

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Leo Bowman
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Absent: Commissioner Shon Small (Vacation)

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kely; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Human Services Manager Ed Thornbrugh; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; County Engineer Malcolm Bowie; DPA Ryan Brown; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Sheriff Steve Keane; Sgt. Carlos Trevino; Clerk Josie Delvin; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Lexi Wingfield, Personnel Assistant; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; DPA Reid Hay; Stuart Holmes, Auditor's Office; Larry Moser, Public Works; Erhiza Rivera, Deputy Treasurer.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 13, 2012 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "g". Chairman Beaver seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Auditor

- a. Interlocal Cooperative Agreement w/City of Richland for Ballot Drop Box

Central Services

- b. Authorization to Purchase Network Switches

Fairgrounds

- c. Contract w/Baisch Vegetation Management, Inc. for Spraying Services

Personnel

- d. Employee of the Month Award

Prosecuting Attorney

- e. Amendment to the Teamsters Local 839 Representing Juvenile Detention Collective Bargaining Agreement

Public Works

- f. Public Hearing Authorization for Application of Lightspeed Networks Inc. Franchise
- g. Purchase Authorization for Off-The-Road Loader Tires

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

Historical Preservation Advisory Committee

Duane Davidson introduced Mike Huntington, the newest member of the Historical Preservation Advisory Committee. He said Mr. Huntington was very involved in museums and had since retired and now did not have a conflict of interest. He added that Mr. Huntington was dubbed the “museum man”, was previously president of the historical cooperative and involved with the county museum and railroad museum and would bring expertise to the committee. He said he would present a resolution for the consent agenda adding Mr. Huntington to the committee, along with Tom Moak, Brenda Chilton, Fred Carol, and himself. Commissioner Bowman said that if a member was leaving the committee, a thank you letter for serving would be appropriate.

Gang Task Team Update

Sheriff Steve Keane and Sgt. Carlos Trevino updated the Board on the Gang Task Team activities. Sheriff Keane said he was happy with the way the gang team was progressing; they were making arrests and talking with the community. Also, based upon recent gang crime numbers, they were seeing that solvability of crimes was going way up and it was helpful to have the crime analyst to work with the team.

Sgt. Trevino gave the following updates:

Operational update: All five team members were trained and up and running; working with neighboring jurisdictions and attending meetings with Tri-Cities and Yakima gang units. Part of the process for gathering intelligence was looking at trends and filling out gang documentation forms to share information. In January and February there were 69 new gang member forms filled out where they did not previously have information and/or was a previously documented gang member but was now back on the radar. Additionally, there were 33 gang related calls reported to the team during the last two months.

Community education update: Mobile home parks were having a big problem in Finley and they specifically addressed that (some members were now moving on and not clustering). They have talked with all mobile home park managers in the County to assist and provide information to deal with gang activity.

Suppression Highlights: 10 search warrants, 20 felony arrests, 36 misdemeanor arrests, cleared 52 outstanding arrest warrants, seized four dangerous weapons and received two gang graffiti calls (the suspects were identified and arrested and the graffiti removed). He added that graffiti was more than just malicious activity, but the gang members were sending messages and threatening each other.

Trends: East end activity had slowed down with the members moving out; tagging in Prosser addressed and not currently seeing any activity. They will continue networking with other agencies, provide home visits, and finish up with the mobile home parks. They would also be giving a presentation on gang awareness to the County Road Department (sometimes they see gang graffiti and kids hanging around in county roads).

Grants: Received grants from the Richland Police Dept. (a multi-jurisdictional grant) and Kennewick Police Dept. (another multi-jurisdictional grant) and will be using for some overtime and training. Additionally, they were awarded a BNSF grant and would be purchasing some additional equipment with that money.

Executive Session - Litigation Update

The Board went into executive session at 9:29 a.m. with DPA Ryan Brown and DPA Reid Hay to discuss potential and pending litigation for approximately 30 minutes. Also present were David Sparks, Cami McKenzie, Loretta Smith Kelty, Melina Wenner, Steve Becken, Larry Moser, and Malcolm Bowie. Larry Moser, Steve Becken, and Malcolm Bowie left the executive session at 9:35 a.m. The Board came out of executive session at 9:48 a.m. Mr. Brown stated the Board discussed potential and pending litigation and took no action.

Unscheduled Visitors

Melina Wenner introduced Lexi Wingfield as the new Personnel Assistant.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Bowman said he attended a three-hour meeting with the Community Roundtable group (he reports on the condition of transportation); also spent time with Mike Huntington and Duane Davidson at Kiona Printing working on recording history from a senior member of society.

Chairman Beaver reported on his attendance at the Park Board meeting, Revolving Loan Fund meeting, and Council of Government meeting.

Claim for Damages

CC 2012-07: Received from Peter Vanourek on March 7, 2012.

Vouchers

Check Date: 03/05/2012
Taxes # 10112031-10112033
Warrant #: 53261-53288
Total all funds: \$1,918.809.04

Check Date: 03/05/2012
Warrant #: 233733-233834
Direct Deposit #: 71919-72518
Total all funds: \$2,095,174.59

Check Date: 03/15/2012
Warrant #: 233835-233854
Direct Deposit #: 72523-72721
Total all funds: \$110,529.73

Check Date: 03/15/2012
Taxes #: 10112034
Total all funds: \$33,086.30

Check Date: 03/16/2012
Warrant #: 54014-54237
Transfer #: 011603121
Total all funds: \$557,886.30

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

Resolutions

- 2012-167 Interlocal Cooperative Agreement w/City of Richland for Ballot Drop Box
- 2012-168 Authorization to Purchase Network Switches
- 2012-169 Contract w/Baisch Vegetation Management, Inc. for Spraying Services
- 2012-170 Amendment to the Teamsters Local 839 Representing Juvenile Detention
Collective Bargaining Agreement
- 2012-171 Public Hearing Authorization for Application of Lightspeed Networks Inc.
Franchise
- 2012-172 Purchase Authorization for Off-The-Road Loader Tires

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 am.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman