

# WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
October 8, 2019



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

## Main Topics Discussed

### *Special Olympics Update – Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Administrator*

In the past, Benton County has provided financial assistance using the mental health developmental disability millage fund to [The Arc of Tri-Cities](#) for support of the local [Special Olympics](#) program. Program staff and Special Olympics athletes provided a brief presentation to the Board and thanked the County for their support. Coaches and athletes thanked the Board for their support and noted that the Tri-Cities area is the fastest-growing area in the state for Special Olympics participation. On November 22-24, over 800 athletes will be coming to the Tri-Cities to compete in various events. **No Board direction or vote.**

### *Adoption of 2020 Legislative Priorities – Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator*

The [Benton County 2020 Legislative Priorities](#) outline and articulate the primary policies, projects, and programs that the County will emphasize during the upcoming 2020 legislative session and throughout the year, and was compiled with input from department managers, elected officials, and the help of consultants from Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs. These priorities are not static and are subject to change if additional issues arise. **The Board moved and seconded to approve the Resolution adopting the 2020 Benton County Legislative Priorities. Motion carried.**

### *Amending the Bylaws & Rules of Procedure for the Board of Benton County Commissioners – Loretta Smith Kelty, Interim County Administrator*

The Board of Benton County Commissioners adopted Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Board of Benton County Commissioners pursuant to Resolution 2018-005. The Bylaws and Rules of Procedure have been updated in sections 5.1 Order of Business, No. 8 Other Business and 5.2. These sections have been amended to: 1) Clarify the differences between consent agenda, scheduled business, and other business, and to specify that any monetary or contractual obligations appearing under Other Business are able reviewed by the County Administrator or the Office of Budget and Finance prior to the meeting (Section 5.1, No. 8); and 2) Add that the Administrator is responsible for placing and removing all items on the agenda to establish a single point of contact and that items must be scheduled prior to inclusion on the agenda. This will not prohibit any Elected Official from addressing the Board under Other Business should they wish. **The Board moved and seconded to adopt the Resolution amending the Bylaws & Rules of Procedure for the Board of Commissioners, repealing and superseding Resolution 2018-005. Motion carried.**

### *Department of Human Services Restructure – Loretta Smith Kelty, Interim County Administrator; Linda Ivey, Finance Manager; Ryan Brown, Civil Prosecuting Attorney; & Kyle Sullivan, Human Services Administrator*

On March 5, 2019 the Board of Benton County Commissioners notified the Board of Franklin County Commissioners that they no longer believed that the current Benton and Franklin Counties Department of Human Services operation continued to be in the best interest of and to meet the needs of both counties. It was expected that this termination would commence on June 30, 2019. On May 14, 2019 a presentation was given suggesting that the date of June 30, 2019 be moved to June 30, 2021 which would allow current contract applications being negotiated a full two years with no disruption in services. Effective January 1, 2020, all employees of the Department will be employees of Benton County and Franklin County will contract for services. Since the Counties have jointly managed and operated the Department of Human Services for decades without any formal operating agreement, this gave the County Administrators the time needed to draft an all-inclusive [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#). **The Board moved and seconded to move forward the Memorandum of Understanding as recommended. Motion carried.**

*Other Business - Revisiting the Commissioners' Takeover of the Jail, Commissioner Delvin*

Commissioner Delvin revisited the discussion to take over the Benton County Jail from the Sheriff's Office, largely because Lourdes, the Jail's mental health services provider, has not been paid since June 2019 for their services. The Human Services Administrator had attempted several times to meet with the Sheriff's Office to provide any necessary assistance to ensure that the contractor was paid and have received feedback from the Sheriff's Office that they would handle the situation. Commissioner Delvin moved to continue to explore the concept of the creation of a County Department of Corrections, utilizing Commissioner staff to offer a recommendation, with the intent of revisiting this proposal on October 22, 2019 for a final decision. Motion carried, with an opposing vote from Commissioner Small.

*Other Business - Statement on Recent Events, Commissioner Small*

Commissioner Small made a statement regarding recent events to remind everyone that other independently-elected officials are not under the authority or purview of the Board of Commissioners, and that the Commissioners take claims of domestic violence very seriously and will await the results of the impending investigation before making any additional comments. **No Board direction or vote.**

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