

**Benton County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes 02/14/2018**

Present:

Craig Littrel, City of Kennewick Police Department
Paul Parish, City of Kennewick Council Member
Brent Gerry, Mayor of West Richland
Ben Majetich, City of West Richland Police Department
Dave Giles, City of Prosser Police Department
Rusty Morris, Citizen Representative
Shyanne Faulconer, Benton County Commissioners
Dan Kathren, District Court Judge
Jacki Lahtinen, Benton County District Court Administrator
Sam Swanberg, Superior Court Judge
Wendy Culverwell, Tri-City Herald
Josie Delvin, Benton County Clerk
Eric Hsu, Benton County Office of Public Defense
Delfina Meza, Benton County Office of Public Defense

Benton County Gang and Crime Prevention Update– Shyanne Faulconer

- The Gang and Prevention added two new programs for 2017 and has retained five programs from the previous year, the programs Expenditures vs remaining Fund Balance are as followed. Expenditures total are \$518,834 which brings it to a 65% and the Balance total is \$281,166 in which brings it to 35%. The total budget allocated for 2017 was \$800,000.
- Goal for 2018 – Request for Proposals tentatively scheduled for either July or August. Funds from the program will be available for all interested organizations.
- The full Public Safety Tax report will be available in March 2018.

Paul Parrish – Kennewick City Council

- Expressed various concerns and reservations about the amount of unspent Public Safety Sales Tax money that Benton County is accumulating (also known as “reserves”).

Brent Gerry – West Richland Mayor

- Stated that it appears that online financial information on the Public Safety Sales Tax was informative and detailed. However, suggested that County leaders do more to explain what was being done with the unspent reserves

Round Table – PST Spending Programs Update

Craig Littrell – Kennewick Police Department

- 5 Graduations from the Police Academy

- 2 more going into the Academy mid-year.

Ben Majetich – West Richland Police Department

- 3 positions have been filled in the Financial Department.
- Purchased new Drug Under Cover vehicle.

Dave Giles – Prosser Police Department

- Hired new school Resource Officer and a part time Admin.
- 2 Officers have been sworn in.
- Safety Sales tax money going towards schools and extra patrol.

Jacki Lahtinen – District Court

- Mental Health Court currently has 34 clients in the program.
- 16 Graduates and zero on the waiting list.
- Encourage everyone to attend the Graduations, next one is on March 9, 2018 at 9am in courtroom 4.

Sam Swanberg – Superior Court Judge

- Appreciates the Drug Court Programs, this resolves in problem solving rather than punishment.
- A full time Court Commissioner has been hired on.

Josie Delvin – Benton County Clerk

- 2 additional staff have been hired, one floater and ex parte docket.

Adjourn: 12:26pm