

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting  
Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 9:00 a.m.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

**Present:** Chairman Shon Small  
Commissioner James Beaver  
Commissioner Jerome Delvin  
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 Kelty; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; DPA Ryan Brown.

#### SECOMM Discussion

Ms. Smith Kelty presented a draft letter to be sent to the cities of Kennewick, Richland, Pasco, and Franklin County. The letter included history regarding the concept of regionalization of emergency services, and the fact that Benton County was interested in exploring the concept of regionalization through a feasibility study.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Beaver moved to approve signing the letter and sending it out. Commissioner Delvin seconded.

#### Discussion

Commissioner Beaver said they needed to remind folks in the community that if they were going to request financial decisions, that it should be done in the board room addressing all three commissioners; he said he was not in favor of discussing financial issues outside the board room.

Commissioner Delvin said he reviewed the reports from E-Gov from September 2011 and believed the cost models they provided could work. He said the next step would be to examine models and address other issues but the study outlined some pretty good steps to take. He said he believed communication had been an issue and he wanted to sit down and have conversations with the other entities and move forward with some recommendations.

Chairman Small said after meeting with Washington State Emergency Management, he felt it would be best to have a second independent study with the State being involved to make sure all the work previously done was verified. He said this was a \$20 million project with \$6 million in annual costs. Additionally, he wanted to reflect that Benton County was aware Pasco was having huge safety concerns regarding radio operations and wanted to explore the idea of leasing air space until and if the regionalization occurred.

Ryan Brown said the offer to Pasco was really a BCES offer even though Benton County had a say in the matter and should be addressed in a separate letter.

The Board agreed to add language to the letter regarding the state being involved in the study and also reference the letter that would be going to BCES regarding an offer to have Pasco utilize the BCES infrastructure. These letters would be on the next regular agenda for final approval by the Board.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

---

Clerk of the Board

---

Chairman