

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman Leo Bowman
Commissioner James Beaver
Commissioner Shon Small
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, Sustainable Development Manager; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Human Services Manager Ed Thornbrugh; Public Works Manager Steve Becken; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth; DPA Ryan Brown; Judge Cameron Mitchell; Superior Court Administrator Pat Austin; Sharon Paradis, Juvenile Administrator; PA Andy Miller; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; District Court Administrator Jacki Lahtinen; Auditor Brenda Chilton; County Engineer Malcolm Bowie; Bryan Thorp and Larry Moser, Public Works; Nick Kooiker and Erhiza Rivera, Treasurer's Office.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of November 1, 2011 were approved.

Consent Agenda

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

Commissioners

- a. Disbursement Agreement w/Port of Benton for Use of Distressed County Tax Credit Funds

Facilities

- b. Contract Amendment w/Fire Systems West, Inc. for Fire Alarm Inspections

Fairgrounds

- c. Agreement w/Tri-Cities Detachment of the Marine Corps League

Human Services

- d. Agreement, #11/12-DD-ECS-00, w/EnTrust Community Services for Disability Services
- e. Agreement, #11/12-DD-CI-00, w/Columbia Industries for Disability Services
- f. Surplus of Personal Property

- g. Grant Agreement, #2060-2011-HACPFC w/Housing Authority of the City of Pasco & Franklin County
- h. Agreement, #PSA-2011/12-Shelter Plus Care-CFCS-00, w/Catholic Family & Child Srves
- i. Agreement, #2011/2013-HEN-BFCAC, w/Benton Franklin Community Action Committee
- j. Agreement, #1163-38493, w/DSHS Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

Public Works

- k. Bid Date Authorization for Purchase of Diesel Powered Truck Cab
- l. Purchase Authorization from Rebuilding & Hardfacing, Inc. for Snowplow Carbide Cutting Edges
- m. Purchase Authorization from Western States Equipment Company for Grader Blade Cutting Edges

Sheriff

- n. Contract Amendment w/Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc for Maintenance Repair & Pilot Services
- o. Contract Amendment w/Johnny David Allstead for Inmate Barber Services
- p. Contract w/Nixon's Marine, Inc. for Boat Repair and Maintenance
- q. Purchase Authorization w/Yacht Masters for FLIR M-625L Thermal Imaging System
- r. Purchase Authorization from Columbia Ford Mercury Lincoln for Vehicle

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

Continued Public Hearing –Kennewick Irrigation District Vacation Request

Steve Becken said that KID had requested a continuation of the public hearing until November 15 or November 22, however, his office had not changed its position.

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to continue the public hearing until 9:05 a.m. on November 22, 2011. Commissioner Small seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Drug Court/Judicial Request

Pat Austin presented the proposed Adult Drug Court costs and said that Franklin County had approved funding for 2012. She said they were looking at a reduction in costs and increased participant fees for a total of \$79,001 (BC at \$57,552 and FC at \$21,449) to fund a 30 person Adult Drug Court.

Sharon Paradis said that Franklin County had not included the Juvenile Drug Court in their 2012 Budget and that Benton County costs for a 2012 12-person Juvenile Drug Court was \$88,969.

Kennewick Chief Ken Hohenberg said he personally had seen the benefits and had a passion for both drug courts. He said that Kennewick provided a law enforcement representative for the drug court program and that Kennewick had reaffirmed its support for both drug courts.

Pat Austin said there was a 75% success rate and a minimal amount of those actually re-offended and returned to their prior lifestyle.

Andy Miller said they all understood Benton County was facing a difficult fiscal situation and with the approval of the gang task force a full-time prosecuting attorney was needed in his office, but he was not asking for one. However, he was asking that drug court be considered and that it not be penalized because it was a bi-county issue. He said that Franklin County had agreed to fund the program in 2012 and there was no other program in Benton County with as much demonstrated community support. He presented a letter from Sharefest expressing their support and said he felt the County had an obligation to the community because they had put money into the program. He said that he was personally passionate about the issue and that if drug court were cut in 2012, it would affect future budgets. He requested it be addressed like all other programs on a two-year budget and be funded for 2012.

Commissioner Small said he had been a part of the CASA program and involved and supportive of drug court. He said he supported drug court and wanted to say yes to 2012 funding but the County was having major funding problems and it needed to start winding down adult drug court. He said he wanted to look at ways to fund Juvenile Drug Court and focus resources on juvenile programs.

Commissioner Beaver said that 80% of the budget was criminal justice and he was encouraged that the team talking about how that 80% was impacted and how they could make a difference. He said he appreciated the analysis and commitment and wanted to make a difference and was very appreciative that Franklin County had made a commitment. He said he would get with the County Administrator to try and work out some solutions and wanted to see the programs continue and get through this wave of financial uncertainty.

Chairman Bowman asked if there were any efforts for continued community financial support from the community. Mr. Miller said that Circle of Hope was still raising money and it could be a vehicle for the future. Chairman Bowman said the policy of the Board had always been that if a grant went away, the program went away, unless they could find it was a higher priority. He asked if there was something else the County could stop doing to fund the program. He said he was a big supporter of drug court since the beginning and the Board would have to look at alternatives.

Judicial Position

Ms. Austin said the State Administrative Office of the Court had determined Benton County's judicial need to be 10.12 and they were currently at 8.50. She said they were requesting support through the legislative process to approve an additional judicial officer to allow funding to be approved at a later date with a sunset clause of 2015. She indicated it would take two to three years to get through the legislative process and the funding would be up to the county when it was able to fund.

Judge Mitchell said they were well aware of the financial situation and realized it could not be funded in the near future but were just asking to start the process so if the money became available they wouldn't have to wait an additional 2-3 years from that time.

MOTION: Commissioner Beaver moved to approve a public hearing to discuss and vote on information provided with regard to support for the additional judicial position and funding for 2012 Adult Drug Court and 2012 Juvenile Drug Court. Commissioner Small seconded.

Discussion

Commissioner Beaver asked why it would be a supplement. Ms. Austin said that it was only funded for 2011. Mr. Sparks added that the Board made the decision to fund for 2011 and evaluate the program for 2012. He said it could be done before the end of the year once the paperwork was submitted.

Commissioner Beaver said he was not a fan of supplements and Commissioner Small said he agreed. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:58 a.m.

One-Year Road Program

Malcolm Bowie, Steve Becken, and Larry Moser presented the One-Year Road Program. Mr. Moser said it was pretty much the same as last year but there would be a few changes once the taxes were certified on November 22, 2011. He stated that it was based on no increase in property taxes with only an increase in new construction. He said a lot was carryover from last year because a majority of the construction projects were grant funded (nothing spent, nothing gained) because they had to complete the projects to get the money.

The Board briefly reviewed the expenditures including operations, construction, purchases, and reimburseables and revenues including grants/matching funds and operations.

Mr. Bowie said the program could be adopted by consent agenda.

Drug Court - Continued

Mr. Sparks said he talked with Keith Mercer and the funding could be approved with a line item transfer instead of a supplement.

Unscheduled Visitors

Ryan Brown proposed the Board authorize elimination of duplicate legal review of bi-county Human Services contracts in an effort to expedite contract approvals and make more efficient use of resources. He said they currently had a similar process with Juvenile contracts and would propose breaking up the work at 25% Franklin County and 75% Benton County.

The Board stated that if Mr. Brown was comfortable with the process then to move forward.

Commissioner Assignment Update

BCES Agreement

Commissioner Small said that Ryan Brown had approved the latest draft of the interlocal agreement and he wanted to say at the next meeting that Benton County was ready to move forward. Chairman Bowman said he still had concerns with the PUD participation but was ready to have it move forward. Commissioner Beaver agreed.

GCBH

Commissioner Small said they were looking at a 15-20% reduction and they would be making adjustments as needed.

Elected Leaders Reception

Commissioner Beaver reported on his attendance at the reception and also said that Lourdes Network was asking for a letter of support regarding their critical access hospital designation and proposed federal cutbacks. Mr. Sparks said they had requested to come before the Board on the 15th.

Budget Issues

Commissioner Small said he talked with Eric Johnson and the common theme across the counties was that programs were not cut quick enough or deep enough. He said he wanted to give direction regarding hiring freezes.

Commissioner Beaver said they were having those discussions internally and Melina was working on that issue.

Canvassing Board/Meeting Cancellation

Chairman Bowman said there was a Canvassing Board on the 29th and he had another obligation so wondered whether the Board should cancel the meeting and if another board member could attend the canvassing board. Commissioner Beaver recommended the Board cancel the meeting and that he would attend the canvassing board. The Board agreed.

DNR Letter

The Board discussed a letter from DNR regarding selling land to the Richland School District. Mr. Shuttleworth said the County did not need to take any action and he would respond with “no comment”.

Vouchers

Check Date: 11/04/2011
Warrant #: 44808-45000
Taxes #: 050211111
Total all funds: \$703,204.00

Check Date: 11/04/2011
Warrant #: 233151-233263
Direct Deposit #: 68546-69141
Total all funds: \$2,058,400.80

Check Date: 11/04/2011
Payroll Deductions
Taxes #: 10111111-10111113
Warrant #: 45001-45024
Total all funds: \$1,855,461.10

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

Resolutions

- 11-696 Disbursement Agreement w/Port of Benton for Use of Distressed County Tax Credit Funds
- 11.697 Contract Amendment w/Fire Systems West, Inc. for Fire Alarm Inspections
- 11.698 Agreement w/Tri-Cities Detachment of the Marine Corps League
- 11.699 Agreement, #11/12-DD-ECS-00, w/EnTrust Community Services for Disability Services
- 11.700 Agreement, #11/12-DD-CI-00, w/Columbia Industries for Disability Services
- 11.701 Surplus of Personal Property
- 11.702 Grant Agreement, #2060-2011-HACPFC w/Housing Authority of the City of Pasco & Franklin County
- 11.703 Agreement, #PSA-2011/12-Shelter Plus Care-CFCS-00, w/Catholic Family & Child Srves
- 11.704 Agreement, #2011/2013-HEN-BFCAC, w/Benton Franklin Community Action Committee
- 11.705 Agreement, #1163-38493, w/DSHS Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
- 11.706 Bid Date Authorization for Purchase of Diesel Powered Truck Cab
- 11.707 Purchase Authorization from Rebuilding & Hardfacing, Inc. for Snowplow Carbide Cutting Edges
- 11.708 Purchase Authorization from Western States Equipment Company for Grader Blade Cutting Edges
- 11.709 Contract Amendment w/Bergstrom Aircraft, Inc for Maintenance Repair & Pilot Services
- 11.710 Contract Amendment w/Johnny David Allstead for Inmate Barber Services
- 11.711 Contract w/Nixon's Marine, Inc. for Boat Repair and Maintenance
- 11.712 Purchase Authorization w/Yacht Masters for FLIR M-625L Thermal Imaging System
- 11.713 Purchase Authorization from Columbia Ford Mercury Lincoln for Vehicle

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:33 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman