

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Board Meeting

Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, WA

Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting provided in-person, by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically via/WebEx

Present: Chairman Pro Tem Will McKay
Commissioner Jerome Delvin
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Absent: Chairman Shon Small (Excused – Vacation)

Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting: Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; Robert Heard, IT Manager; Lexi Wingfield, HR Manager; Greg Wendt, Community Development Director; Lt. Matt Clark, Sheriff's Office via/videoconference; Sgt. Carlos Trevino, Sheriff's Office via/videoconference; Adam Fyall, Sustainable Development Manager; Interim Chief Robert Guerrero; DPA Stephen Hallstrom; Clerk Josie Delvin; Finance Manager Linda Ivey; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Sheriff Tom Croskrey; DPA Ryan Brown; PA Andy Miller.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of July 12, 2022 were approved.

Agenda Review

The following items were added to the agenda:

Other Business

- Fiber Optic Project at the Fairgrounds
- EFSEC Appointment for Wautoma Project Board

Executive Session

- Potential Litigation

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the consent agenda items “a” through “l”, pulling “d” (LIT for Central Services Fund) for discussion. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the Board approved the following:

Auditor

- a. Declaration of Surplus Property

District Court

- b. Statement of Work w/ImageSoft for OnBase Document Management System

Facilities

- c. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110 for Employee Pager Pay

Information Technology

- e. Purchase of One Laptop, Dock Station, & Two Monitors for Superior Court From Dell
- f. One Year Renewal of ProofPoint Email Protection from SHI International Corp
- g. Renewal of 1-Year Subscription for WebEx Meetings & Teams Archiving From CompuNet Inc.

Parks

- h. Contract w/Purswell Pump Company for Replacement of Water Pump @ Horn Rapids Park

Public Safety

- i. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0148-101, Dept. 121 for Overtime

Purchasing

- j. Agreement w/Haworth, Inc. for Office Furniture @ the Jail
- k. Purchase of Windows, Transaction Drawer, Countertop Communicator & Wall Panels From Advanced Protection Products for Jail Lobby Remodel

Sheriff

- l. Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 121 for Overtime

Public Comment

George Dockstader, Desert Hill Realty requested the Board review changing the building permit fees for the proposed wind towers. Additionally, he requested the Board take a look forward and coordinate with other agencies to get another bridge across the Columbia River to alleviate traffic in the Tri-Cities.

Commissioner McKay commented that he met with the Council of Governments, and they were starting a study for a new bridge and looking at the Port of Pasco area.

Public Hearing - Continued ~ Determination of Inactive Special Purpose District – Drainage Improvement District 9/9A

Greg Wendt said the public hearing had been continued to allow time and opportunity to re-establish the DID’s governing body. Three people were appointed to DID9/9A and it now met the criteria as being active and he recommended that additional hearings not be held for dissolution of the district.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to find that DID 9/9A currently has a full governing body that meets the criteria for being active in RCW 36.96.010 and it is recommended that additional dissolution hearings are not held at this time. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Consent Agenda Item “d” - Line Item Transfer for Information Systems Analyst II

Lexi Wingfield and Robert Heard presented the proposed line item transfer. In April 2022 Mr. Heard asked for a change from an Information Systems Analyst II to III and after interviewing several candidates, they wanted to make an offer for a Grade II and were therefore requesting it be changed back to an Analyst II.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Line Item Transfer within Central Services Fund 0502101 changing an Information Systems Analyst III back to an Information Systems Analyst II as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Grant From WA Auto Theft Prevention Authority for Sheriff's Office

Lt. Clark via/videoconference requested approval to move forward with a grant award from Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority in the amount of \$33,589.00 to purchase 10 automatic license plate readers and 50 hand-held tire deflation devices.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to accept the grant funding from Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority in the amount of \$33,589.00 to be applied toward the purchase of ten (10) Flock Falcon Automatic License Plate Readers and fifty (50) Rat Trap II devices. Equipment expenditures shall be paid out of the Sheriff Investigation Fund and the grant funding reimbursables being deposited back into this same fund. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Grant From Gesa for 2022 Local Heroes Program for the Sheriff's Office

Sgt. Carlos Trevino via/videoconference requested approval to submit the application to Gesa for the 2022 Local Heroes Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000.00 to be used for training of eight detectives.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to authorize the Benton County Sheriff's Office to submit the application for the 2022 Local Heroes Grant Program in the amount of \$50,000 to be applied towards the expense of sending detectives to necessary trainings. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Coordinator Discussion

Adam Fyall requested the Board approve two agreements to assist financially with the new Yakima Basin Integrated Coordinator position and the funding of that new two-year position. The total fiscal impact would be \$200,000 with Benton County receiving \$100,000 from the Department of Ecology, to be combined with a matching \$100,000 of the County's own funds.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve Benton County sign the Interagency Agreement with the Washington Department of Ecology in support of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Coordinator position as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Devin moved to approve the Personal Services Contract with Plauche & Carr in support of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Coordinator position as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote the motion carried.

Fairgrounds Operational Changes

Jerrold MacPherson, Adam Fyall, and Linda Ivey presented a proposal regarding Fairgrounds Operational Changes. They were finishing up the Fairgrounds Master Plan and had identified economic development and recovery funds to be used to make significant capital investments and transform the Fairgrounds into a more productive asset. As part of that, they wanted to change the Fairgrounds to an Event Center and create four new position classifications. This would be a net increase of two new positions and a change in operations and would not be funded through Current Expenses.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the amendment to Resolution 01-072 to change the name of Fund 0124101 from Fairgrounds O&M to Event Center; to approve the Resolutions to establish the Event Center Manager, Finance/Sales Specialist, Event/Sales Specialist, and the Event Center Maintenance Worker classification descriptions as presented; to approve the presented Resolutions to establish the Event Center Manager as a grade 9 on the Administrator and Managers salary schedule and to establish the following positions on the non-bargaining salary schedule: the Finance/Sales Specialist and Event/Sales Specialist as grade 18, and the Event Center Maintenance Worker as grade 11; and to approve the Resolution and Line Item Transfer to support the operational changes to Fund 0124101 Event Center as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Other Business

Fiber-Optic Project at the Fairgrounds

Adam Fyall said that internet and wi-fi improvements were needed at the Fairgrounds and they were proposing to turn up the internet speed to 1 gig per second (and they could do that temporarily) and run two new fiber optics to the west and south gate and access in the arena area. They had worked with Paramount Communications before and they were on the State Contract and proposed moving forward with a contract with Paramount. They would be splitting the cost

50/50 with the Fair Association and the total cost would be less than \$20,000. This would be funded from the Fairgrounds Fund.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve resolution executing the Agreement for Fiber-Optic Runs at the Benton County Fairgrounds with Paramount Communications, Inc., and Authorizing the Chairman to sign. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

EFSEC – Council for Wautoma Project

Mr. Wendt said they received a letter from EFSEC requesting an appointment for someone to sit on the EFSEC council for the Wautoma project. Mr. Wendt said he had been in conversation with Dave Sharp, who has experience in power generation and engineering and was interested in serving on the council. If the Board agreed, he would prepare the appointment for the next consent agenda for approval by the Board.

The Board agreed.

Council of Governments

Chairman Pro Tem McKay said the COG was preparing a letter to the Governor regarding its opposition to the Snake River Dam removal and would also be sending out the letter to other groups for their review.

Public Comment

Ronnie Eiseman, Kennewick, via/WebEx, said he appreciated the comments about the strategy regarding opposing the removal of the dams. Additionally, he expressed concern about recent planes in the sky obliterating the weather forecast of a blue sky and concern that the 30,000 deaths from the virus were not being talked about enough in the Elections.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:44 a.m.

Executive Session – Potential Litigation

The Board went into executive session with DPA Ryan Brown at 9:44 a.m. for up to 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation. Also present were Sheriff Tom Croskrey, Auditor Brenda Chilton, PA Andy Miller, Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, Lexi Wingfield, and Cami McKenzie.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:04 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session, but direction was given.

Executive Session – Qualifications of Candidates for Public Employment

The Board went into executive session with HR Manager Lexi Wingfield at 10:05 a.m. to review qualifications of applicants for 10 minutes. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, Cami McKenzie, Robert Guerrero, and Stephen Hallstrom.

The Board came out at 10:10 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Salary Request Form for Thomas French as General Manager for the Event Center as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

MOTION: Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Salary Request Form for Diana Brown as Finance/Sales Specialist for the Event Center, Jorge Rodriguez as Event/Sales Specialist at the Event Center, Alexandra Hebert as Corrections Officer in the Corrections Department, and Martin Kwant as Corrections Officer in the Corrections Department as presented. Commissioner McKay seconded and upon vote, the motion carried.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

The Board went into executive session at 10:12 a.m. for 10 minutes with DPA Stephen Hallstrom to discuss potential litigation. Also present were Jerrod MacPherson, Matt Rasmussen, Cami McKenzie, Robert Guerrero, and Lexi Wingfield.

The Board came out at 10:22 a.m. No decisions were made in executive session, but direction was given.

Tort Claims

2022-14: Received on July 14, 2022 from Michael G. Mequet

Payroll

Check Date: 07/15/2022

Payroll Draw Checks

Total all funds: \$109,698.28

Warrant #: 243722

Direct Deposit #: 172771-172911

Payroll Draw Deductions/Transfers

Total all funds: \$20,228.91

Taxes #: 101220713

Resolutions

- 2022-461: Declaration of Surplus Property
- 2022-462: Statement of Work w/ImageSoft for OnBase Document Management System
- 2022-463: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 110 for Employee Pager Pay
- 2022-464: Purchase of One Laptop, Dock Station, & Two Monitors for Superior Court From Dell
- 2022-465: One Year Renewal of ProofPoint Email Protection from SHI International Corp
- 2022-466: Renewal of 1-Year Subscription for WebEx Meetings & Teams Archiving From CompuNet Inc.
- 2022-467: Contract w/Purswell Pump Company for Replacement of Water Pump @ Horn Rapids Park
- 2022-468: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0148-101, Dept. 121 for Overtime
- 2022-469: Agreement w/Haworth, Inc. for Office Furniture @ the Jail
- 2022-470: Purchase of Windows, Transaction Drawer, Countertop Communicator & Wall Panels From Advanced Protection Products for Jail Lobby Remodel
- 2022-471: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0000-101, Dept. 121 for Overtime
- 2022-472: Line Item Transfer, Fund No. 0502-101, Dept. 000 for Information Systems Analyst II
- 2022-473: Grant Funding From Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority for the Purchase of 10 Automated License Plate Readers and 50 Rat Trap Devices for the Benton County Sheriff's Office
- 2022-474: Approval of an Interagency Agreement with the State of Washington Department of Ecology for Funding Support of Implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- 2022-475: Personal Services Contract with Plauche & Carr LLP for Services Related to Support and Implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan
- 2022-476: Amendment to Resolution 01-072 to Change the Name of Fund 0124101 from the Fairgrounds O&M to Event Center
- 2022-477: Establishing an Event Center Manager Classification Description in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-478: Establishing the Salary Grade for an Event Center Manager in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-479: Establishing a Finance/Sales Specialist Classification Description in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-480: Establishing the Salary Grade for a Finance/Sales Specialist in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-481: Establishing an Event/Sales Specialist Classification Description in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-482: Establishing the Salary Grade for an Event/Sales Specialist in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-483: Establishing an Event Center Maintenance Worker Classification Description in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-484: Establishing the Salary Grade for an Event Center Maintenance Worker in the Event Center Fund 0124101
- 2022-485: Transfer of Funds Within Fairgrounds Fund Number 0124101

2022-486: Agreement for Fiber Optic Runs at the Benton County Fairgrounds with Paramount Communications Inc.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman