

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Ed Thornbrugh, Linda Ivey, Tracy Diaz, and Maria Loera, Benton-Franklin Human Services; and Sustainable Development Manager Adam Fyall.

Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant Application

Ed Thornbrugh presented a letter from Benton-Franklin CAC stating that based upon feedback from the community, they were proposing to hire a full-time bi-lingual Family Development Specialist with the grant money. This specialist would deliver services in the rural non-entitlement areas for Franklin County, specifically Connell, Mesa, Basin City, and the rural non-entitlement areas for Benton County, specifically Benton City, West Richland and Prosser.

Mr. Thornbrugh indicated this was the public hearing process that was required by the grant application.

Testimony

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

Commissioner Bowman asked for clarification on the services the grant would be providing. Mr. Thornbrugh said the plan was to remove the distance barrier to services that were currently being provided and expand delivery of those services into the specified rural areas. It would increase access to programs, but would not create new funds. Additionally, donated space for the increased program was already secured, along with other office supplies so the money would be used for staff and fuel for the vehicle to get to the rural areas.

Chairman Beaver asked what would happen to the program if the grant went away. Mr. Thornbrugh indicated they would eliminate the funding. He did say there were some local dollars the Board could approve for the program if that were to happen.

Chairman Beaver said the Board of Commissioners had the philosophy that if a grant went away then the program also went away. However, he was in favor of moving forward on this program and the opportunity to use pass-through funds.

Commissioner Small asked Mr. Thornbrugh if he believed this program was in the best interest of the residents of both Benton and Franklin Counties and Mr. Thornbrugh said it was.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the resolution in the matter of application for Community Development Block for Grant Public Service Funds. Commissioner Small seconded. Commissioner Bowman made a friendly amendment to include the Chairman signing the Title VI Certification. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

2012- 251: Approval of Application for Community Development Block Grant for Public Service Funds

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman