

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 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; County Engineer Malcolm Bowie; Bryan Thorp, Public Works; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Jacki Lahtinen, District Court Administrator; Stuart Holmes, Auditor's Office; Treasurer Duane Davidson; DPA Ryan Brown; Sam Schneider, Erhiza Rivera, and Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office; Larry Moser, Public Works; Central Services Manager Randy Reid.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of October 11, 2011 were approved.

Consent Agenda

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

Auditor

- a. Surplus of Personal Property

Commissioners

- b. Contract w/Design West Architects for Architectural and Engineering Services

Facilities

- c. Surplus of Personal Property

Human Services

- d. Appointment of H DeLeon as County-Designated Mental Health Professional

Public Works

- e. Authorization for Public Hearing on Six Year Road Program

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

Continued Public Hearing - Redistricting Plan

Loretta Smith Kelty gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the proposed Commissioner Redistricting Plan.

Auditor Brenda Chilton said that after all redistricting plans were collected, her office would form new precinct lines to make sure they fell within district boundaries and then present a resolution for approval by the Board.

Commissioner Bowman requested they respond back to the League of Women Voters. Ms. Chilton said that she responded by email to Ms. Smith Kelty with the precinct information and Ms. Smith Kelty said she would pass it on to the League of Women Voters.

Testimony

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

MOTION: Commissioner Small moved to approve the Adoption of a Redistricting Plan for Commissioner Districts in Benton County as presented. Commissioner Beaver seconded and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Doxo Payment Solutions Presentation

Duane Davidson discussed a new web based billing system where property tax statements would be replaced with digital images delivered to a taxpayers account at Doxo's website. From this platform, the taxpayer could generate E-payments to pay their property taxes electronically. It would reduce the amount of mailed property tax statements, saving charges for postage, supplies, and services. Additionally, would provide taxpayers with another paperless option to pay taxes and would require less time to process these payments compared to traditional payment processing methods.

He said he would bring to the Board on the next consent agenda if the Board agreed and added that Benton County would be the third county in the State to contract with this service in addition to Walla Walla and Chelan.

The Board agreed to add to the consent agenda next week.

Bonds

Mr. Davidson said the debt policy stated if there was an opportunity to call bonds that he should confer with the County Administrator. He said that based on the current interest rate, it would be highly advantageous to call the 2011 Justice Center bonds and that Mr. Sparks agreed it was a good idea. He said the call letter was ready to go; the Board agreed.

Public Works – 2012-2017 Road Program

Malcolm Bowie, Larry Moser, Steve Becken presented the 2012-2017 Road Program and briefly reviewed the following: Piert Road (not 100% financing) but very positive; RAP (Clodfelter and Locust Grove Roads) – funding secured; Nine Canyon Road (9 not yet secure – probably will apply for funding next); Travis Road – funding was discussed.

Commissioner Beaver said he wanted the Board to consider the BCES money (once it was returned) to be committed to this project. Commissioner Small said he would be asking Mr. Sparks to look at some options on this project and asked to table the discussion until next week. Mr. Sparks said the Board didn't have to decide today where the money would come from, only whether the Board wanted to make a commitment to fund the project.

Commissioner Beaver said he was in favor of finding some money. Commissioner Small said he wanted to postpone making a commitment until another week.

Executive Session – Pending Litigation

The Board went into executive session at 9:50 a.m. for approximately 10 minutes with DPA Ryan Lukson (via videoconference) to discuss pending litigation. Also present were David Sparks, Cami McKenzie, DPA Ryan Brown, Melina Wenner, and Loretta Smith Kelty. The Board came out at 9:52 a.m. Mr. Lukson said the Board took no action.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Assignment Update

Commissioner Small briefly discussed the Noxious Weed issue and the WCIP issue and thanked the team for keeping Benton County in good financial position and looking out to the future.

Commissioner Beaver reported on his YRWEB meetings in Yakima last week. He said the game plan was to move forward with the watershed plan and into the next phase. Additionally, he said he attended the Health District Finance meeting and asked how they planned to operate with 15% less revenue.

Chairman Bowman said he attended the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee meeting in Ellensburg on Tuesday and they reviewed the proposals of possible cuts by the State. He said the result was to put emphasis on keeping economic recovery issues from being cut. A few other things discussed were helping counties have better control over union issues; emails as legal documents; controls over public records requests; tort reform.

DPA Ryan Brown briefly discussed tort reform (joint and several liability); maybe should push to have the state/counties paying only their percentage of fault; and the seatbelt law (unable to use that as contributory negligence).

Claim for Damages

CC 2011-26: Received on October 13, 2011 from John King
CC 2011-27: Received on October 14, 2011 from Mohamed Fadlemoula

Vouchers

Check Date: 10/07/2011
Warrant #: 42961-43142
Total all funds: \$944,442.67

Check Date: 10/14/2011
Warrant #: 43353-43765
Total all funds: \$798,468.14

Check Date: 10/17/2011
Taxes #: 10111105
Total all funds: \$31,801.49

Check Date: 10/17/2011
Warrant #: 233121-233143
Direct Deposit #: 68305-68505
Total all funds: \$114,622.45

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

Resolutions

- 11-650: Surplus of Personal Property - Central Services Department
- 11-651: Awarding Architectural and Engineering Services to Design West Architects, PA
- 11-652: Surplus of Personal Property – Facilities Department
- 11-653: Appointing Hector Deleon as County-Designated Mental Health Professional
- 11-654: Setting Public Hearing for Six-Year Road Program 2012-2017
- 11-655: Local Government Redistricting and Adoption of Redistricting Plan for Commissioner Districts in Benton County

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman