

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2014 9:00 a.m.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

**Present:** Chairman James Beaver  
Commissioner Jerome Delvin  
Commissioner Shon Small  
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; County Engineer Daniel Ford; Ed Thornbrugh, Human Services; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; DPA Ryan Brown; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Clerk Josie Delvin; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Dean Docken, Facilities Manager; Donna Holmes, Public Works; Bob Woody, IT; Marty Groom, Public Works; Treasurer Duane Davidson.

#### Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of January 7, 2014 were approved.

#### Consent Agenda

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

#### Commissioners

- a. Rural Domestic Water Supply Management in the Yakima Basin
- b. Canvassing Board Appointment

#### Facilities

- c. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110
- d. Contract w/Intermountain Material Testing for Material Sampling & Testing Services

#### Fairgrounds

- e. Updating the Fairgrounds Improvement Board's Guidelines & Expectations
- f. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0124-101, Dept. 000

#### Human Services

- g. Appointment of J McKinney to the Human Services Advisory Board
- h. Inpatient Health Plan Amendment w/Greater Columbia Behavioral Health
- i. Amended Agreement w/Lourdes Counseling Center for Coordinated Entry System

### **Juvenile**

- j. Contract w/Inter-City Legal Processing & Messenger Service, LLC

### **Office of Public Defense**

- k. Agreement w/M Alexander for Superior Court Public Defense Services

### **Parks**

- l. Appointment of M Crowder to the Benton County Park Board
- m. Appointment of D Ruff to the Benton County Park Board

### **Public Works**

- n. Purchase Authorization from Wilbur-Ellis Company for Herbicide Materials
- o. Purchase Authorization from Crop Production Services for Herbicide Materials
- p. Public Hearing Authorization for Franchise Renewal for Charter Communications
- q. Contract w/Tapani, Inc. for the Run-Off Road & Intersection Safety Project

### **Sheriff**

- r. Purchase Authorization from Larsen Firearms for Rifles
- s. Amendment of Resolution 2013-515 for Purchase Authorization from Columbia Ford
- t. Amendment of Resolution 2013-706 for Contract Amendment w/LexisNexis

### **Trust for Public Lands Presentation**

Dee Frankfourth, Trust for Public Lands, and Dave Metz, FM3 (national pollster) gave a Powerpoint presentation on the support for a Conservation Futures Ballot Measure in Benton County. She said they were not seeking a decision, but rather an opportunity for the Board to reflect on data presented and learn if there was support.

Dave Metz reviewed the Powerpoint and highlighted the following information:

- Survey Methodology and Context for Potential Ballot Measure
- Favorable Opinion Of the Parks and the Board of Commissioners
- Top Concerns – Government waste, Hanford job cuts, and public education
- A majority of voters initially supported the proposal, especially when the cost impact was clear; total yes – 54%; most want to protect open space and maintain public access to parks and outdoor recreation
- Majority of those who rejected the proposition did so because they oppose new taxes
- Support for the Conservation Futures Fund was on par with potential increase for criminal justice sale tax
- More than three in five voters would back the measure at its projected cost of \$11/year
- Two-thirds would be more inclined to support knowing it would make Benton County eligible for matching grants
- Most voters say that including a 10-year time limit would make them more likely to support the measure
- Even after an opposition message, most voters remained supportive
- Conclusions
  - Efforts to pass a conservation futures tax faced conservative electorate with innate skepticism about new taxes
  - Favorable factors
    - High level of park and trail usage among local voters

- Positive regard for public and private organizations that advocate conservation
- A fiscal impact that most voters clearly find manageable
- Particular projects that inspire more widespread voter enthusiasm
- Net effect of these factors is a measure that achieves initial majority support (54%)
- These numbers can be improved – the survey models a strong “yes” campaign and in that context support rises to three in five voters (61%)

Mr. Frankfourth said there was a strong possibility for success based on this information and the Trust for Public Lands had over 80% track record to bring these measures to success (the higher the survey opinion, the stronger the success rate). She said that 13 of 39 counties in Washington had a Conservations Futures Tax and 12 were done administratively by County Commissioners; this could be done by County Commissioners or go to a ballot of the public. The polls showed voter support as high as 60% and could go to a vote in November; they could ask Commissioners to formally refer the matter to the November ballot.

The Board discussed the possibility of bonds and the next step to proceed. It would be the Board’s decision to put on the ballot but the campaign would be given community driven. No decisions were made at this time.

### **Construction Update/HVAC Update**

Dean Docken gave updates on the following projects:

- Courthouse Shuffle – he said they were well underway – demo work was being completed on first floor hallway (they had a few issues); were working in the Treasurer’s office and next week would be moving GIS to Planning while their space was being renovated. May 21 was the estimated finish date.
- Fairgrounds Restroom – stem walls and footings were complete along with the underground work; hopefully would pour slab this week or early next week (they did find five septic tanks they did not know about).
- Carpet at the Justice Center – finishing up District Court today; would finish up PA’s office and should be complete this weekend.
- HVAC Courthouse – Design West came up with a schematic design and he developed a strategy to relocate employees during the upgrade (use office trailers in the parking lot across from the Engineer’s Bldg). He presented a Resolution for Board approval to have Design West engineer the project.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to approve resolution authorizing Design West Architects to provide architectural and engineering services for the Benton County HVAC Upgrade. Commissioner Delvin seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

## **Road Maintenance Program Discussion**

Dan Ford and Marty Groom reviewed the current Bituminous Surface Treatment (BST) program and said that historically Benton County applied a BST to all paved roads on a seven year cycle. However, Mr. Ford proposed several of the roads in each of the zones skip the seven year cycle due to the lower average daily traffic volume and be put on a 14 year cycle. He said the proposed rotation would save approximately \$200,000 per year that could be applied to an overlay program and/or rehabilitating gravel roads.

The Board asked about the public's reaction to this and Mr. Groom used the Reata area as an example stating they would propose to split into two areas and cycle one at seven years and other at seven years. He believed the public would like the rotation because it was a high traffic area and they didn't like the County in there doing the preventative maintenance. The Reata area was a high traffic area but did not have a lot of large trucks tearing up the road so they didn't see any adverse effects on the citizens.

The Board agreed with the proposal.

## **Kennewick Maintenance Shop Discussion**

Dan Ford and USKH Engineering presented the estimate and site plan for the Kennewick Maintenance Shop. He said they were at completion of concept design and the ease of access on site was great; it was a 10 acre site and they were developing 6-7 acres of that site. Development would include (maintenance shop, salt and sand storage, vehicle storage, pressure washer station and fueling station) and they were using the Prosser Shop as a benchmark for design and looked at areas to reduce the costs overall.

- Outside Facilities - \$607,700 for raw costs
- Buildings - \$1.5 million
- Building & Site Development subtotal - \$2,144,700
- Total project cost - \$3,115,184; with removal of second floor storage would reduce \$76,668; Mr. Sparks said he asked that they include the storage since that would be an easy way to add storage for the County without a lot of cost

Mr. Ford said they had \$1.5 million set aside for the project but might have to extend out further to gain more funds or look at other funding options.

In response to a question, USKH stated the building should last 30-40+ years and the concept was designed for growth; additionally, they were having geotechnical testing and did not anticipate trouble with the soils, but if there were, they would build for that.

The Board discussed the current facility and whether it would be used for other programs or be sold for funds to offset construction. Additionally, Mr. Ford said they would utilize their employees for site grading or site survey to offset costs, although small.

## **WA State Hazardous Waste Stewardship**

Donna Holmes discussed the E-Cycle Washington stewardship program for recycling electronics to keep them out of the landfills. She asked the Board if it would support the proposed program for paints and compact fluorescent light bulbs to assist the proposed legislation and possibly influence the passage of these bills. She indicated that approval of this would save the County money to dispose of these products. She presented a draft letter in support of the program.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Small moved to approve the Board's support of this program. Chairman Beaver seconded.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Delvin said that recyclers came to him when he was a Senator regarding these programs and he probably voted no because it put the burden on the manufacturers. He said he felt individuals should pay the cost and not the manufacturers. He indicated he was not in favor of signing a letter in support until he heard both sides and would rather wait and see if there was a consensus.

Commissioner Small withdrew his motion and Chairman Beaver concurred.

## **Aging & Long Term Care Discussion**

Ryan Brown said the group agreed with forming a non-profit to run the agency, however he was contacted by the Yakima County attorney and it appeared they also wanted to form a Council of Government and there was discussion on how the COG and 501c3 would relate. He said it was his opinion they should not have both. He suggested he communicate that Benton County did not want to form a COG, just a non-profit and they could still meet their self-imposed deadline. If not, it could continue to run the way it had been running for years.

The Board agreed.

## **Other Business**

### **Liquor License Application – Shooters Sports Bar**

Chairman Beaver presented the application and comments from the Sheriff's Office regarding the Shooter's Sports Bar liquor license application. Commissioners Small said he didn't have a problem with the application at this time. The Board agreed.

### **Veterans' Assistance Fund**

Chairman Beaver said he attended a meeting with many veterans present and the new changes to the policy were discussed. He suggested the Board rescind the newest policy since it was not meeting the obligation of having an established veterans' advisory board and have Human Services meet with these folks and talk about language in the policy.

Ed Thornbrugh said Human Services took over administration of this fund from the Auditor's office and he had not been able to find the bylaws establishing the advisory board. He said if the resolution were rescinded, he wanted to make sure Human Services would continue to oversee administration to continue to support the veterans. He added that he had met with the group on December 18 and acknowledged their concerns in a letter dated December 19 and said they had tried to be forthcoming.

Mr. Thornbrugh said the veterans didn't like some of the changes regarding accountability and the fund should be treated as an emergency fund rather than an entitlement fund. He said they met with the Auditor's office and agreed Human Services should administer the fund and came back with consensus to change the policy accordingly.

Mr. Sparks commented that he administered that fund for many years and there was a sense of entitlement and it was a matter of managing it to what it was designed for; he said there had never really been a functioning advisory committee.

Commissioner Small recommended that Mr. Thornbrugh continue to work with the PA and look at a new resolution. He said he believed the program in Human Services was appropriate.

Commissioner Delvin also agreed to continue on with Human Services, send it to the VFW, and look at convening an advisory board to receive input and work out the issues and maybe slow down a bit.

Mr. Sparks stated that if the money in this fund dried up by changing the policy, it would be diverted from Current Expense. However, the fund was currently doing okay.

The Board agreed to keep moving forward, rescind the resolution, but keep it under Human Services and operate under the 2007 policy until an advisory board was established.

#### Transit Board Meeting

Chairman Beaver reported that he attended the Transit Board meeting for Commissioner Delvin.

#### Claim for Damages

CC 2014-02: Received on January 13, 2014 from Christopher Owen

#### Vouchers

CORRECTION – Payroll Checks

Check Date: 12/05/2013

Warrant #: 236523-236624

Direct Deposit #: 89586-90188

Total all funds: \$2,605,799.15

**CORRECTION – Payroll Deductions**

Check Date: 12/05/2013

Warrant #: 92476-92496

Taxes #: 10113123-10113131

Total all funds: \$2,387,619.15

Check Date: 01/03/2014

Payroll Checks

Warrant #: 236657-236753

Direct Deposit #: 90430-91032

Total all funds: \$2,143,215.86

Check Date: 01/03/2014

Payroll Deductions

Warrant #: 94468-94487

Taxes #: 10114011-10114019

Total all funds: \$2,143,389.99

Check Date: 1/10/2014

Warrants #: 94626-94641

Total all funds: \$25,780.67

Check Date: 01/10/2014

Procurement Cards: #0114

Total all funds: \$220,703.63

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

**Resolutions**

- 2014-037: Rural Domestic Water Supply Management in the Yakima Basin
- 2014-038: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110
- 2014-039: Contract w/Intermountain Material Testing for Material Sampling & Testing Services
- 2014-040: Updating the Fairgrounds Improvement Board's Guidelines & Expectations
- 2014-041: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0124-101, Dept. 000
- 2014-042: Appointment of J McKinney to the Human Services Advisory Board
- 2014-043: Inpatient Health Plan Amendment w/Greater Columbia Behavioral Health
- 2014-044: Amended Agreement w/Lourdes Counseling Center for Coordinated Entry System
- 2014-045: Contract w/Inter-City Legal Processing & Messenger Service, LLC
- 2014-046: Agreement w/M Alexander for Superior Court Public Defense Services
- 2014-047: Appointment of M Crowder to the Benton County Park Board
- 2014-048: Appointment of D Ruff to the Benton County Park Board
- 2014-049: Purchase Authorization from Wilbur-Ellis Company for Herbicide Materials
- 2014-050: Purchase Authorization from Crop Production Services for Herbicide Materials

- 2014-051: Public Hearing Authorization for Franchise Renewal for Charter Communications
- 2014-052: Contract w/Tapani, Inc. for the Run-Off Road & Intersection Safety Project
- 2014-053: Purchase Authorization from Larsen Firearms for Rifles
- 2014-054: Amendment of Resolution 2013-515 for Purchase Authorization from Columbia Ford
- 2014-055: Amendment of Resolution 2013-706 for Contract Amendment w/LexisNexis
- 2014-056: Approving Design West Architects – Architectural & Engineering – HVAC Upgrade

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman