

MINUTES

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

District Attorney, Juvenile & Sheriff's Office

February 6, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Present: Nancy Wyse, Chair; Pat Malone, Vice Chair; Gabe Shepherd, Commissioner; Don Rogers, Undersheriff; Ryan Joslin, District Attorney; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator; Matt Wetherell, Juvenile Director; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Katie Cooper, Sheriff's Executive Assistant; Jamie Olsen, Juvenile Administrative Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. No Minutes to approve.
2. Juvenile Department – Matt Wetherell, Juvenile Director
 - Department Status Report – Report attached, one open position, not currently recruiting, work crew is now back up and running, working on a reading intervention program, running 15 groups in area middle schools.
 - Budget Update – Notes attached, working on budget preparation and preparation for upcoming meeting with Finance. Crager noted that Juvenile has done an excellent job of staying in budget, Wyse expressed her thanks.
 - Legislative Update – Reviewed attached report.
 - Emerging Case Trends- There is a decrease in referrals however the need has not gone down, may see a 10-15% cut due future funding.
3. Sheriff's Office – Don Rogers, Undersheriff
 - BCSO Office Update -Average daily population in the Jail has been consistently high. P&P Deputy Sowers retired in December, her position will be held vacant due to budget constraints. DUII arrests are up. Currently working on the BCSO annual report and awards nominations for 2024. General discussion about jail bed rentals, how many are rented who can go to those beds etc. Discussion about the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) which BCSO currently has 17 adults in custody at OSH. Update on Concealed Handgun License application and online process.
 - Monthly Reports: October, November & December reviewed copies attached.

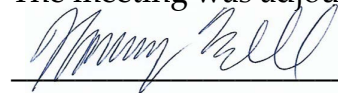
- Budget Report – Reviewed copy attached. BCSO is in good shape to finish within budget. Crager noted BCSO budget is heavily reliant on the General Fund and he is very please with how things look and how BSCO has managed the budget. Wyse commented her approval of staying within budget even while absorbing the increases to address the compression issues. Shepherd inquired why the DUII grant application for extra patrols has been rejected. Rogers clarified it's on pause by County Counsel due to language referencing executive orders until further clarification is available.
- Rachel McEneny joined meeting at 10:45 a.m.

4. District Attorney – Ryan Joslin, District Attorney

- Joslin expressed his thanks for the support and welcome he has received.
- Axon Justice Premier ("Evidence.Com")- conducting studies/testing prior to switching over to receiving media this way, targeting March 1st to switch. Axon will eliminate the need for sending three copies of data on USB drives. McEneny inquired about pushback from the defense consortium, Joslin reported they are excited to transition. Rogers confirmed the deputies are too. The fee schedule for discovery will need to be updated.
- DDA Recruitment Efforts- The changes in pay that came from pay equity has helped with recruitment, the multiple vacancies have also helped to have an impact on the budget curretnly at 70% due to not being fully staffed. Wyse asked if housing was part of the issue for staffing. Joslin said most of his staff do not live in the County, they travel to work and do not intend to relocate.
- Discussion around state of the justice system and inadequacy of the jail. Wyse noted the need to plan work session to go over this. Joslin is currently collecting data related trends and costs.
- Crager update on the progress and site prep for the new Courthouse and EOC. A ground breaking ceremony will likely be scheduled for mid-April.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.



Nancy Wyse, Chair



Pat Malone, Vice Chair



Gabe Shepherd, Commissioner