

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 9:30 am.  
Commissioners' Conference Room  
Benton County Justice Center  
Kennewick, 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:** Adam Fyall, Community Development Coordinator; Public Works Director Ross Dunfee; Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; DPA Ryan Brown; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; Finance Manager Linda Ivey; and Facilities Manager Roy Rogers. Present via/videoconference: Bryan Thorp, Larry Moser, Norm Children, and Steve Becken, Public Works, and Treasurer Duane Davidson.

#### Six-Year Road Program

Mr. Dunfee discussed the Six-Year Road Program 2009-2014 and reviewed the following:

- Potential New Roads
- Rural Arterial Program
- County Arterial Preservation Program
- Paved Road Improvement Projects
- Gravel Road Paving Projects
- Railroad Crossing Improvement Projects
- Bridge Inventory
- Bridge Inspection Report
- Road Inventory and Funding Sources

#### Hanks Road

The Board discussed the landowners' concerns for safety on the road and the entire "Roza" and how the road improvement would impact their land. Chairman Benitz said the County had moved forward with hiring a firm to look at right of ways, purchase of property, and negotiate prices and the landowners were very concerned about what might happen. Commissioner Bowman said he just wanted to know what their concerns were and was not interested in escalating the situation.

Mr. Dunfee said the County had hired a consultant, completed the design phase and prepared right of way plans as well. Additionally, they would hire an appraiser and as soon as the documents were complete, the contractor would be responsible for negotiation of right of way acquisition.

### Piert Road

Commissioner Beaver said he had been working the issue and was now asking for informational signs to direct the traffic. Commissioner Bowman said he concurred with doing everything possible to get the trucks on the right roads prior to the ordinance restricting use of compression brakes in those areas. Chairman Benitz said the problem was not going to go away with directional signs. Both Commissioner Beaver and Bowman agreed to have a plan for directional signs brought back for the Board to approve. Additionally, they agreed the ordinance should still continue to move forward.

There was also a discussion regarding adopting a resolution to support transfer of ownership for CR397 back to the State.

### One-Year Road Program

Mr. Dunfee discussed the One-Year Road Program and reviewed the following:

- Diverted Road Taxes
- Bituminous Surface Treatment
- Revenues/Expenditures, Road Budget Shortfalls
- Reports on Diverted Road Funds

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 10:40 a.m.

### Hanford Roads

Mr. Dunfee discussed the issue of Hanford roads being turned over to Benton County. Mr. Dunfee asked the Board if it wanted to be proactive or reactive if they decided to try and give the roads to Benton County.

Commissioner Bowman suggested that Commissioner Beaver could research the issue with other entities when he was in D.C. and see how they approached the issue and he concurred with being proactive. Commissioner Beaver said he had a copy of the Attorney General opinion stating they were not county roads and he recommended the Board send a copy of the letter and be proactive.

The Board agreed to send a letter stating that under the current conditions and the AG opinion, the County could not take over the roads. Additionally, they would need to put a plan together addressing the roads and infrastructure before the County would negotiate. Mr. Fyall was instructed to provide a “first draft” of the letter.

### Gravel Road Issue in Finley

Commissioner Beaver said he was still trying to solve the issue for the landowners in Finley to get some gravel on their road.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Dunfee provide a copy of the contract to the Ryan Brown and provide a plan to fix the problem once he had reviewed it.

### Summary

Chairman Benitz briefly discussed the following concerns and issues: re-prioritize the Six-Year Road Program; removal of the CRID's from the road program; CRAB funding; funding in place before listing projects on the One and Six-Year road programs; Roza issue; his opposition to use capital facilities funds for roads; setting policies and procedures for the Road Department; the Public Works Director reporting to the County Administrator; and a resolution for ownership of the Intertie so it was clear what the Board was proposing.

Commissioner Bowman requested a copy of Chairman Benitz' concerns so he could have time to further review his concerns. He commented that Commissioner Benitz offered a list of problems, but did not offer any discussion or solutions, except to move the Public Works Director under the County Administrator. Commissioner Bowman stated he did not know how making that move might solve any budget problems within Public Works.

Commissioner Beaver also requested a copy of the list to review. He said there appeared to be a disconnect between Public Works and administration and the Board needed to have a better level of communication between the two departments.

The Board agreed to have its next workshop meeting on February 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Planning and Fairgrounds issues.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman