

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 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 Kelty; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Bryan Perry, Safety Coordinator; Susan Walker, Planning; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; DPA Ryan Brown; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Clerk Josie Delvin; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court; Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of October 2, 2012 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "n", pulling "i" and "k" for discussion. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Central Services

- a. Purchase Authorization from Jo Bee Company for FTR Software & Audio Mixer
- b. Contract Termination Letter with Imagenet, LLC

Juvenile

- c. Contract w/The Boys & Girls Club of Benton & Franklin Counties for Fast Forward Program
- d. Contract w/Pasco School District for Case Management and School Engagement Programing

Office of Public Defense

- e. Terminating Service Agreement w/E Hogue
- f. Terminating Public Defense Contract w/R Thompson
- g. Terminating Public Defense Contract w/M Mooney
- h. Terminating Public Defense Contract w/K Holt

Public Works

- j. Covenant Agreement to Utilize Road Right of Way in Lampson Homesites
- l. Lease Agreement w/Horrigan Farms, Inc to Crush & Stockpile Road Surfacing Materials

Superior Court

- m. Proclamation for National Adoption Day
- n. Proclamation for Youth and Justice Day

Item “k” - Approval of 2013-2018 Six-Year Road Program

Commissioner Bowman complimented the Public Works Department for its work on the Six Year Road Program. He said there was talk in the Senate that RTPO/Federal money that was not being spent could be taken away and might not be preserved for projects, so it was a good thing that the Road Department was finding ways to spend the allocated money.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the Six-Year Road Program (consent agenda item “k”). Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Item “i” - Contract w/SWN Communications, Inc. (Send Word Now)

Commissioner Small said he wanted to pull that contract so it could be reviewed over the next couple of weeks to see where the County was in the budget process before proceeding. The Board agreed.

Meeting Cancellation

The Board agreed to cancel the meeting of October 16, 2012 due to the fact that two commissioners were scheduled for jury duty.

Red Mountain Transportation Project Update

Don Whitehouse, Regional Director for Dept. of Transportation, along with Chuck Dawsey, and Donna Noski updated the Board on the Red Mountain Transportation Project. Mr. Dawsey said there was a lot of interest in the project, they had met with congressional members, and it was getting a fair amount of momentum and significant amount of local support.

Don Whitehouse said this project was talked about a lot in the past legislative session, even though there was no major revenue for transportation. However, the legislature passed some increases in fees and license renewals to keep the preservation program going that would be used for funding projects. He said there were 13 projects statewide selected to keep alive (and \$1 million dedicated to this project this session). He said that money was added to the money received the year before to buy the property in Benton City. He said they would start seeing money coming in November and it would be \$1 million over three years. He said about half would be used to get the Benton City roundabout ready for construction and the other half would be used for the preliminary design on the new interchange. Final design on the roundabout would start this winter and they had the money to purchase all the right-of-way and do the design work for Phase I and be shovel-ready by next fall. He said they would just be waiting for

construction funds (about \$3 to \$3.5 million) and could start construction in the winter of 2013-14 (if those funds were allocated this session). He said the Interchange had money leftover from other Benton County earmarks (about \$1 million) to be added to the other \$.5 million from the fees to get started on the design. He said the first hurdle was the interchange justification report to the feds to allow the break in access on the interstate.

Mr. Dawsey said they would continue to keep the Board updated and would ask that the County continue to send the message that it supported the project.

Commissioner Bowman asked if there were any conversations with the candidates for governor since there would be a new governor next year and Mr. Dawsey said that both candidates were on record as supporting the project.

Donna Noski said that West Richland would be looking at getting the urban growth boundaries extended out to the interchange and would look for support on that issue.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Small said he had spending time with David Sparks the previous week discussing the budget. He commented that the County was much more than operational costs but included fixed costs and capital costs and encouraged everyone to look at the costs and review the capital facilities plan. He said it was an expensive business to keep running and they were trying to use capital funds available to keep things running.

Commissioner Bowman said he attended the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee meeting in Ellensburg and presented a summary of the framework of the legislative agenda. Additionally, he discussed the public records request issue and asked if there was a way to find out the number spent on public records requests. He said maybe they could use that number to talk to the legislature on how that money could be used to enhance county services. Mr. Sparks indicated that most of it was lost staff time so it would be hard to quantify.

Commissioner Bowman also discussed the affordable housing funds and asked why there was \$2 million in the pot that was not being spent. He said he would be glad to try and figure out what was happening and the Board agreed.

Chairman Beaver asked the Board if it wanted to support the effort by the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce regarding the green power issue and asked about getting it on the agenda for approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the resolution in support of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Effort to Amend Washington's Energy Independence Act. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Beaver also reported on his attendance at the Council of Governments meeting and candidate forums for the League of Women Voters, Benton City, and Downtown Association.

Vouchers

Check Date: 10/5/2012
Warrant #: 234673-234780
Direct Deposit #: 77857-78454
Total all funds: \$2,129,393.03

Check Date: 10/5/2012
Taxes #: 10112103-10112105
Warrant #: 67116-67144
Total all funds: \$1,913,353.01

Check Date: 10/5/2012
Warrant #: 66931-67115
Total all funds: \$428,623.26

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

Resolutions

- 2012-581: Purchase Authorization from Jo Bee Company for FTR Software & Audio Mixer
- 2012-582: Contract w/The Boys & Girls Club of Benton & Franklin Counties for Fast Forward Program
- 2012-583: Contract w/Pasco School District for Case Management and School Engagement Programing
- 2012-584: Terminating Service Agreement w/E Hogue
- 2012-585: Terminating Public Defense Contract w/R Thompson
- 2012-586: Terminating Public Defense Contract w/M Mooney
- 2012-587: Terminating Public Defense Contract w/K Holt
- 2012-588: Covenant Agreement to Utilize Road Right of Way in Lampson Homesites
- 2012-589: Lease Agreement w/Horrigan Farms, Inc to Crush & Stockpile Road Surfacing Materials
- 2012-590: Proclamation for National Adoption Day
- 2012-591: Proclamation for Youth and Justice Day
- 2012-592: Approval of 2013-2018 Six-Year Road Program
- 2012-593: Support of the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Effort to Amend Washington's Energy Independence Act

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:31 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman