

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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

Present: Chairman Pro Tem Leo Bowman
Commissioner Max E. Benitz, Jr.
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Absent: Chairman James Beaver – attending ECA Conference

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kilty; Adam Fyall, Community Development Coordinator; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Facilities Manager Roy Rogers; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; Human Services Administrator Ed Thornbrugh; Steve Becken, Public Works; Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office; DPA Ryan Brown; Marianne Ophardt, WSU; RJ Lott, Planning.

Workshop Agenda

NACO Report

Commissioner Bowman reported on the NACO conference in Ft. Worth and his attendance at a meeting with BNSF at their headquarters. He said that every major Class 1 railroad was in attendance and they started dialogue about the issues and frustrations they all experienced and would be working on building a relationship between the railroad and other government agencies.

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

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 1, 2010 were approved.

The Minutes of November 2, 2010 were approved.

Consent Agenda

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

District Court

- a. Contract w/Washington Collectors for Collections Services

Human Services

- b. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0108-101, Dept. 504

Public Works

- c. Service Contract w/Leslie & Campbell, Inc. for Roof Repair/Replacement

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

WSU

Marianne Ophardt and Lizann Powers-Hammond updated the Board on the following programs:

- Food Sense
- Master Food Preservers
- General Nutrition & Food Safety Education

Additionally, Ms. Ophardt said they had completed their interviews for the Animal Science Livestock communicator, had made two recommendations, and were waiting to hear from the Dean of College to make a final selection.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 9:20 a.m.

Public Hearing – Short Plat Vacation – SPV 10-08

R.J. Lott said the Planning Department received a request to vacate a 20-foot access easement and that based upon the information received, the Planning staff recommended approval of the vacation.

Public Testimony

Charles Manrey asked about property to the east and if the map was accurate. Mr. Lott replied that the map was correct.

As there was no one else present to testify, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved to approve the vacation of the 20-foot access easement for lots 3 and 4 located on the south 5 feet of lot 3 and the north 15 feet of lot 4 of Short Plat 1915 of Section 32, Township North, Range 27 East, W.M. and that the words “and 3 & 4” be removed from note #1. Chairman Pro Tem Bowman seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:25 a.m.

Public Hearing – Short Plat Vacation – SPV 10-09

R.J. Lott reviewed the proposed short plat vacation and said his office recommended vacation in conjunction with the recording of documentation eliminating the waterline easement recorded under AF 96-6339.

As there was no one present to testify, public testimony was closed.

MOTION: Commissioner Benitz moved to approve the vacation of the 5-foot waterline easement located within Lot 2 of Short Plat 3264 in the Southwest Quarter of Section 20, Township 9 North, Range 27 East, W.M., conditioned on the applicant vacating the 5-foot waterline easement under AF 96-6339, the applicant providing a copy of the recorded document, and it being approved and recorded within one year of the date of this approval or it be considered null and void. Chairman Pro Tem Bowman seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:30 a.m.

Public Hearing – Short Plat Appeal, SPHPA 10-03

Mike Shuttleworth requested the public hearing be continued to November 15, 2010 at 9:35 a.m. to allow time to give adequate notice to other adjoining property owners.

The Board continued the public hearing to 9:35 a.m. on Monday, November 15, 2010.

Unscheduled Visitors

Dan Deckert, Benton City, said the County had a serious lack of code enforcement in the county and there seemed to be a problem getting issues handled in a reasonable timeline. Additionally, he said there did not appear to be any repercussions for repeat offenders. He said the junk yard issues were out of control and he believed the county should form a code enforcement board or hearings officer to handle these issues and make some kind of change to the system.

Catherine Flores, N. River Road, said that one code enforcement officer had to take care of 52,000 homes. She provided pictures of junkyards in her area and asked if it was possible to put these complaints on the land and not the owner.

Fredric Hopkins, N. River Road area, said the system was being abused and the Commissioners were not doing anything about it and they were tired of it.

Sonny Flores asked how people could put trailers on land with one septic for 30 people.

Commissioner Bowman said if the Health Department wasn't informed, they would not know about it. He thanked everyone for coming and said the Board would review the matter.

Vouchers

Check Date: 11/05/2010
Warrant #: 21904-22122
Total all funds: \$1,654,463.69

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

Resolutions

- 10.662 Contract w/Washington Collectors for Collections Services
- 10.663 Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0108-101, Dept. 504
- 10.664 Service Contract w/Leslie & Campbell, Inc. for Roof Repair/Replacement
- 10.665 Approval of Short Plat Vacation – SPV 10-08

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman