

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman Shon Small
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Commissioner James Beaver
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; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Ed Thornbrugh, Human Services; DPA Ryan Brown; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Clerk Josie Delvin; Sheriff Steven Keane; Sgt. Trevino; Bob Woody, IT; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Aileen Coverdell, Auditor's Office; DPA Steve Hallstrom; Michelle Simpson, Treasurer's Office; Auditor Brenda Chilton.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of December 3, 2013 were approved.

Review Agenda

Chairman Small made the following changes to the agenda: added an executive session to discuss union negotiations; removed the discussion items for Barker Ranch Easement and OPD Update.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "r". Commissioner Beaver seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Board of Equalization

- a. Copier Lease Agreement w/Xerox

Building

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0149-101, Dept. 000

Commissioner

- c. 2014 Organization of Benton County Commissioners

District Court

- d. Interpreter Service Contract w/A Uvalle

- e. Interpreter Service Contract w/M Rudeen

Fairgrounds

- f. Contract w/Pasco Tire Factory For As Needed Tire Repair

Human Services

- g. Contract w/Catholic Family & Child Service of the Tri-Cities for Shelter Plus Care
- h. Purchase Authorization from Ben Franklin Transit for Bus Tickets and Passes

Juvenile

- i. Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/H Villani
- j. Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/D Stovern
- k. Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/C Bennett
- l. Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/S Henwood
- m. Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/D Purcell

Personnel

- n. County Claim CC2013-10
- o. County Claim CC2013-16
- p. County Claim CC2013-20

Prosecuting Attorney

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

Treasurer

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

State Auditor Entrance Conference

Dustin Kinley and Jim Jones provided the Board with information regarding the Benton County Accountability Audit. Mr. Kinley said this differed from the financial statement audit and was unique because they were making sure policies and procedures were followed and looking at statewide issues. He said it was more of an “information gathering” audit. He reviewed the areas and departments they would be looking at and the reporting levels for any audit recommendations.

Commissioner Delvin was concerned about the cost and asked if the accountability audit was required by the legislature. Mr. Jones said the accountability audit was required and it was being done separate from the financial audit; they were looking at items considered higher risk and choosing what they wanted to look at. Mr. Kinley said the total audit costs were pretty much the same as last year but the financial and accountability portions were split. He said it should be done by mid-January.

Gang Enforcement Team Update

Sheriff Keane said when they first proposed the gang task force they tried to quantify the cost of doing nothing. He said they looked at other cities and counties so they knew what it was costing the counties and cities to deal with the gang problem. He provided the following stats for 2010:

- Yakima County reported 17 homicides with a cost of roughly \$250,000 to \$400,000 to prosecute each case; they employ three full-time prosecutors that do nothing but prosecute gang crimes; Yakima County Jail in 2010 spent \$7.3 million just to house gang members;

- The cost of treating gunshot victims in Sunnyside Community Hospital - they had 39 gunshot victims and estimated it cost \$100,000 for each victim to stabilize them; 9 of 10 of those victims were indigent;
- Gang graffiti was affecting the housing market and businesses; talked realtors and doctors and it was obvious the gang graffiti was affecting property values; businesses and professionals did not want to move into the Yakima County community;
- Sunnyside - half of their resources were used to combat gangs; they had a pretty good handle on it and then cut back and the gang problem became worse.

Sheriff Keane said it was hard to quantify, but he wanted to show the Board the investment they were making in the long run saved the County money. He said the gang team had been in place for two years and they saw a 71% reduction in gang graffiti and 45% reduction in gang crime.

Sgt. Trevino indicated the plan they put in place from the beginning had worked and continued to work. He briefly discussed the following:

- Intervention and Prevention – the focus was on community partnerships. He said they formed good relationships and also worked close with corrections officers to document gang members; working with the street crimes group in Pasco and parents, churches, and schools; a new gang resistance and education program in middle schools, like DARE but for gangs;
- Suppression – they were holding criminals responsible and had a zero tolerance policy;
- Highlights for statistics:
 - 137 search warrants
 - Filed 244 felony charges and 493 misdemeanor charges
 - Cleared 709 warrants of arrest for wanted gang members
 - Put 389 people in jail for gang crimes
 - Recovered 37 dangerous weapons
 - 71% graffiti reduction – they continued to focus on graffiti because it was the most visible gang crime
 - Narcotics – recovered 16 pounds or 7 kilos; vehicles and over \$22,000 in cash (all from drug related money)
 - Gang related crimes down 45%

Sgt. Trevino then introduced the current gang team unit to the Board.

Other Business

Chairman Small said that Mr. Brown prepared the letter to Yakima County regarding the Aging & Long Term Care Interlocal Agreement and asked the Board if it wanted to approve it.

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to approve the letter to Yakima County Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed ALTC Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Executive Session – Union Negotiations

The Board went into executive session at 9:36 a.m. for up to 20 minutes with DPA Steve Hallstrom to discuss union negotiations. Also present were David Sparks, Cami McKenzie, Ryan Brown, Melina Wenner, and Loretta Smith Kelty. The Board came out at 9:55 a.m. Mr. Hallstrom said no decisions were made.

Vouchers

Check Date: 12/05/2013
Warrant #: 236561-236624
Direct Deposit: 89586-90188
Total all funds: \$2,605,799.15

Check Date: 12/05/2013
Warrant #: 92476-92496
Taxes #: 10113123-10113131
Total all funds: \$2,387,619.15

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

Resolutions

2013-880: Copier Lease Agreement w/Xerox
2013-881: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0149-101, Dept. 000
2013-882: 2014 Organization of Benton County Commissioners
2013-883: Interpreter Service Contract w/A Uvalle
2013-884: Interpreter Service Contract w/M Rudeen
2013-885: Contract w/Pasco Tire Factory For As Needed Tire Repair
2013-886: Contract w/Catholic Family & Child Service of the Tri-Cities for Shelter Plus Care
2013-887: Purchase Authorization from Ben Franklin Transit for Bus Tickets and Passes
2013-888: Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/H Villani
2013-889: Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/D Stovern
2013-890: Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/C Bennett
2013-891: Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/S Henwood
2013-892: Criminal Indigent Services Agreement w/D Purcell
2013-893: Denial of County Claim CC2013-10
2013-894: Denial of County Claim CC2013-16
2013-895: Denial of County Claim CC2013-20
2013-896: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0120-101, Dept. 000
2013-897: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 124

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman