

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner Leo Bowman
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 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; Donna Holmes, Solid Waste; Sheriff Steve Keane; Sgt. Trevino; DPA Steve Hallstrom; Jacki Lahtinen; Clerk Josie Delvin; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; DPA Ryan Brown; Erhiza Rivera, Deputy Treasurer; Rosie Sparks, Auditor's Office.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of August 7, 2012 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the consent agenda items "a"- "l". Chairman Beaver requested item "k" (HDR Engineering Contract) be pulled for discussion. Commissioner Bowman seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Central Services

- a. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0502-101, Dept. 000

Coroner

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 109

Fairgrounds

- c. Authorization for Architectural & Engineering Services for Grandstand Facility Roof
- d. Bid Award for Purchase of John Deere Compact Excavator

Human Services

- e. Contract w/WA State Dept of Commerce for Community Development Block Grant

Office of Public Defense

- f. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 136
- g. Service Agreement w/J Azure for Indigent Legal Financial Obligations Docket
- h. Amended Agreement w/J Lilly for Indigent Legal Financial Obligations Docket

Public Works

- i. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0501-101, Dept. 650
- j. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0155-101, Dept. 000

Superior Court

- l. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 123

Gang Task Force Update

Sheriff Keane and Sgt. Trevino updated the Board on recent activities of the gang task force. Sgt. Trevino said they were still focusing on intervention, prevention and suppression and discussed the importance of collaboration and outreach programs. He indicated it had been very helpful to have the analyst join the team to address specific issues in a timely manner.

He said they had recorded 127 gang documentation forms through June of this year and had only tracked 41 for the entire year of 2011 so they were better able to track the gang members. Additionally, the calls for service had increased due to the collaborative effort (individuals were seeing gang activity and now reporting it).

He indicated they assisted with the Hogs & Dogs community event and would be making a physical presence at the Benton-Franklin Fair.

Additionally, they would now be focusing on narcotics and discussed a new outreach program that would be using prior gang members to pressure current members to get out of the gangs. There was a brief discussion on meth labs and it was indicated they didn't come across active meth labs in this area anymore (the drugs were coming from other areas (south)). Additionally, the gang units' focus was different than the high level efforts dealing with trafficking into this area.

Item "k" – Contract Amendment w/HDR Engineering for Feasibility Study of Waste Facility

Chairman Beaver said he was concerned about the County's ability to pay for a facility and he didn't want give an impression that once the study was done, that the County would be paying for a new building.

Commissioner Bowman asked about the amount of the contract and it was stated the initial contact was \$120,000 and the new amount was an additional \$30,000. Ms. Holmes said the initial search was complete and the properties that were researched were not viable options to do any planning. Therefore, they needed to check other options and privately owned properties. She said they just signed a grant that would allow \$125,000 to purchase a piece of property if available. However, they were not eligible for a trust fund loan due to the fact the County did not have a greenhouse gas policy. She said there was not currently any plan or funding for a new building by the cities and the counties and they were all struggling to find the answer. She indicated they were just trying to find a way to get a permanent facility (maybe just a piece of

property to have someone else come in and provide service or maybe a minimum building to begin the process.)

Commissioner Small said there was a concern the County might be on the hook and it didn't want to go forward with that possibility. Commissioner Bowman said he would be in favor with the understanding they were not committing to building.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the contract amendment with HDR Engineering. Commissioner Small seconded.

Discussion

Chairman Beaver said he would not be moving forward on a trust fund loan or debt on a new facility. He said the study and presentation were excellent; it was not a reflection of the study but he was just concerned about priorities.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Unscheduled Visitors

Cecil Kendall, West Richland, gave the Board some information on how an Oregon county was getting more money (just FYI). Also, he said it was his understanding from a discussion at a previous meeting that the County budget was approximately 80% criminal justice. He said without attending a Commissioner meeting he would not have known that information and he wanted the meetings to continue and he thought Commissioner Bowman previously suggested the County not hold regular meetings. Commissioner Bowman said he meant that he didn't know how much it cost to run the commissioner meetings and it was not a suggestion to stop, only a comment that the County needed to look at ways to save money, and maybe having less meetings would be one way to save.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Small reported on his attendance at the WSU Viticulture field day and Wine and Food Fest at the Clore Center. Additionally, he attended a meeting regarding the creation of Hanford (Atomic Age Celebration).

Commissioner Bowman said he previously made a suggestion regarding a mosquito control board but apparently there was a process in place that the County was following. He attended the RTPO meeting in Walla Walla (the federal government was now saying that Walla Walla was too big to be with Benton and Franklin counties) and would have to partner with Umatilla and Milton Freewater.

Additionally, he met with Senator Cantwell's staff and toured around Red Mountain and Benton City Interchange. He would be meeting today with Senator Ann Rivers to tour Walter Clore and Red Mountain. Additionally, next Monday would be meeting with Senator Hewitt, Rep. Walsh and Rep. Healy to tour the fish hatchery and WSU research center.

Chairman Beaver reported on his attendance at the Atomic Age Celebration and the exit interview with the State Auditor (and thanked Van Petty). Additionally, he thanked Sheriff Keane for his work on the gang task force.

Executive Session – Labor Negotiations

The Board went into executive session at 9:40 a.m. for up to 15 minutes with DPA Steve Hallstrom to discuss labor negotiations. Also present were Ryan Brown, Loretta Smith Kelty, Melina Wenner, David Sparks, and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out at 9:52 a.m. Mr. Hallstrom said that no decisions were made.

Vouchers

Check Date: 08/10/2012
Warrant #: 63106-63843
PCards #: 0812
Total all funds: \$646,962.77

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

Resolutions

- 2012-458: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0502-101, Dept. 000
- 2012-459: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 109
- 2012-460: Authorization for Architectural & Engineering Services for Grandstand Facility Roof
- 2012-461: Bid Award for Purchase of John Deere Compact Excavator
- 2012-462: Contract w/WA State Dept of Commerce for Community Development Block Grant
- 2012-463: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 136
- 2012-464: Service Agreement w/J Azure for Indigent Legal Financial Obligations Docket
- 2012-465: Amended Agreement w/J Lilly for Indigent Legal Financial Obligations Docket
- 2012-466: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0501-101, Dept. 650
- 2012-467: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0155-101, Dept. 000
- 2012-468: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 123
- 2012-469: First Professional Service Contract Amendment Between HDR Engineering and Benton County to Prepare a Feasibility Study – Future Moderate Risk Waste Facility

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:53 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman