

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
May 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman Pro Tem Shon Small
Commissioner James Beaver
Commissioner Leo Bowman (via/videoconference in Kennewick)
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, Community Development Coordinator; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; County Engineer Malcolm Bowie; Deputy Treasurer Erhiza Rivera; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; Human Services Manager Ed Thornbrugh; Treasurer Duane Davidson; DPA Ryan Brown; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Safety Coordinator Bryan Perry.

Workshop Agenda

Commissioner Bowman, in Kennewick via/video conference reported on his attendance at the NACo rail conference last week and said there were a lot of agencies present. He discussed the possibility of two and three-mile trains that would create long delays in Yakima and Prosser and the challenges that would create.

Commissioner Beaver reported on the following meetings: HAIEFIC (they were trying to get money out the door before it was taken away by the State); Workforce Development Council meetings (that program was becoming smaller due to budget cuts); Fairgrounds user group (Loretta Smith Kelty has outlined some improvements that were discussed); Tri-City Visitor & Convention Bureau meeting; TRIDEC meeting; Port of Pasco building dedication; Council of Governments meeting (they are now discussing next step regarding the bridge study) and Franklin County's message was there was no more money and maybe the next step was to stop; he said he gave the same message from Benton County.

Commissioner Bowman said he agreed with the message and that everything was at a stand still until the economy turned itself around (maybe the study should sit on a shelf for a couple of years).

Commissioner Small said he met with BCES and the E-911 funds question came up again and it appeared to be a non-issue so they would not be sending a letter to the Governor. He was still working on receiving back the \$538,000 refund for the 800 Mhz system. Commissioner

Bowman asked if the cities were putting pressure on them and Commissioner Small said they shared the same enthusiasm about getting their money back. Commissioner Beaver asked if the County could charge interest and late fees and Mr. Sparks indicated that interest was calculated into the agreement. Commissioner Bowman stated that maybe next time there was an upgrade the County would reimburse instead of cash flow.

Commissioner Small also reported on a meeting with Benton City and reminded the Board he would be leaving tomorrow for the LEOFF conference.

Commissioner Bowman asked the Board if it intended to approve the travel policy today because he wanted to have additional time to discuss it with staff before being adopted and he needed to leave in a few minutes. He said he just received another revised version and hadn't had a chance to review it and there were some things he didn't understand.

Chairman Pro Tem Small said they would have Loretta Smith Kelty discuss the newest changes and it was his intent to find out what the Board wanted to do and pass if it if they could.

Commissioner Bowman said he was just asking if the Board could postpone adopting the policy until next week so they could all discuss it.

Commissioner Beaver said it was their intent to discuss it but could not speculate on whether or not the Board would pass it. Commissioner Bowman said that Commissioner Small had discussed the policy with staff and he just wanted that same opportunity. Commissioner Small said their main intent was to discuss it.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:00 a.m. for the regular session with Commissioner Bowman absent.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of April 20, 2011 were approved.
The Minutes of April 25, 2011 were approved.

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to approve the consent agenda items "a" through "g". Chairman Pro Tem Small seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Coroner

- a. Professional Services Contract w/Dr. J. Reynolds for Forensic Pathology Services
- b. Professional Services Contract w/Dr. D. Selove for Forensic Pathology Services
- c. Professional Services Contract w/Dr. C. Wigren for Forensic Pathology Services

Facilities

- d. Contract w/Advanced Window Care for Window Cleaning Services

Human Services

- e. Professional Services Agreement w/Housing Authority of City of Pasco and Franklin County

Public Works

- f. Authorization to Schedule a Call for Bids for CE 1778 CRP – Clodfelter Road

Sheriff

- g. Contract w/Homeland Security Department for Buffer Zone Protection Program

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

Travel Policy Update

Ms. Smith Kelty presented the additional changes to the travel policy and briefly discussed the following: exclusion zone (60 miles around Benton County) that did not allow meals or lodging; requirement for detailed receipts; using county vehicles as a first priority (personal vehicle as a last resort) and if not approved, the reimbursement would not be allowed; definitions of overnight and day travel.

Mr. Sparks said it was important to note that the state audit exit notes were 90% travel expense related and that was driving the changes in the policy.

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to approve the new policy and incorporate changes as presented by Loretta Smith Kelty. Chairman Pro Tem Small seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Beaver said this was a concern and an audit problem and the Board needed to make changes. He said he was concerned about elected officials and departments spending their 2012 budget in 2011 and that Commissioner travel was nearly spent for 2011. He said it was important to adopt a travel policy that illustrates seriousness with respect to the state audit and set an example for the other elected officials.

Commissioner Small said he spoke to Sheriff Keane, PA Miller, Treasurer Davidson, Clerk Delvin, and Coroner Hansens about the policy. Additionally, he heard comments from elected officials that they believed the Commissioners would not back this up and would end up approving a supplement to the travel budget and would basically not lead by example. Commissioner Small said he would not support a supplement to the travel budget.

Upon vote, the motion carried.

Claim for Damages

CC 2010-20c: Received on April 26, 2011 from James Gerald Garza

Vouchers

Check Date: 04/29/2011
Warrant #: 33277-33533
Taxes #: 010104112
Total all funds: \$3,798,102.93

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

Resolutions

- 11-282: Professional Services Contract w/Dr. J. Reynolds for Forensic Pathology Services
- 11-283: Professional Services Contract w/Dr. D. Selove for Forensic Pathology Services
- 11-284: Professional Services Contract w/Dr. C. Wigren for Forensic Pathology Services
- 11-285: Contract w/Advanced Window Care for Window Cleaning Services
- 11-286: Professional Services Agreement w/Housing Authority of City of Pasco and Franklin County
- 11-287: Authorization to Schedule a Call for Bids for CE 1778 CRP – Clodfelter Road
- 11-288: Contract w/Homeland Security Department for Buffer Zone Protection Program
- 11-289: New Business Travel and Expense Policy

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman