

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting – Budget Workshop
October 12, 2010, 9:00 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 Kelty; Finance Manager Keith Mercer; Jacki Lahtinen and Dixie Jamison, District Court; Mary Phillips, GIS; Rosie Sparks and Auditor Brenda Chilton; Assessor Barb Wagner; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Clerk Josie Delvin and Deputy Clerk Jackie Hill; Nick Kookier and Deputy Treasurer Erhiza Rivera; Pat Powell, Auditor; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Marianne Ophardt, WSU Extension; Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth.

Current Expense Revenue

Mr. Sparks said they had reviewed the preliminary revenue numbers and the major adjustment was a reduction of \$600,000 in sales tax for the biennium. He said they did not recommend including the one-time stimulus money because it would artificially inflate the sales tax numbers.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:13 a.m.

Keith Mercer reviewed the initial revenue figures and preliminary baseline and requested 2011/2012 Current Expense Budget. Additionally, he reviewed the proposed revenue reductions as follows:

* Diverted Road Tax:	(2,889)
* Retail Sales/Use Tax:	(600,000)
* Retail Sales/Use Tax – Criminal Justice:	(69,000)
* Licenses/Permits:	(20,500)
* Intergovernmental Revenues:	(89,609)
* Charges for Services:	(148,778)
* Miscellaneous Revenues:	(35,300)
* Other Financing Sources:	<u>(62,274)</u>
Total	(1,028,350)

The Board agreed to the proposed revisions. Mr. Sparks said with the proposed revisions, the amount to balance the budget was (387,194).

Commissioner Benitz asked if the Litter Grant for Work Crew 3 was going away, even though the expenditure was still in the budget and Mr. Mercer confirmed the grant was going away. Additionally, Commissioner Benitz asked about the reduction in revenue, specifically the Auditor's recording and licensing fees and Mr. Mercer said it was due to the economic downturn. He also asked about the reduction of Room & Board /Work Release in the amount of \$92,000 and said he wanted to address that issue with the District Court Judges and Prosecuting Attorney. Commissioner Benitz also asked about adjustments in the PA's office and Mr. Mercer said the PA's office expenditure was reduced for Adult Drug Court in the amount of \$45,218 (along with the revenue). Additionally, he asked about the contributions for drug court and Mr. Sparks said they had not received any commitment for 2011. Commissioner Benitz asked if all the adjustments were made for the Drug Court and Mr. Mercer said they were.

Additionally, Mr. Mercer said there were two initiatives on the ballot that would reduce the liquor license excise tax revenue (in an amount up to \$350,000) if they were to pass. The Board agreed to leave in the revenue until a decision was made.

Mr. Sparks said that next week the Board would be meeting with elected officials and would be reviewing about \$2.8 million in enhancements (requests) to the Current Expense budget.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:24 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman