

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 27, 2013, 1:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman Shon Small
Commissioner James Beaver
County Administrator David Sparks
Alternate Clerk of the Board Marilu Flores

Excused absent: Commissioner Jerome Delvin

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: none

A presentation was made by Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) staff Brad Banks regarding their annual courthouse visit and also to discuss WSAC'S Fiscal Feasibility Study.

The Board was briefed and updated on the following:

- **Fiscal Sustainability Initiative Issue Background
- **Counties Provide Essential Public Services
- **Counties are Facing A Financial Crisis
- **Counties Need Local Options, Local Control
- **Cuts Have Led to Public Health and Safety Risks
- **Problem Statement on the Fiscal Sustainability Initiative
- **Cost Containment
- **Revenue

Brad Banks wanted to identify the types of services and level of services which were expected and the services being presently delivered.

Commissioner Beaver asked about the association working on a white paper for counties to review. Mr. Banks indicated that the association wanted to get an idea of Benton County's needs. Commissioner Beaver addressed major issues that Benton County would like to see to include jail services, the court system, land use, county roads as well as the issue of vacating roadways and water issues.

Commissioner Small mentioned that the Department of Corrections was wanting to run their own contracts; build their own buildings and would like that looked into as well as criminal justice and mental health.

WSAC will continue to work on public records and appreciated Benton County's input. Mr. Banks would work on what the other counties wanted to address as well. Mr. Banks indicated that it would be helpful to have the needs of the 39 counties going to the legislature with the same issues and show that we are a united group. The outcome will be delivered to the counties through the steering committee.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:06 pm.

Alternate Clerk of the Board

Chairman