

**MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

****Please note: the meeting summary is not the formal meeting record
and does not replace official Board Meeting minutes.****

- 1. Opening:**
 - 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Introductions**
 - 3. Announcements**

Augerot thanked staff who put in overtime and extra effort during last week's ice storm, including staff from Public Works, Public Health, and Emergency Management.

- 2. Review & Approve Agenda**

No changes were made to the agenda.

- 3. Comments from the Public** – See meeting minutes for details.

Susan V., Philomath resident, expressed concerns about large trucks entering and leaving Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL), the increasing size of the landfill, and toxic smells. Susan V. encouraged others to get involved with the issue before the next Conditional Use Permit application.

Joel Geier, Benton County resident, former Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) member, described problems with environmental and workplace safety at CBL and summarized DSAC efforts to delve into these issues. Geier refuted Community Development Director Darren Nichols' earlier assertions that some DSAC members threatened other members.

- 4. Work Session**

- 4.1 Review of Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Revised Bylaws –
*Darren Nichols, Community Development***

Nichols presented the proposed revised DSAC bylaws.

The Board discussed possible changes to the proposed bylaws, including the need for a code of conduct, the possibility of a whistleblower policy, and the ideal minimum number of DSAC members.

- 4.2 Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Progress Report – *Darren Nichols, Community Development; Steven Chase, Chair of SMMP Task Force***

Nichols described efforts to contract outside expertise for the SMMP, and listed regional partners who have agreed to help. Staff are currently evaluating Request for Proposals responses.

Chase described his background in environmental and planning work, and discussed Task Force missions and deliverables, to include regular progress reports beginning in late February 2024.

4.3 Recommendation for Non-represented Employee Compensation Plan – Tracy Martineau, Tammy Webb, Chip Polito, Human Resources; Rick Crager, Financial Services; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

Martineau reviewed the methodology and results of the compensation study, which showed that Benton County salaries for non-represented employees are lagging the market by about 15%. Martineau provided six recommendations (see minutes for details).

Crager explained that the total financial impact of these actions will be \$1,071,024, and the maximum total impact (including benefits) will be approximately \$1.5 million.

MOTION: Malone moved to implement the nine-step salary ranges for annual pay increase, and an additional 10, 11, and 12 steps exclusively to recognize exceptional performance, implementation to be effective January 1, 2024. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried, 3-0.**

MOTION: Wyse moved to address the compression issue in the Benton County Sheriff's Office through the adjustment as recommended by Human Resources Director Tracy Martineau. Malone seconded the motion, which **passed 3-0.**

5. New Business

5.1 Discussion Regarding Alsea Health Center – Lacey Mollel, Christine Mosbaugh, Community Health Centers

Mollel and Mosbaugh provided an update on the Alsea Health Center, which has been temporarily closed since August 1, 2023.

MOTION: Wyse moved to approve the ongoing closure of the Alsea site and continued investment in planning for current and future Benton County services, with at least quarterly updates from staff on the situation. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

5.2 Broadband Technical Assistance Program (BTAP) Application Letter of Support – Adam Loerts, Information Technology

Loerts provided background on the multi-county Broadband Action Team. This letter will increase the chances for local company Rural Prosperity Partners to receive a Federal Broadband Technical Assistance Program grant.

MOTION: Wyse moved to sign the letter of support as presented. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

6. Public Hearings

PH1 Continuation of the January 16, 2024 Public Hearing, First Reading of Ordinance 2023-0323 Proposing Revision to Benton County Code, Chapters 4, 5, and 6 – James Morales, Records and Elections

Morales summarized the proposed revisions that were first presented on January 16, 2024. In a recent email, Wyse suggested further edits, which are now incorporated.

Wyse noted that some changes suggested in her email were not present in the current version. (See minutes for details.)

No public comments were offered.

MOTION: Malone moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-0323 amending chapters four, five, and six of the Benton County Code to revise, update, and clarify election procedures and conduct the first reading. Wyse suggested adding ‘with the changes highlighted at the meeting for Chapter 4.255(7) and Chapter 5.010(3)(b)(A).’ Malone accepted the amendment. Wyse seconded the amended motion, which **carried 3-0.**

Augerot conducted the first reading (short title). Second reading to be held on February 6, 2024, effective date March 7, 2024.

7. Information Sharing

7.1 Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Augerot mentioned a request for a letter of support for the Willamette Grange. Augerot will write the letter, to be signed by all Commissioners.

MOTION: Malone moved to initiate a letter of support for the Willamette Grange restoration. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

7.2 Nancy Wyse, Vice-Chair

No business was discussed.

7.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner

No business was discussed.

7.4 Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

No business was discussed.

8. Other

No other business was discussed.