

WEEKLY REVIEW

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 7, 2019



This document is a weekly review of the Board of County Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Information related to agenda changes, Consent Agenda, and Public Comment are on the [County website](#).

Main Topics Discussed

Public Comment: Request to add Fire Districts to Allowable Use of Public Safety Sales Tax

Bill Berkman, Chair of the Benton County Republican Party, brought forth a request from the Party to amend the current Public Safety Sales Tax to include Benton County Fire Districts for possible funding. The Benton County Sheriff and City of Kennewick Police Chief encouraged the Board to consider the original intent of the Tax and to ensure that law enforcement needs are met prior to expanding the scope of the Tax. **The Board directed the County's legal staff to follow up on the issue, for discussion at a later date.**

Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Wolf Briefing – Mike Livingston, South Central Regional Director

Mike Livingston, South Central Regional Director for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided a brief update to the Board on several items related to wolves. There is an upcoming public meeting on these topics (June 5th at Benton PUD), and the subject may be a media topic in the coming weeks. Livingston didn't want the County to be blindsided and wanted to be sure that commissioners were up to speed with what's going on. Three major items discussed included: Translocation of wolves from areas of higher populations to areas of lower populations, periodic status review, and Conservation and Management Plan for wolves. **No Board direction or vote.**

Memorandum of Understanding Modification with U.S. Marshal for Joint Law Enforcement Operations – Commander Caughey, Sheriff's Office

Per Resolution 2018-962 dated December 11, 2018, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Joint Law Enforcement Operations Task Force between the Sheriff's Office and U.S. Marshal Eastern District of Washington for a reimbursement to the County for an amount up to \$13,000 for the period of 10/1/18 – 9/30/19. The Sheriff's Office received the MOU modification, which would increase the allowable reimbursement by \$5,345, bringing total cap to \$18,345 for the aforementioned time period. **Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the MOU Modification as presented and authorize the Sheriff's signature on the MOU Modification, Commissioner Beaver seconded. Motion passed.**

Public Works Reorganization Discussion – Matt Rasmussen, Public Works Administrator & Karlee Ainsworth, Human Resources Assistant Manager

The Human Resources (HR) Manager worked with the Public Works Administrator to propose the changes listed below to the Public Works Department:

- The Public Works Manager will shift responsibilities, with focus on the oversight of capital construction projects, facilities maintenance, and fleet maintenance, and will change funding source.
- The Assistant County Engineer position will be reinstated and filled with the current Civil Engineer III, with the Civil Engineer position remaining vacant. The Assistant County Engineer will assist with oversight of the Engineering and Road Maintenance Divisions.
- An Accounting Assistant III position is being replaced with an Accounting Support Specialist. This is to provide better overall support for the accounting functions in the Public Works Department.
- A currently vacant Engineering Technician III position will be filled to ensure no lapse in coverage for the upcoming retirement of another Engineering Technician III. After said retirement, that position will remain unfilled.

Commissioner Delvin moved to approve the Assistant County Engineer job description and salary grade and the changes to the Public Works Department organizational chart, Commissioner Beaver seconded. Motion passed.

Request to Proceed with Advertising a Request for Qualifications for Electronic Security Systems – Darryl Banks, Juvenile Justice Administrator

The Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center is requesting approval to solicit qualifications from professional engineering firms for the design, project management, and installation of upgraded electronic security systems. The current electronic security system in the Juvenile Detention Center is over 20 years old and is experiencing periodic technical difficulties. A comprehensive study of the system was approved by the Counties in July 2018 and was completed by Coffman Engineers in October 2018. The study indicated that the system currently being used is obsolete and in need of replacement. Commissioner Delvin moved to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the resolution permitting the Benton-Franklin Counties Juvenile Justice Center to proceed with advertising a Request for Qualifications from engineering firms for the design, project management, and installation of upgraded electronic security systems, Commissioner Beaver seconded. Motion passed.

Finance Presentation – Linda Ivey, Finance Manager & Jennifer Bowe, Assistant Finance Manager

The Finance Department presented to the Board an update on the first quarter's finances for the 2019-2020 Current Expense Fund, for the time period of January-March 2019, including revenues and expenditures by fund category. To view the entire presentation, visit the [Commissioners webpage](#) under "Reports & Presentations." **No Board direction or vote.**

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