

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 6, 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; DPA Ryan Brown; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Susan Walker, Planning; Clerk Josie Delvin; Jacki Lahtinen; Rosie Sparks, Auditor; Sharon Paradis, Juvenile; Erhiza Rivera and Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office; DPA Steve Hallstrom; Superior Court Judge Cameron Mitchell.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of October 30, 2012 were approved.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 102
- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000

Board of Equalization

- c. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 103

Central Services

- d. Surplus of Personal Property

Commissioners

- e. Appointment of D Liikala to the Benton County Public Facilities District

District Court

- f. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 111

Facilities

- g. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110

h. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110

GIS

i. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 131

Human Services

j. Agreement w/Comprehensive/Dependency Health Services for Substance Abuse Treatment Services

Juvenile

k. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 171

l. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 173

m. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 174

n. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 173/174

Office of Public Defense

o. Indigent District Court Defense Agreement w/J Briggs dba Preszler & Associates

Planning

p. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 116

Prosecuting Attorney

q. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 117

r. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0120-101, Dept. 000

Public Works

s. Authorization to Purchase Grader Blade Cutting Edges from Western States Equipment Co.

Sheriff

t. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 120

Sustainable Development

u. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0135-101, Dept. 000

Treasurer

v. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 124

w. Agreement w/Manatron, Inc. for Purchase of Ascend Checkbook Module

WSU – Cooperative

x. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 108

Public Hearing – Ordinance Amendment – BCC 16.14.050 and 16.14.060

Mike Shuttleworth and Susan Walker presented the ordinance amendment to allow cities within Benton County to submit UGA boundary amendments for industrial uses every year based upon changes by state law for the comprehensive plan amendment process. Mr. Shuttleworth said the Planning Commission conducted its public hearing and voted to recommend approval to the Benton of Commissioners.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to adopt the Planning Commission's recommendations, findings, and conclusions and approve the ordinance amending Sections Section 16.14.050 and 16.14.060 to the Benton County Code. Commissioner Bowman seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Bowman asked about the sunset clause in 2015 and who would monitor that. Mr. Shuttleworth said the applications had to be submitted prior to December 1, 2015 and then the process went away.

Budget Workshop

David Sparks said they were still on schedule to certify taxes on November 27 and to adopt the final budget on December 18. He said his focus has been on the Sheriff's office and he was still working on some numbers with them for their budget but felt there would be significant adjustments to that budget. Mr. Sparks asked the Board for direction on setting the levy rate. Commissioner Bowman said he didn't want to raise the levy rate and stated there was also the optional 1%. Mr. Sparks stated the County added a significant program (Gang Task Force) and it was funded with one-time money knowing it would need a continued revenue source to support the gang task force, so maybe keeping the levy rate the same or lowering it could help support that program.

Commissioner Small recommended decreasing the levy rate by taking the levy growth that the law allowed for the biennium; he said he wanted to be clear there would not be a tax increase, just maintaining the existing property rate tax and this would help pay for costs that were budgeted for. He recommended Mr. Sparks prepare a resolution for public hearing to make the levy rate maintained flat. Commissioner Bowman said it could also be reduced slightly depending on how the formula might work out. The Board concurred.

Commissioner Bowman asked how the Board was going to set an example through the Commissioners' office to help reduce the gap in the budget.

Commissioner Small said he had been working with elected officials and the Sheriff's office and appreciated all the input. He indicated that everybody was still working to see what could be done to reduce the deficit and he was not interested in doing cuts across the board and that Mr. Sparks, Loretta Smith Kelty and Keith Mercer had been working on some ideas.

Mr. Sparks said he had a few ideas for policy changes to balance the budget. Additionally, they were looking at the VEBA program and said it was established when times were good and retirement contributions were low; additionally, the Board needed to really think through the labor issues. He said there were ways to bridge the deficit without any damages to services to the community. He indicated what they put together would be without reduced services to the Sheriff's office and felt it was a good compromise between the Sheriff and Commissioners' office.

Commissioner Bowman asked about review of the vehicle policy and Mr. Sparks said that Loretta Smith Kelty and Aileen Coverdell were working on that issue.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Small said he received an email regarding an ordinance relating to permitting firearms at outdoor festivals and asked Mr. Brown if the Board needed to review this matter.

Ryan Brown said it was from a group that was looking at city and county ordinances that was adopted in 1975. Mr. Shuttleworth said the permitting process was through the Commissioners' office and he said he knew of only one inquiry in 20 years with no action taken. Mr. Shuttleworth said the County currently did not have any zones that allowed this kind of activity and it was his recommendation to repeal the ordinance.

Commissioner Bowman said he would be interested in reviewing the updated ordinance and said he still believed it should be illegal to carry firearms to those types of activities and would like to do whatever possible to discourage those activities. Mr. Brown said he would need to compare what was in place to what the state law allowed. The Board agreed.

Executive Session – Labor Negotiations

The Board went into executive session at 9:23 a.m. for up to 15 minutes with DPA Steve Hallstrom to discuss labor negotiations. Also present were David Sparks, Cami McKenzie, Ryan Brown, Loretta Smith Kelty, and Melina Wenner. The Board came out at 9:38 a.m. Mr. Hallstrom stated the Board discussed labor negotiations and took no action.

Vouchers

Check Date: 11/02/2012
Warrant #: 68604-69072
Total all funds: \$539,227.45

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

Resolutions

2012-644: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 102
2012-645: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0111-101, Dept. 000
2012-646: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 103
2012-647: Surplus of Personal Property
2012-648: Appointment of D Liikala to the Benton County Public Facilities District
2012-649: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 111
2012-650: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110
2012-651: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110
2012-652: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 131
2012-653: Agreement w/Comprehensive/Dependency Health Services for Substance Abuse Treatment Services
2012-654: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 171
2012-655: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 173
2012-656: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 173/174
2012-657: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0115-101, Dept. 174
2012-658: Indigent District Court Defense Agreement w/J Briggs dba Preszler & Associates
2012-659: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 116
2012-660: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 117

- 2012-661: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0120-101, Dept. 000
- 2012-662: Authorization to Purchase Grader Blade Cutting Edges from Western States Equipment Co.
- 2012-663: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 120
- 2012-664: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0135-101, Dept. 000
- 2012-665: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 124
- 2012-666: Agreement w/Manatron, Inc. for Purchase of Ascend Checkbook Module
- 2012-667: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 108
- 2012-668: Ordinance Adoption – Comp. Plan Amendments

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:38 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman