07/30/2010
Warrant #: 15377-15859
Taxes #: 07102
Total all funds: \$1,770,499.26

Check Date: 08/13/2010
Warrant #: 16269-16540
Total all funds: \$608,889.94

Check Date: 08/16/2010
Warrant #: 56690-56891
Direct Deposit #: 230998-231021
Total all funds: \$110,562.92

Check Date: 08/16/2010
Taxes #: 10110084
Total all funds: \$33,968.16

Total amounts approved by fund can be reviewed in the Benton County Auditor's Office.

Resolutions

10-469	Purchase Agreement w/Trebron Company, Inc. for Anti-Virus Subscription
10-470	Contract w/A & B Asphalt, Inc. for Sidewalk and Root/Drain Repair
10-471	Lease Agreement w/Columbia Basin Pigeon Club
10-472	Contract Amendment, #0663-98393-05, W/Dept. of Social and Health Services
10-473	Food Service Contract Amendment w/Aramark Correctional Services
10-474	Truancy Contract w/Prosser School District
10-475	Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0504-101, Dept. 000
10-476	SPV 09-03 – Vacation of 20 foot Drainage Easement in Badger View Estates

- 10-477 Employer Contract w/State of Washington Work Study Program
- 10-478 Public Hearing Authorization for Six-Year Road Program
- 10-479 Approval of Franchise to Washington State University
- 10-480 Vacation and Abandonment of Road Right of Way of Dunham Road
- 10-481 Final Assessment Roll Amendment for County Road Improvement District #15,
Cottonwood Drive

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman