

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m.
Benton County Justice Center
Kennewick, WA 99336

Present: Chairman Jerome Delvin
Commissioner Shon Small
Commissioner James Beaver
County Administrator David Sparks (via/videoconference – Prosser)
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Prosecutor Andy Miller; DPA Ryan Brown; Superior Court Judge Cameron Mitchell; District Court Judge Katy Butler; Jacki Lathtinen, Reva Kirby and Dixie Jamison, District Court; Paul Schut, Commissioners’ Office; Undersheriff Jerry Hatcher and Jon Law, Sheriff’s Office.

Discussion and Consideration of Repeal of Resolution 10-655 Relating to Credit for Payment of Court Fines and Costs Under Chapter 10.82 RCW

Andy Miller said this had been an issue and there were several meetings to discuss it, including with the cities, Law & Justice Council, and the Commissioners. He emphasized that the cities had been pushing to end the practice prior to the lawsuit being filed and they were in favor of discontinuing it. He said that he also supported ending the practice and rescinding the resolution.

Judge Butler said that if the Resolution were passed, obviously they would stop the practice. She said District Court had modified its policy and were also working with the Sheriff on modifying the work crew options and limiting amounts to be paid off by work crew. She said if an individual willfully failed to pay, they could have a consequence and she looked at their ability to pay, criminal history, and payment history in making that determination.

Chairman Delvin asked if community service was an option instead of fines and Judge Butler said that was not currently a program used by the County.

Judge Butler said she believed that work crew was an appropriate alternative and the Board had the authority and could consider setting a different amount to be worked off by work crew. Chairman Delvin said the Courts could present a proposal regarding the work crew amounts. Additionally, he viewed this strictly as a policy decision being made by the Board of Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve **Resolution 2015-860** - Rescinding Resolution 10-655 Relating to Credit for Payment of Court Fines and Costs Under Chapter 10.82 RCW. Commissioner Beaver seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Beaver said it was important to consider all options and they were always in favor of looking at ways to make things better.

Upon vote, the motion carried.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman