

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Budget Workshop Meeting
October 29, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Present: Chairman Max E. Benitz, Jr. Chairman
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Commissioner James Beaver
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 Linda Ivey; Superior Court Administrator Pat Austin; Superior Court Judge Carrie Runge; Sharon Paradis and Jennifer Bowe, Juvenile; Jacki Lahtinen and Reva Kirby, District Court; Auditor Bobbie Gagner; Brenda Chilton and Rosie Sparks, Auditor's Office; Assessor Barb Wager; Erhiza Rivera and Nick Kooiker, Treasurer's Office; Planning Manger Mike Shuttleworth; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Clerk Josie Delvin and Jackie Hill; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Steve Brown, Building Dept.

Chairman Benitz made the following recommendations to balance the budget:

- All elected officials and departments under David Sparks (current expense) find a 2% reduction in overall baseline budget
- Reduction of \$375,000 to Juvenile (Benton County's portion)
- Elimination of Family Services/Casa program
- Elimination of District Court judge pro tem
- Add the grant funded position in the PA's office (if the grant goes away, the position goes away)

Commissioner Bowman said the County had not taken cuts in the past, but the recommendations made sense and he wanted to be proactive and prepare for the biennial budget. He agreed with the proposed recommendations to be brought back to the Board.

Commissioner Beaver said he was in favor of a percentage cut across the board and it was appropriate to send that message to the elected officials. Additionally, he agreed with the grant position and reduction of the judge pro tem and wanted to see the changes brought back to the Board. He indicated it was important to change the planning process for the biennial budget and get some place that allowed the County to be protected from big layoffs and a big swing in the finances. He said he was not in favor of losing positions.

The Board requested Mr. Sparks to send out a letter outlining the requested budget reductions and request the information be returned by 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3.

The Board agreed to have another budget workshop meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at approximately at 9:20 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman