

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****APRIL 22, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 22, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch was absent attending the NCWEDD Summit in Chelan.

**Review & Discuss Commissioners' Agenda and Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover proposed combining district #1 and #3 LTAC area membership so there is equal numbers of collectors and receivers on the committee. He asked that the resolution be prepared to combine district #1 and #3 after discussion with Commissioner Branch.

Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules

**Legislative Update- Potts & Associates**

Rescheduled

**Discussion – Auditor/Elections Supplemental – Auditor Cari Hall**

Jamie Groomes was present.

Auditor Hall explained the lead recorder position is open now so she thought her request for budget supplemental doing them all at one time. The budget adjustment request and supplemental request can be compiled on the same request form with separate resolutions documenting them separately. Auditor Hall asked if another way to let the commissioners know about the adjustment would be best. The adjustments are not required by the BARS to be by resolution but it has been a way to receive the commissioners' acknowledgement and okay. She will wait to make the changes due to budget adjustment until after the supplemental hearing is done. Commissioner Hover stated the process has been working well.

The request regarding the lead recorder position and MARK fund issues, the request was provided showing an adjustment of \$10,823 and supplemental of \$61,988. She explained the funds.

Preservation of historical records was discussed. Commissioners believe by archiving the records it would free up a lot of space. Planning would be an easy one to start on. Commissioner DeTro is in favor of archiving using the Preservation of Historical Documents recording fees. Records should be stored somewhere else where they are secure. Commissioners were in favor of using the funds to preserve historical documents.

Auditor Hall explained she expects about 60 or so books back from being converted to electronic file. The company isn't recommended moving forward.

Must be working towards two certified election employees but training is required to be certified for E111 in Moses Lake. It is a weeklong conference and that isn't budgeted for. There is another training in Renton that is budgeted for. Licensing license certification training will also be required.

Auditor Hall explained she met with the Tribe on ballot box placement. The meeting went well. It was suggested that a ballot box be placed at 12-Tribes. The MOU was reviewed by David Gecas and will review it. Elections notices should be published in the Tribal Tribune.

Auditor Hall explained information that is to be available to the public and goals to update the way

people can access.

EDEN replacement should be considered in the budget. She wants hard quote proposal for whatever it is replaced with. The program should be cash basis and geared towards us. It will not be an easy change over nor will it be inexpensive.

Auditor Hall explained the process for budget this year.

### **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,037,598.18. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

### **Motion Public Health Voucher**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$15,010.63. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Update – Public Defender– Melissa McDougall**

Tanya Craig was present.

Ms. Craig introduced Melissa McDougall as the Public Defenders'. Ms. McDougall stated this meeting was arranged to discuss the Public Defenders Contract to learn whether or not the commissioners had any questions or concerns. There have been some changes with the new Prosecutor and staffing. She is under contract for seven attorneys and that has fluxgate. Right now really need eight. She has been taking some district court cases as well as the felonies. The other issue is that some may apply for a position open in the prosecutor's office with the Baily vacancy. She wants to be proactive in addressing the staffing. The hiring process of the prosecutor

2020 end of this contract has had it since 2009 in one form or another. It has grown and she is interested in discussing renewal and go over a proposal for the future. She has some ideas and mindful of good quality services as well as mindful of the costs. Ms. Craig said she would provide the board with the RCW addressing this type of contract renewal.

Is the board interested in hearing alternative proposals for moving forward? Commissioner Hover explained he is not familiar with the exact process is for the contract. It is allowed to be renewed when there is an agreement to renew rather than going out to bid. Continuity of services with staffing looking at longevity to live here, another benefit besides the continuity of service, is if there was an agreement for earlier renewal for stability she could build in cost savings. The rate since 2009 has stayed the same, so a renewal would need to address increased costs. Some cases require a lot of travel due to face to face consulting. There is also the costs of providing good representation that the attorneys cover themselves. She covers all overhead except for malpractice insurance BAR dues and CLE's. Many costs associated with the CLE are picked up by Ms. McDougall. It is a way to show her staff that they are valuable. She could put forth some proposals for consideration, then take questions that come up. She feels the process must be transparent so the board knows what they are paying for. Commissioner Hover said he will be asking questions such as is there any way to reduce travel costs. The biggest cost is attorney salaries, and the parody to keep wages close to prosecutor wages. She has always looked at it as having a lot of freedom, but if she chose to work on weekends or after hours, she doesn't have a government office to check into, whereas a staff of the prosecutor would. The benefit package for the prosecutor may include some benefits her staff do not enjoy.

Some projections of increased costs will be provided to the board for consideration.

Ms. Craig explained the OPD grant she applies for every year. The packet to submit grows each year and the funding level decreases. It is based on population for doling out of the money. These funds are separate from aggravated murder cases. We don't even get 5% of our costs back. Ms. McDougall said there was a big push on rural contracts to fall under an in-house system. She isn't sure if this commission considered this when it originally was pushed. The in house system would require the county have 7-9 attorneys, plus salary and benefits of those employees, there is a lot of state oversight regarding keeping to the standards.

Commissioners thanked Ms. McDougall for her time. She likewise thanked the board relaying that she would gather the information and provide for further consideration.

The board adjourned at 11:50 a.m.