

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 51
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for August 2, 2010

The Honorable Boards of Franklin County and Benton County Commissioners met on the above date. Present for the meeting representing Franklin County were Commissioners Brad Peck, Chairman; Rick Miller, Chair Pro Tem; and Bob Koch, Member.

Present for the meeting representing Benton County were Commissioners James R. Beaver, Leo M. Bowman and Max E. Benitz, Jr.

Staff members present included Franklin County Administrator Fred Bowen, Benton County Director of Administrative Services David Sparks, Loretta Smith-Kelty, Juvenile Justice Center Director Sharon Paradis, Human Services Administrator Ed Thornbrugh, Franklin County Prosecutor Steve Lowe, Kennewick Chief of Police Ken Hohenberg, Health District Director Dr. Larry Jecha, Jennifer Bowe, Superior Court Judge Vic Vanderschoor, Sheriff Richard Lathim, Superior Court Judge Cameron Mitchell, District Court Administrator Kelly Martin, Dispatch Supervisor Ed Bush, Superior Court Judge Craig Matheson, Franklin County Clerk Mike Killian, Bruce Spanner, Franklin County Undersheriff Kevin Carle, Darryl Banks of JJC, Pasco Police Department representative Michael Aldridge, _____ from Richland Police Department, Chief McElway from West Richland Police Department, Al Thompson from Benton County Sheriff's Office, Superior Court Judge Robert Swisher and Franklin County Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Others were also present in the audience including a woman television reporter.

Meeting convened at 2:00 pm.

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER (JJC)

Benton County Prosecutor Andy Miller met with the Board.

Mr. Miller said we need to get together and decide how we're going to approach the Detention issue from a law enforcement/prosecution standpoint. He explained how people have worked to change the recommendations for sentencing in Juvenile Court. He said we understand the counties' financial difficulties. What has happened is that almost every day we are taking juveniles who need to be in Detention and letting one, two, four juveniles out early. He talked about prioritizing work that has been done. The gang problem is a concern. To nip the gang problem in the bud, we need to hold juveniles who are responsible accountable. The gangs are having the juveniles do more and more of the crime as opposed to the adults. We want to let the

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commissioners know the problems. We're willing to help and do anything we can to assist. We wanted to call this information to your attention. Superior Court is making a request to add back three detention officers, if not now then in 2011.

Franklin County Prosecutor Steve Lowe also spoke to the Board members about the issue, including that criminals are receiving less sentences than last year and there is less capacity. He explained how the District Court contract with JJC for DUIs works.

Mr. Lowe said if you're going to add money to JJC, I want it to go to Detention not Probation. If you do add funds, earmark it specifically to add more beds in Detention.

Laura Whittier from the Benton County Prosecutor's Office talked.

Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg talked.

Pasco Police Department representative Mike Aldrich talked.

Andy Miller named others who are present for law enforcement and courts. He said all law enforcement is here and are all on the same page, offering to work with the Commissioners to solve the problem of increasing detention resources so we can hold gang members accountable and treat them and stem the gang problem.

Sharon Paradis gave the Board members some information and answered Board members' questions.

The Board members would like to see more data about the impact of reduced sentences. Andy Miller will provide additional data to the Board members that Mr. Peck requested regarding hard numbers.

Mr. Benitz said we need to make sure the state pays their fair share. Legislators and the governor need to know the importance of letting these kids loose and being innovative and finding some additional revenue.

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Commissioners' Proceedings for August 2, 2010

HUMAN SERVICES (HS)

HS Administrator Ed Thornbrugh met with the Board. Present in audience: David Sparks, Loretta Smith-Kelty, Melina Wenner, Dr. Larry Jecha and two other men.

Discussion and possible selection of an architect regarding the proposed Consolidated Crisis Response Center (CCRC)

Mr. Thornbrugh recommended proceeding to develop a contract with Ron Wright and Associates of Seattle. The commissioners from each county agreed to proceed with contract development with Ron Wright and Associates.

After discussion, both Boards agreed that the scope of work for the architectural contract will include development of a feasibility study.

Discussion on financial costs of relocating Human Services Administration to Benton-Franklin Health District Building

Both boards are interested in investigating the potential of relocating the HS administration to the Benton-Franklin Health District building. The Boards discussed the need to know the exact costs involved to relocate the Human Services administrative offices to the Health District Building. Mr. Benitz would like to use the same firm (Ron Wright and Associates) to provide information.

Summary

Mr. Peck gave a summary:

We have had a good discussion about the JJC issue and received good information from a wide range of experts.

We have had a good discussion of the architectural proposal and, by verbal agreement and consensus separately but by both boards, we have given approval for the staff from both counties to move ahead with negotiations with Ron Wright and Associates.

On the third issue, discussion of financial costs relating to relocating Human Services, we've spelled out that both boards are interested in investigating the potential for moving Human Services' administrative operations into the same building as the Health Department and that that would be a lease by Human Services from Benton County.

Adjourned at 3:01 pm.

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 51
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceedings for August 2, 2010

There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until August 4, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Brad Peck, Chairman

Rick Miller, Chairman Pro Tem

Robert E. Koch, Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed August 25, 2010.