

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
March 15, 2010, 8:30 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr.
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, Community Development Coordinator; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Facilities Manager Roy Rogers; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; Ed Thornbrugh, Human Services; DPA Ryan Brown; Eric Hsu, OPD; Ehriza Rivera and Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office; Steve Becken, Malcolm Bowie, Larry Moser, and Norm Childress, Public Works.

Workshop Agenda

Rural County Capital Funds

Commissioner Bowman requested David Sparks to research the rural county capital funds issue. He said there might be an issue with the funds going away if the County reached a certain population and there were also issues regarding the bonds and obligations on these funds.

The Board concurred to have Mr. Sparks research the issue and contract with bond counsel Jeff Nave, if needed.

NACO Conference

Commissioner Bowman briefed the Board on his attendance at the NACO conference and presented information for the Board to review. Additionally, he discussed transportation funding issues. Chairman Beaver asked Commissioner Bowman for a list of people that Commissioner Bowman met with regarding transportation so the Board could send out letters.

Benton Irrigation District Vacancy

Mr. Sparks stated that only four people had applied for the vacancy and the policy stated that Mr. Sparks should narrow down the choices to three for the Board to interview. He requested the Board interview all four applicants and the Board agreed.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 8, 2010 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “j”. Commissioner Bowman seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Central Services

- a. Authorization to Purchase Computer and Printer Consumables
- b. Authorization for Professional Services w/Tyler Technologies-Eden Division

Commissioners

- c. Thank You Letters re Badger Mountain Trail Work

Fairgrounds

- d. Lease Agreement w/Ye Olde Car Club of the Tri-Cities
- e. Notice of Completion for Roofing Projects
- f. Lease Agreement w/Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Inc.

Juvenile

- g. Contract w/ ARAMARK Correctional Services for Detention Food Services

Public Works

- h. Authorization to Purchase Brake Lathe w/Bench and Accessory Package
- i. E.R.&R Purchase of Refined Petroleum Products – Bulk Diesel Fuel

Treasurer

- j. Surplus of Personal Property

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:05 a.m.

OPD – 2009 Annual Report and 2010 Strategic Plan

2009 Annual Report

Eric Hsu reviewed the 2009 Annual Report for the Office of Public Defense and discussed the following:

- Key Achievements
 - Indigent Defense Ordinance
 - Interlocal Agreement
 - Staff Attorney Program
 - In-Custody Representation Program
 - Improved system for requests for non-routine services
 - Contract system for defense investigators
 - All verbal contracts reduced to writing
- Financial Report
 - District Court caseload summary

2010 Strategic Plan

Mr. Hsu also reviewed his strategic plan for 2010 and briefly discussed the following highlights:

- Indigency Screening
- Caseload Management
- Total Quality Management
- In-House Training Program
- Achieve and Maintain 100% Contract Compliance

Commissioner Benitz asked about the grant that funded the OPD office and Mr. Hsu said to the best of his knowledge, the grant was not slated for any cuts.

Commissioner Bowman asked if there was a way to document the transition to the OPD program and the actual savings. Mr. Hsu said he would have that information by the next quarterly report because he would have a full year of figures so he could quantify the savings. Additionally, Mr. Hsu said he would be recommending a new program for indigency screening at that time.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:43 a.m.

Executive Session – Evaluating Applicant Qualifications for Public Employment

The Board went into executive session at 9:43 a.m. with David Sparks for approximately 10 minutes to discuss the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. Also present were Ryan Brown, Loretta Smith Kelty, Melina Wenner, and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out at 9:55 a.m. Mr. Brown said the Board needed to go back into executive session for an additional five minutes. The Board came out at 9:57 a.m. and Mr. Brown stated the Board took no action.

Job Classification Request

David Sparks presented two possible job descriptions for the animal control department. He said originally they wanted to hire two animal control officers, however, they were now interested in hiring someone to administer as well as enforce the animal control ordinance.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to approve the resolution establishing a salary grade for an Animal Control Manager at a temporary Grade 19 on the non-bargaining salary schedule. Commissioner Benitz seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Benitz said this was a new endeavor and a new department and he believed having a manager was the right thing to do. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:05 a.m.

Retirement Benefits Deferment

Melina Wenner presented a resolution allowing certain employees to elect to receive a percent of additional salary at a rate equivalent to the PERS rate to be deferred to the county's designated deferred compensation plan.

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved to approve resolution as presented. Commissioner Bowman seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:10 a.m.

Kennewick Shop - Repairs

Steve Becken presented a proposal to make repairs to the Kennewick Shop in the approximate amount of \$65,000 to bring the building up to certain standards.

The Board agreed to authorize up to \$65,000, paid from the ER&R fund to make the necessary repairs.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:30 a.m.

Executive Session – Union Negotiations

The Board went into executive session at 10:30 a.m. for approximately five minutes with David Sparks to discuss union negotiations. Also present were DPA Ryan Brown, Melina Wenner, Loretta Smith Kelty, and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:35 a.m. Mr. Brown announced the Board discussed union negotiations and that no action was taken.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:40 a.m.

Vouchers

Check Date: 03/05/2010
Warrant #: 230004-230134
Direct Deposit #52012-52588
Total all funds: \$2,001,233.70

Check Date: 03/05/2010
Taxes #: 10110031-10110034
Warrant #: 5221-5256
Total all funds: \$1,819,141.01

Check Date: 03/12/2010
Warrant #: 5393-5645
Total all funds: \$303,153.88

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

Resolutions

- 10.149 Authorization to Purchase Computer and Printer Consumables
- 10.150 Authorization for Professional Services w/Tyler Technologies-Eden Division
- 10.151 Lease Agreement w/Ye Olde Car Club of the Tri-Cities
- 10.152 Notice of Completion for Roofing Projects
- 10.153 Lease Agreement w/Gold Wing Road Riders Association, Inc.
- 10.154 Contract w/ ARAMARK Correctional Services for Detention Food Services
- 10.155 Authorization to Purchase Brake Lathe w/Bench and Accessory Package
- 10.156 E.R.&R Purchase of Refined Petroleum Products – Bulk Diesel Fuel
- 10.157 Surplus of Personal Property
- 10.158 Establishing a Salary Grade for an Animal Control Manager
- 10.159 Retirement Benefits for Certain Eligible Employees

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman