

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Meeting - Budget Workshop
October 20, 2010, 8:15 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; Marianne Ophardt, WSU Benton County; Clerk Josie Delvin and Deputy Clerk Jackie Hill; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Pat Powell and Rosie Sparks, Auditor's Office; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Coroner Rick Corson; Dave Pettey, Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Larry Taylor, Julie Thompson and Captain Steve Keane; Deputy Treasurer Erhiza Rivera and Nick Kooiker.

Clerk Departments

Josie Delvin and Jackie Hill presented the Clerk Department budgets. Ms. Delvin discussed her requests as follows: new Archive Records Manager position (70% paid from Auditor O & M 15% Clerk Collection, and 15% current expense); postage, training, computer software; and temporary help in Clerk Collection Fund. Additionally, Ms. Delvin discussed the revenue received for 2010 and the legal obligation docket (will be adding \$250.00 filing fee back to debtor on the judgment). Ms. Delvin also said the report on Juvenile collection cases indicated almost 3,000 cases over \$4 million and only 150 cases they could currently collect on. They were working on getting jurisdiction for some and what action they could take on cases where they had already lost jurisdiction.

WSU Extension

Marianne Ophardt reviewed the WSU Benton County Extension budget and the following requests: publications; fuel (if a county car were approved); messenger services; postage; mobile broadband services; two additional Blackberry phones; county vehicle maintenance; software upgrade; vehicle rental/replacement; and a new vehicle.

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

Coroner

Rick Corson presented his budget and requested a part-time deputy coroner and increase in fuel.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 9:45 a.m.

Sheriff

Sheriff Larry Taylor, Julie Thompson, and Captain Steve Keane presented the Sheriff budgets as follows:

Animal Control: originally budgeted for 9 months, increase is for minimum funds for two-year budget.

Dept. 118 - Sheriff Administration: postage meter; printers, monitors, fax machine, scanners.

Dept. 119 – Sheriff Clerks & Records: postage meter; background checks (asking to be fully funded because all reimbursed by State); scanners, licenses, and expansion module for IP phones.

Dept. 120 – Corrections: Overtime; operating supplies; kitchen supplies; ammunition; computer hardware and software.

Dept. 121 – Corrections/Medical: temporary help; two defibrillators; medical supplies; computer hardware and software; capital outlay for tracking inmate health care. Sheriff Taylor said there was an RFP out for medical services in the jail and this purchase would not be needed if the county decided to contract for medical services.

Dept. 121 – Sheriff Patrol: fuel; new vehicles; professional services; computer hardware for forensic analysis.

Dept. 125 – Sheriff Traffic Control: fuel and two new vehicles.

Work Crew 3 - Litter Patrol: Sheriff Taylor said it was funded at 50% from the State and that funding ended in July 2010, with no anticipated funding for the biennium (cost \$80,000 to \$85,000). He said if the County decided to eliminate the program, the sooner the better because his current work crew officer would be ending work at the end of this month so there would not be a layoff.

Inmate Benevolence Fund: Sheriff said the profit margin might increase from year to year, but it was not currently in line with increased wages and benefits. He recommended pulling out a trustee officer and moving to Dept. 120 so all the entities shared in the cost and also moving the AIS system to Dept. 120.

Sheriff Taylor also discussed requested purchases from Jail Depreciation and a vehicle replacement for the work crew.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:30 a.m.

Treasurer

Duane Davidson, Erhiza Rivera, and Nick Kooiker presented the Treasurer’s budget and discussed the following requests: office supplies; professional services; bond fees; tax statement services; postage; association dues. Mr. Davidson said that if nothing else was approved, they would ask for postage because they were phasing out the Central Services administrative fee mail service (overall would be a reduction).

Additionally, he said the company that owned the tax processing software was pushing to use their new program. He said he was in favor of developing a statewide system since they were at the whim of these software companies. As an FYI, Mr. Davidson said the State Auditor had asked the Attorney General for an opinion about special revenue funds retaining interest and that it could have a major impact on the current expense level.

Auditor

Brenda Chilton reviewed the Auditor’s budget and discussed the following requests:

O & M Budget: new position in Clerk’s office.

Election Reserve: borrowed money from professional services to pay for tabulation and would like that restored; voter registration efforts (includes a new line item for small registration fees, offset from repair/maintenance); training.

Ms. Chilton said that almost all the Auditor’s short-term goals have been met, they were working on long-term goals, and would focus on low-cost and no-cost items at this time.

Budget Recap

David Sparks said since the Board was waiting until November 2 for the budget recap, would it approve moving over funded non-current expense items so the only thing left to deal with would be current expense after November 2.

The Board agreed.

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman