

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 10:00 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; Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; DPA Ryan Brown; Facilities Manager Roy Rogers; Keith Mercer, Sheriff's Office; and Planning Manager Mike Shuttleworth.

Animal Control Facility

Adam Fyall introduced Brian Page and Bob Wills of Bernardo Wills Architects. He said the County had retained the architectural firm to complete a study, cost assessment, and one line drawing of a kennel facility that could be built and operated through a Benton County and West Richland partnership.

Mr. Page and Mr. Wills gave a presentation of the proposed options A and B for the animal control facility, described as follows:

Option A

- Site Plan
 - Acreage: 1.62; Parking: 12 standard, 1 accessible, 2 loading
 - Relocation of existing wellhead flushing pond
 - Acquisition of additional acreage required
 - Amenities: Direct access to dog kennels, termination wing, and exotic animal holding pen; approx 21000 sf of site left, (including 2500 for future building)
- Floor Plan
 - Square footage: 5750
 - Animals served: 25 dogs, 5 puppies, 9 cats
 - Staff work stations: 4
 - Amenities: dual kennels for wash down; isolation rooms; animal storage/disposal wing; hospitality room; euthanasia room; adoption room, employee shower;

storage; exotic animal holding pen, enclosed interior sallyport; separate mechanical and electrical rooms

Estimated Construction Cost: \$1,350,000 to \$1,530,000, not including sewer extension past 400 feet or cost of moving flushing pond

Option B

- Site Plan
 - Acreage: 1; Parking: 6 standard, 1 accessible, 0 loading
 - Relocation of existing wellhead flushing pond
 - Modifications to existing wellhead fencing
 - Amenities: Approximately 8000 sf of site left (including 1600 sf for future building)
- Floor Plan
 - Square footage: 2250
 - Animals served: 16 dogs, 4 puppies, 9 cats
 - Staff work stations: 2
 - Amenities: isolation rooms; euthanasia room; employee shower; open exterior vehicle sallyport

Estimated Construction Cost: \$640,000 to \$720,000, not including sewer extension past 400 feet or cost of moving flushing pond

Commissioner Bowman said he liked the larger facility much better, but thought they might be able to save some money if the sally port was not enclosed.

Commissioner Beaver requested the administration provide a financial analysis and number associated with what it would cost Benton County to own and operate its own facility. He said after the analysis was provided, the Board could determine what amount the County would be willing to contribute as a partner.

Chairman Benitz said he was interested in pursuing a Benton County animal protection service as a stand-alone agency and a separate taxing district as a funding source for the service. He also suggested the Board look at Spokane County as a model and requested the previous task force put together standards and controls and review pet licensing, spay/neuter options, and adoption.

Commissioner Bowman stated the draft ordinance was prepared, West Richland could provide an estimate for operating budget, and the Board now had an estimated cost for construction. He said he didn't think the Board needed to wait any longer and he didn't believe the City of West Richland was going to wait. He said he was ready to move and the Board needed to agree on the location and size of the facility and could work into phases of licensing and other parts of the program.

Commissioner Beaver said he didn't want to wait either, but still wanted a financial analysis back in 30 days from David Sparks on the different alternatives and how it would impact the budget and the County's future.

David Sparks said it would be relatively easy to pencil out the costs of a stand-alone facility versus a joint facility with West Richland. However, he said the other requests by Chairman Benitz would take considerably longer.

Commissioner Bowman said he was in agreement with requesting Mr. Sparks to provide the data in 30 days.

The Board adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman