

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 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; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Clerk Josie Delvin; Susan Walker and Valerie Smith, Planning; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; DPA Ryan Brown; Erhiza Rivera, Treasurer's Office;

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of February 7, 2012 were approved as presented.

Consent Agenda

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

Animal Control

- a. Contract with Sign Crafters Inc. dba Signs Now

Central Services

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0502-101, Dept. 000
- c. Purchase Authorization for Microsoft Software for Upgrading County Network

Fairgrounds

- d. Interagency Agreement K838 w/Washington State Department of Agriculture
- e. Lease Agreement w/Gold Wing Road Riders

GIS

- f. Agreement w/City of West Richland for Orthophotography for 2012

Planning

- g. Agreement w/St of WA Dept of Ecology for Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update

Public Works

- h. Public Hearing Authorization for Zayo Group LLC Franchise

Sheriff

- i. Contract Amendment w/Dr. Brooks Watson II MD-MBA

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

North Red Mountain Groundwater Issues

Tom Tebb, Mark Kemner, Tom Mackie, and Ann Hoselton, Department of Ecology, gave a Powerpoint regarding groundwater issues on Red Mountain and briefly discussed the following:

- Upper Saddle Mountain Aquifer Concerns
 - Complaints of domestic wells going temporarily dry or needing to be deepened
 - More wells being drilled as parcels get smaller
 - Limitations due to geologic barriers
 - Area not served by municipal water or irrigation district
- Lower Saddle Mountain Aquifer Concerns
 - Deeper drilling not a good solution due to hot water; hydrogen sulfide; high sulfide, fluorides and chlorides; methane gas
- Concerns
 - Low average annual precipitation; irrigation returns flow away from area of concern; domestic returns likely leaving area than returning to the aquifers
- Planning Ahead – Consider the following:
 - Preservation through conservation and education
 - Allow expansion of public water services into areas of concern
 - Permitting conditions (lawn size limits or xeriscaping); incentives
 - Formation of LID
- Assistance from Ecology
 - Technology assistance and compliance; strategic planning
 - Feasibility study for aquifer storage and recovery project

Commissioner Bowman expressed his concerns about being required to regulate water. Mr. Tebb said they wanted to share knowledge so the County could make more informed decisions on water issues since counties shared the responsibility. However, they were not asking the County to be a water regulator (that was Ecology's job); just pointing out there was a problem coming up.

Prosser Economic Development Update

Deb Heintz, Scott Keller, and Charlie Bush gave an update on PEDAs as follows:

- Business Plan
 - New Committees/Board Members
 - Presentation of new plan at next meeting
- Prosser Leadership Program
- Clore Update – architect selected
 - Groundbreaking will begin late summer/early fall; opening one year later

- Vineyard Pavilion – have begun booking facility
- City of Prosser
 - Water tower – almost up and running
 - Discussions with Benton County Public Works regarding contract for maintenance on vehicles
 - Discussions regarding contracting out public safety dispatch – SECOMM
 - Mid-Columbia Library District
 - Fire Services – possibility of Regional Fire Authority
 - Big focus is on business attraction

Unscheduled Visitors

DPA Ryan Brown commented that the Board should keep in mind the water issues on Red Mountain when developing zoning relating to minimum lot size; additionally, the legal issue of availability of potable water when granting subdivisions.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Bowman said the legislative session was still going and he provided the most recent report on status of bills. Additionally, he stated the Kennewick UGA bill came out of the Senate and was now in the House and moving along.

Commissioner Bowman also provided a copy of a letter from WSAC to legislative leaders expressing WSAC’s desire to work on issues and find solutions and the NACO Newsletter (specifically relating to sewage sludge lawsuit).

Chairman Beaver said he appreciated last week’s elected officials meeting and expressed appreciation to the team getting together and helping out Franklin County to provide engineering services.

Vouchers

Check Date: 2/10/2012
 Warrant #: 51269-51784
 Transfers #: 010102121; 010102122; 011602121
 Total all funds: \$1,224,458.80

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

Resolutions

2012-095: Contract with Sign Crafters Inc. dba Signs Now
 2012-096: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0502-101, Dept. 000
 2012-097: Purchase Authorization for Microsoft Software for Upgrading County Network
 2012-098: Interagency Agreement K838 w/Washington State Department of Agriculture
 2012-099: Lease Agreement w/Gold Wing Road Riders

- 2012-100: Agreement w/City of West Richland for Orthophotography for 2012
- 2012-101: Agreement w/St of WA Dept of Ecology for Comprehensive Shoreline Master Program Update
- 2012-102: Public Hearing Authorization for Zayo Group LLC Franchise
- 2012-103: Contract Amendment w/Dr. Brooks Watson II MD-MBA

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman