

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 10, 2:03 p.m.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

**Present:** Commissioner Shon Small  
Commissioner Leo Bowman  
Alt. Clerk of the Board Marilu Flores

**Excused absent:** Chairman, James R. Beaver

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth

A presentation was made by Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) staff Eric Johnson, WSAC Executive Director, and WSAC President Paul Pierce (Skamania County Commissioner). Mr. Johnson began the meeting by indicating that it is WSAC's goal to conduct Courthouse briefings once every other year.

The Board was briefed on the 2012 legislative session and updated the Board on the following legislative issues:

- Budget
- Public requests
- General Government
- Land Use
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Human Services
- Public Safety
- Transportation
- Public Health
- Pension Reforms and Personnel

The Board was also updated on the following services:

- Training and Events
  - Grants
  - Public Records
  - Board of Directors' Meeting
  - Annual Conference
- Retrospective Rating Pool

- NACO & WSAC Business Services
  - US Communities
  - NACO Prescription Discount Card Program
- WSAC Budget
  - Financial Snapshot

Mr. Johnson asked the Board what county issues could be reviewed by WSAC:

- Local issues: Commissioner Small questioned the Open Meetings Act and when to advertise or not for meetings being attended by commissioners but conducted by other entities; specifically, tours by commissioners. Commissioner Bowman expressed a concern on application permits and the fact that they were down. There were bigger sales on homes with less assessed values. Homes with higher assessed values were not selling as quickly which is a concern for a source of revenue coming in. Discussion was done over attrition discussing the pros and cons.
- WSAC would be conducting regional roundtables during the summer and following up with Counties as to when those would occur.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:34 pm.

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Alt. Clerk of the Board

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Chairman