

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 48
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for December 3, 2007
Bi-County Meeting with Benton County Commissioners

The Honorable Boards of Franklin County Commissioners and Benton County Commissioners met on the above date beginning at 1:32 pm. The following people were present for the meeting:

Franklin County Commissioners Bob Koch, Chairman; and Rick Miller, Member. Neva J. Corkrum, Member, was absent to attend a funeral. Benton County Commissioners Leo Bowman, Chairman; Max E. Benitz, Jr., Member; and Claude Oliver, Member.

Franklin County Administrator Fred Bowen; Chief Accountant Tom Westerman; and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Benton County staff members: David Sparks, Loretta Smith Kelty and Linda Ivey; Juvenile Justice Center Director Sharon Paradis and Jennifer Bowe; Tri-City Herald Reporter Joe Chapman; Superior Court Administrator Pat Austin; Superior Court Judge Vic VanderSchoor; Indigent Defense Coordinator Ray Gonzales and Office Administrator Judy Paxton.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (JJC)

JJC Director Sharon Paradis, Judge Vic VanderSchoor and Jennifer Bowe met with the Board.

Ms. Paradis gave the Board members some budget information which includes the enhancement requests from the JJC (Exhibit 1).

She said the Franklin County Board has given preliminary approval of the following enhancement requests:

For Department 171 - Operations:

- \$1727 Central Services increase
- \$5000 pre-employment polygraphs
- \$20,000 utilities increase
- \$10,976 security increase
- \$8000 fenced line item for non-Spanish interpreters

For Department 172 – Facilities:

- \$6962 janitorial supplies increase and vendor rate increases

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- \$3288 to maintain floors in detention

Ms. Paradis said we are renewing the request to consider the other enhancements:

- \$51,784 Detention – Court Safety Officer.
- \$58,903 to support a community restorative justice coordinator. We are trying to improve the community service experience.
- \$159,448 staff for the Family Violence Intervention Project and Selective Aggressive Probation. The Family Violence Intervention Project has had a significant impact related to first offenders. The Selective Aggressive Probation program has had significant impact relating to more serious repeat juvenile offenders.

Ms. Paradis explained the enhancement requests for Department 173 – Fee for Service.

Ms. Paradis said the Benton County Board has approved the request for a \$376,487 enhancement to grant funds in Department 174. The Franklin County Board has not passed their budget yet but she does not believe the Franklin County Board had any questions about it. It relates to new grant funds.

A spreadsheet was reviewed showing the impacts on the overall budget for Departments 171 and 172 which includes the costs broken out for Benton and Franklin Counties (Exhibit 2). She said Franklin County has indicated they would approve the first five items of the Department 171 costs listed on the spreadsheet. She said Franklin County has given approval for both Department 172 items.

Franklin County Commissioners Koch and Miller had no questions.

A spreadsheet titled “2008 Expenditures Against Fund Balance Carry Forward” was reviewed (Exhibit 2). Ms. Paradis explained the need for items on the spreadsheet.

She said we are asking the Boards to consider allowing us to purchase two new cars for \$40,000. Our current fleet is in pretty serious shape, with aging, all high-mileage cars at this time.

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We would ask for \$25,250 to sustain our current kitchen operation, \$10,708 to support Detention relief, and \$6000 to pay for a repeater radio for Detention. We have dead spots for our radio in Detention. We were told the radio would enhance or boost the signal.

The sheet includes a request for \$636 holiday pay for Detention officers.

A request for \$3195 is being made for program sustainability of current programs in Department 173. The Board has previously let us expend dollars for detention relief, holiday pay and program and our kitchen operation. So the real enhancement requests are the \$40,000 for new cars and the \$6000 for radios in Detention. The remainder is amounts we are asking you to let us spend as we did last year.

Mr. Bowman asked the Franklin County Board to verify their approval of the five items for Department 171 and two items for Department 172. The Franklin County Board members said yes, they have given verbal approval.

Mr. Oliver said he would concur with the Franklin County Board for additions on Department 171 and Department 172.

Mr. Bowman said the Benton County Board would have a general concurrence but we would actually have these on our next Board meeting agenda for official approval.

Mr. Benitz said he has some concerns on where we're at mainly on the overall budget, particularly with regard to the request to carry forward dollars in the JJC. He said we're carrying over a considerable amount of money and I don't agree with that spending of those funds in that way. I can't support at this time.

Mr. Bowman asked, "So these seven items you cannot support?" Mr. Benitz said, "No, I can't support the entire budget."

Mr. Bowman asked the Franklin County Commissioners regarding the Detention – Court Safety Officer, Community Restorative Justice Coordinator, and Staff for Family Violence Intervention Project, "you have not seen the ability to fund that out of Current Expense?" Mr. Koch said, "Correct." Mr. Bowman said, "I would concur with the Franklin County recommendations here as well as Commissioner Oliver does."

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He said, "I don't see Commissioner Oliver opposed to these particular items, just the overall budget." Mr. Oliver said that's correct. Mr. Bowman said, "I think we've come to an agreement on those two different items."

Mr. Bowman asked Mr. Koch about items for Department 173, \$40,000 for vehicles, \$6000 for radios and \$22,741 for Graffiti Abatement. Ms. Paradis said at the time the Franklin County Board did not take issue with the \$22,741 because it would be new revenue and new expenditures. Mr. Bowman said it would not come out of the cash carryover. Ms. Paradis said that is correct. Mr. Bowman asked so Franklin County generally concurs with all three? Mr. Koch said yes.

Mr. Bowman said he would concur with Franklin County as well as Mr. Oliver. (Clerk's Note: Mr. Benitz's response was inaudible to the clerk and inaudible on the recording.)

Mr. Oliver said he believes we need to authorize funding for the \$40,000, the \$6000 and the \$22,741 in a grant anticipation classification under the revenue expenditure side of the budget.

Mr. Bowman said Benton County would concur with all three.

Mr. Bowman asked about Department 174 – new grant funds. The other Benton County Board members feel it has already been approved.

Ms. Paradis answered the Boards' question about the kitchen fund. There is a fund set aside at \$1000 a month to go into maintenance and equipment for the kitchen equipment, which currently has about \$11,000 in it. The \$25,000 is not coming out of that fund but out of Department 173 (largely Becca funding) to support actual cost of kitchen operations. The \$11,000 will remain in that fund.

Mr. Bowman asked the Franklin County Board about four items: operation of kitchen, detention relief, holiday pay and program sustainability. Mr. Koch said Franklin County had consensus agreement to approve the four items.

Mr. Benitz said as long as it ends up with an ending fund balance of \$380,532, I would _____ (inaudible). Mr. Oliver said he would concur with Franklin County.

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Ms. Paradis answered Mr. Bowman's question about the carry forward balance. She briefly explained the requirements of the grants. Mr. Bowman said he would concur with Franklin County. Mr. Bowman asked Mr. Koch if Franklin County's understanding is the \$300,000 is to maintain the cash flow. Mr. Koch said correct.

Mr. Oliver said most departments are not allowed to address carry forward funds. He also feels that because this is a level of grant participation program that it would be appropriate to carry forward. On re-authorization, though, of other areas of the budget, we need to visit it on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Bowman explained why he thinks there needs to be some cash carryover allowed to maintain cash flow to expend the money and then be reimbursed.

Human Services Director Carrie Huie-Pascua and staff member Pat Underwood joined the audience.

Mr. Benitz talked about the fund balance. The Parent Pay program balance should be a good incentive to collect this money. Presently we're only collecting about 13% of that money. Let's use \$800,000 as incentive to collect so we don't have to ask taxpayers.

Mr. Bowman said he thinks that's a real good point. He is asking staff to prepare a report telling us about what you're doing to get those Parent Pay collections. Ms. Paradis said she will be happy to have a report prepared. She said we have talked about moving to a judgment process which has the potential to collect more but also has the potential for more costs including costs for judges, court time, commissioner time and staff time. We are trying to be diligent about collecting but we have to examine it in terms of analyzing what we would bring in as compared to what we would spend.

Mr. Oliver said the important thing is the aging factor for cost recovery of those monies. If it's not cost effective for the dollars, then we should perhaps look at a different way of doing it.

Mr. Bowman said it would appear that Benton County agrees with Franklin County. He will ask staff to prepare appropriate paperwork for the consent agenda for Benton County and Franklin County.

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Commissioner Oliver left the meeting to attend another meeting.

SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court Administrator Pat Austin and Judge Vic VanderSchoor met with the Board.

Enhancement Budget Requests

Ms. Austin explained the need to fund the Adult Drug Court.

She explained the need for a three-quarter time court commissioner. The court commissioners can pick up docket time but not jury trials. We have the staff to accommodate the court commissioner. It would cost Franklin County approximately \$10,000 and Benton County approximately \$30,000. The big jump is that a court commissioner moving from half time to three-quarter time would be entitled to retirement but not to medical insurance.

Ms. Austin requested approval of a secretary/receptionist for the court to assist the public when they come to the courts and ease their access. She said this is the third year we have asked for this position. Our office is the first doorway in the hall so there are frequent requests for help. The cost would be approximately \$10,000 to Franklin County and approximately \$31,000 to Benton County.

Ms. Austin explained the request to expand the Family Court Services program to Franklin County as well as Benton County. It was a grant program earlier in Franklin County but not continued. We are in great need of the program in the community. Franklin County would pay \$32,000 to \$33,000. Currently Benton County pays for the entire program. The cost would be shared if Franklin County opted in.

Ms. Austin asked for approval to purchase uniforms and accessories for bailiffs, which has been requested in the past. She said we still strongly support it. The bailiffs don't make a large income. The judges require that they dress in a jacket, slacks, and tie when they're in the courtroom to have a professional appearance. Weapons and other items that they are required to carry wear out the linings of the jackets so they have to

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constantly replace them. The budget proposal is to purchase two jackets and have a logo on them. We want to help them out for the costs it takes to do their jobs. She listed the other employees who do have a clothing allowance. The cost is \$560 for Franklin County and \$1689 for Benton County.

Mr. Miller asked what the monetary benefits would be if Franklin County merged in with the CASA program. Ms. Austin said it would depend on how many families come through the program on a yearly basis. We don't have specific numbers at this time. In extreme cases, a judge has appointed someone to do the work. There is a yearly average but it varies from year to year.

Mr. Koch said as in the past two years, he supports the bailiff's uniforms. He feels that Franklin County cannot support the other requests because of costs. Everyone wanted the security system in Franklin County, which is costing about a half million dollars.

In response to Mr. Miller's question, Judge VanderSchoor said the work done by the program would provide an outside source to the judge of where custody should be awarded, which will sometimes cut the trial off, but he does not have figures.

Judge VanderSchoor said he understands Franklin County's position on finances. Each year our request for the commissioner gets more and more urgent. He said it is extremely urgent.

Ms. Austin will get some information prepared for Mr. Miller.

Mr. Benitz supports the salaries and benefits for the baseline budget. He does not support the new receptionist, new court commissioner, or uniforms.

Mr. Bowman said he does not support the uniforms.

Mr. Miller said he can support the uniforms.

Mr. Bowen said it is set up that if both boards agree, it will pass and if they don't, it is an impasse.

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)

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Mr. Koch said as far as I know, we had agreed to the Human Services proposals. Ms. Huie-Pascua said thank you. Mr. Bowen asked for some clarification from Mr. Sparks. It was determined that there are no additional increases to the Human Services budget.

Mr. Sparks answered Mr. Bowen's questions about some additional requests that were made.

HEALTH DISTRICT

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, December 5, 2007, at 1:30 to discuss the Benton-Franklin Health Department budget.

Recessed at 2:19 pm until Wednesday, December 5, 2007.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until December 5, 2007.

There being further bi-county business, the bi-county meeting of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the Benton County Board of Commissioners was recessed until December 5, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed December 10, 2007.