



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

October 25, 2016

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Board approves formation of Extension Service District

CORVALLIS, Ore. – The Benton County Board of Commissioners approved (3-0) the formation of the Benton County Agricultural Extension Services County Service District at the October 25, 2016 board meeting.

At the Sept. 20, 2016 board meeting, the Board of Commissioners initiated creation of a county service district to support OSU Agricultural Extension services. Today’s public hearing was relative to establishing the need and boundary of the Benton County Agricultural Extension Services County Service District.

The proposed service area is all of Benton County, including all five incorporated cities in the County. Each of the five cities has adopted a resolution agreeing to be included within the proposed service district. Supporters of the proposed service district are also asking the Board to establish a maximum permanent property tax rate for the district. The request for a permanent rate requires a second hearing, but no tax levy can be established without approval of the voters.

A public hearing on the question of whether to establish a maximum permanent property tax rate is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 22, at the Board of Commissioners Office, 205 NW 5th St., Corvallis, Oregon 97339. Anyone who is interested can attend the public hearing and be heard. The hearing room is accessible to the disabled.

Those interested can provide written testimony. To be accepted at the hearing, written testimony must be submitted to the Benton County Board of Commissioners Office by 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, or at the time and location of the hearing. Written testimony can be sent via postal mail to P.O. Box 3020, Corvallis, OR 97339, via email to Teresa.Farley@co.benton.or.us, or delivered to the Benton County Board of Commissioners, 205 NW 5th St., Corvallis, OR 97339.

Following the Nov. 22 hearing, the county board can order the question of district formation and establishment of a maximum tax rate as a single question to be placed on the May 2017 primary election ballot.

For more information or to notify county staff in advance of the hearing of any physical accommodations that may be necessary, contact the Board of Commissioners Office at 541-766-6800.

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