

MINUTES

BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Budget Workshop Meeting
October 28, 2009, 8:15 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Courthouse, Prosser, 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: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Finance Manager Linda Ivey; Clerk Josie Delvin and Deputy Clerk Jacki Hill; Auditor Bobbie Gagner and Deputy Auditor Brenda Chilton; Rosie Sparks and Pat Powell, Auditor's Office; Central Services Manager Randy Reid; Treasurer Duane Davidson; Marianne Ophardt, WSU; Coroner Rick Corson; Nick Kooiker and Erhiza Rivera, Treasurer's Office; Sheriff Larry Taylor; Keith Mercer, Sheriff's Office.

Clerk Departments

Josie Delvin and Jackie Hill presented the Clerk Department budgets. Ms. Delvin discussed her increases in the Clerk Facilitator program and the Legal Financial Obligation docket. She said the State put the responsibility of collection from the Department of Corrections onto the Courts and they will now have thousands of more offenders to try and collect, which increased the need for the financial obligation docket.

WSU – Benton County Extension

Marianne Ophardt discussed the requested increases as follows: change a position from permanent to part-time, purchase a portable loud speaker; contract messenger service; increase of postage with a reduction of office supplies and training; a county vehicle for use by Gwen; and two county cell phones.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 9:15 a.m.

Coroner

Rick Corson said his increases included the cost of autopsies (based on 60 anticipated) and a one-time fee for computerized record keeping.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 9:25 a.m.

Treasurer

Duane Davidson, Erhiza Rivera, and Nick Kooiker presented the Treasurer's budget and discussed the following increases: office supplies, publications, bond admin fees, tax statement service (paper costs); postage, telephone service, and association dues. Ms. Rivera said they were all settled in at the Annex and felt they had a good ratio of employees between Kennewick and Prosser and expressed appreciation to the Board for the new space.

Mr. Davidson reported the taxpayers were visiting the Kennewick office in great frequency and it was greatly appreciated. He said they established a public access terminal and also installed a scanning station for use by the Treasurer, Auditor, and Clerk. Additionally, they were looking at armored car service to be paid out of the current budget and were in the midst of reviewing the banking services RFP.

The Board recessed, reconvening at 9:50 a.m.

Sheriff

Sheriff Taylor and Keith Mercer discussed the following Sheriff department budgets:

- Dept. 118: reduction of approximately \$21,000
- Dept. 119: increase of background checks for WSP, with a reduction of approximately \$47,000
- Dept. 120: increase in overtime (legal financial docket); indigent supplies and security (removed from inmate benevolence); increase of \$17,000
- Dept. 121: wages/benefits reflect increase due to contract; uniforms moved to another line item that would be zeroed out in following years; professional services; increases offset by grant money with a bottom line increase of \$11,000
- Dept. 125: only cola increases, \$15,000
- Dept. 137: Animal Control – 9-month budget with two animal control officers and supplies, \$160,000
- Inmate Ben: reductions: overtime, oil/lubricants, operating supplies, education and recreation, indigent supplies, contract services, security, repair and maintenance, training, print/bindery; overall \$100,000
- Investigative: no changes
- K-9/Boat: COLA increase, travel reduction
- Jail Deprec.: projects – kitchen equipment and dishwasher
- Work Crew: two vans to be replaced

Auditor

Bobbie Gagner and Brenda Chilton presented the Auditor Department budgets with only interfund increases. Ms. Gagner said the Olympia DOL had closed its offices and they were trying to bring in revenue by soliciting those services.

Bobbie Gagner turned in a letter for resignation effective December 31, 2009.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman