

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
March 31, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

Present: Chairman James Beaver
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr.
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie
Personnel Manager Melina Wenner

Benton Irrigation District Interviews

Carolyn Joyce

Ms. Joyce said she had not been as deeply involved as the other applicants. She said she had a lot of training, a Bachelor's degree in administration, was comfortable talking in groups and leading Powerpoint presentations. Additionally, she said she assisted the Richland School District in selling their big bond in a way that could help people understand. She indicated it was important to be up front with the people.

Question: Why do you want to be on the Board? Please expand.

Answer: She said she was not the only person that could do this, however, believed you should always have choices. She said she would bring maturity and level-headedness to the position. Additionally, she had a good education and got along with people.

Question: Can you commit to participating in a director capacity as needed? (The Board meets twice a month).

Answer: Ms. Joyce said she currently was working with the U.S. Census in a temporary position, but the position was very flexible with her hours and her time was her own.

Question: What direction do you feel is best for the future of the Benton Irrigation District? In five years? In 10 years? Why do you recommend this direction?

Answer: She said the short answer would be forward. Additionally, Ms. Joyce indicated the district might have got the cart before horse as far as paperwork and granting easements. She said she would like to look at ways to be cost effective and look at grants. Additionally, she had experience in technical writing. She said it was important to get the water to the people and not

let them think you have a special interest group. Additionally, sometimes it was important to use justice over equality (i.e. let the orchards have the water to establish their crops).

Question: Do you have any personal issues, interests, passions that could possibly conflict with this position or influence your ability to impartially make decisions on behalf of the Benton Irrigation District for the good of all District residents?

Answer: Ms. Joyce said she did not have any that she was aware of.

Robert Bears

Mr. Bears stated he had an environmental engineering degree, bought a place in Benton City in 2004, had worked in water and wastewater most of his life, and needed something to do.

Question: Why do you want to be on the Board? Please expand.

Answer: Mr. Bears stated he had a lot of experience in water and had been involved with public service projects (through cities and state) most of his life. He added that he got along well with people, felt he understood water, and wanted to keep busy with it if he could. He stated he was not able to work full-time, didn't need insurance or big paychecks and wanted to put his time where he wanted.

Question: Can you commit to participating in a director capacity as needed? (The Board meets twice a month).

Answer: Mr. Bears said it would not be an issue. He recently was volunteering his time at the jail as a religious counselor and teaching classes, but that had ended and he had plenty of free time.

Question: What direction do you feel is best for the future of the Benton Irrigation District? In five years? In 10 years? Why do you recommend this direction?

Answer: He said he didn't have direct knowledge of the operations or what future planning was for Benton Irrigation District, but saw it as a service company that should provide the public with a product they could use when they needed it. Mr. Bears stated they should plan well past 5-10 years for a large operation like this.

Question: Do you have any personal issues, interests, passions that could possibly conflict with this position or influence your ability to impartially make decisions on behalf of the Benton Irrigation District for the good of all District residents?

Answer: He said the only thing he could think of was that he didn't currently have water from the irrigation district. He had applied for water in 2004 and was told he should be able to get it soon, but it was not an issue he would beat the drum about. He said beyond that, he didn't know of any conflicts. He added that he could only hope his expertise would be helpful and would apply to this position.

Melissa Glodo

Ms. Glodo said she had lived in this area her whole life and her husband and family was supportive of her in this position. She said she had watched the district evolve from the initial system to the new pressurized system it was now.

Question: Why do you want to be on the Board? Please expand.

Answer: Ms. Glodo stated she had been going to meetings for years and once the pressurized system was in place she got more involved. She said there were a lot of people upset about increased costs and they were not aware of it because they were not attending the meetings. She said the biggest problem was people didn't know about the cost increase. However, now the minutes were being posted on the website and the District was making progress. She discussed her concern about the pump station and prep work being done prior to the contract and ownership being in place.

Question: Can you commit to participating in a director capacity as needed? (The Board meets twice a month).

Answer: Yes, as well as alternate meetings for engineering, design, and construction.

Question: What direction do you feel is best for the future of the Benton Irrigation District? In five years? In 10 years? Why do you recommend this direction?

Answer: Ms. Glodo said she liked "not for profit" companies because they were driven by the community. She said they needed to look forward and make sure they were budgeting money fairly and wisely, paying off debt, and looking at conservation. She said that power was going to get more expensive and the district needed to look at alternate ways to power the pump station so they could keep the water flowing.

Question: Do you have any personal issues, interests, passions that could possibly conflict with this position or influence your ability to impartially make decisions on behalf of the Benton Irrigation District for the good of all District residents?

Answer: She said she didn't believe so, although she did have some pet projects, they were not contrary to the district. Ms. Glodo said she would really like to serve, has paid attention to the complaints and could bring in experts when needed.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:50 a.m.

Commissioner Bowman said the different applicants brought three different backgrounds, but he liked the applicant that most looked to the future and had a vision for the district.

MOTION: Commissioner Bowman moved to appoint Melissa Glodo to the Benton Irrigation District. Commissioner Benitz seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Benitz thanked all the candidates for applying and said he wanted to have someone serve in a capacity in the best interest of water users. He said he liked the comments about water conservation, communication and vision, fiscal responsibility, and believed in involvement in the community.

Commissioner Bowman said his nomination was not negative to the other applicants as they were qualified in their own way. However, Benton Irrigation District was heading into the future with a new system and Melissa could be there and look at long-term visions.

Chairman Beaver said it would be a new time and extremely challenging and he looked forward to the district moving forward. He said he liked hearing about paying back debt faster and when we have people that understand that, it had a good chance of surviving.

Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No: 10-194: Appointment of Melissa Glodo to the Benton Irrigation District

The Board asked Melina Wenner to send out letters to the other candidates.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 9:56 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman