

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****AUGUST 13, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on August 13, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Member of the public Stewart Pearl, taking notes to be more involved.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was stated.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Angie Hubbard, Joe Poulin and Stella Columbia was present.

Mr. Gecas updated the board on cases he is handling. He provided some detail about recent hearings the courts ruled upon. The court denied the motions to dismiss. That decision may be appealed instead of the courts vacating. He discussed what the court took into account as they considered the information during the trials.

Mr. Gecas explained a public records request was received some time ago from Ms. Voelkers, the tribe's attorney. It is unclear why.

Mr. Gecas further updated the board about OBHC contract, but the contact person is out of town. There were other staff documents, a letter, he reviewed for Engineer Thomson regarding roads and a list on reservation. He thought it looked like a good idea to send the letter. Jurisdiction was discussed and wondered if roads would be excluded, who would be liable if accidents happened on the road, so he is taking more time to review before he offers his opinion.

Mr. Gecas is reviewing the Methow Valley EMS Services agreement with the Town of Winthrop to ensure it covers what it needs to as it is a 1992 agreement.

Mr. Poulin provided his update. Water is not reaching the arena, finishing up the conduit, will finish up by the end of the week. PUD was contacted to install two more light poles. Commissioner Hover said the Maintenance crew is doing a real good job over there considering everything going on. Mr. Poulin said another push in line was found so they will t off of that and bring water to the small arena.

Ms. Columbia explained the FAC meeting happened last night but did not have everything organized to go over. There was a lot of fair prep discussions at the meeting. She has not quite finished up the resolution to adopt a revised fee schedule. Commissioner Hover thought the advertising banners for the arena would bring in \$225 per year. The Davis Carnival has agreed to come this year. They still need space to camp and those sites need to have water. They have three campers and a bunk house.

The track railing is to arrive tomorrow, so Commissioner Hover asked if Ms. Columbia can contact Carol about volunteer help to set it up. Commissioner Hover would like to go over the procedures with the auditor, treasurer and Ms. Columbia to discuss how many volunteers will be needed, who will be responsible for what, and what the basic plan is for addressing the different for needs before during and after fair.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.130 (1)(i)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:30 for 15 minutes inviting David Gecas to discuss legal matters to which the county may be a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:45 a.m. for another 5 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 9:50 a.m. no decisions were made.

Update – Treasure’s Office – Treasurer Leah McCormack

Pam Johnson was present.

Treasurer McCormack provided her departmental update. The group briefly discussed the Oroville Rural EMS ballot proposition. Commissioner Hover asked for the electronic copies of the items discussed rather than paper copies. The Clerk will still need a paper copy for the record.

The foreclosure filing was the lowest CD certificate of delinquent was 65 whereas in the past it was 96. So her staff is very excited to see the initial filing was down, since it shows the great work her staff put into calling people to give them options to bring those numbers down. Treasurer McCormack explained how much it saves people to address their property delinquencies. Commissioner Branch said thank you he appreciates the hard work that went into it! It is important. It is a win win situation.

Tiered REET was discussed.

Discussed how recent changes to the Tiered REET affects the county. Ms. Johnson explained the tiered portion on the value and what percentage is collected/remitted. When first put together it was a crazy idea. For us Okanogan County values are around \$500,000 or less so it doesn't fluctuate much on the REET. Most of ours will be in the 1.1% since most of Okanogan County values are \$500,000 or less. For Ag or forest it is 1.82%. The tiered process was made more complicated, Ms. Johnson explained because the formula also tiered the sales amount too.

Teagan Christa Levine, member of the public, joined the meeting around 10:30 a.m.

Update – Auditor’s Office – Auditor Cari Hall

Jamie Groomes was present.

Commissioner Hover asked how the state auditor would look at volunteers who help with the fairgrounds that would trade their time for reduced cost of fee for access to fairground arena uses. Auditor Hall will contact the state and find out.

Still waiting on Departmental 2020 preliminary Budgets.

SAO notified us that they are working on the final audit but still working out the final tier for procurement. Auditor Hall explained some other items that will be an exit item due to SAO guidelines. Commissioner Hover said the board will support her position on those issues because she is addressing them by the book. Overall the audit went well this year and SAO has been great.

The sub agent closed in District #2, and she received only one application but the applicant has no licensing background. It takes two years to become qualified and certified. She is unsure what the state expectations are in this regard. She has multiple calls in, but still waiting for response. Commissioner DeTro recommended a conversation with Senator Short about the complications. It isn't the county Auditor's fault if no one wants to work there or go through the RFP process. Auditor Hall will follow up once she has more information. She may discuss the issue with the town councils where the effects of the lack of a sub agent are felt most.

Auditor Hall explained the positions that were filled and the position that is still open. Her advertising line has gone over budget due to so many staffing changes. It is a good thing when employees can move up.

Auditor Hall explained the state is going towards E-notary and E-reets and she thought the county might move towards that too. It was postponed until 2020.

Elections was discussed as there is a lot of high impact legislation that went into effect July 1, the issue is that it has caused increase in processes and requires more staff time. We had hardly any issues compared to other jurisdictions. Auditor Hall explained the complications created with same day registration. We are required to process the ballots within 24 hours. We have a voter turnout at around 70%, so there are a lot of ballots to process within 24 hours. Auditor Hall simply doesn't have the staff to get those done within 24 hours. It isn't something that will go away because it is part of the legislative process. Anything done in elections for Jr. taxing districts is billable to Jr. Districts. There is equipment that does everything but it costs \$137,000 to buy plus \$24,000 annually for maintenance. It isn't feasible for us to purchase. She did do a cost analysis she will go over at a later time.

The Touch writers in elections were discussed. We had two, but now we have one, and we are required to have two. The cost is going to be around \$5,655. Auditor Hall would like to purchase the equipment now as it needs to be certified by the state and that takes some time.

Motion Purchase Approval-Touch Writer-HART Intercivic

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize and approve the purchase of the Touch writer from HART Intercivic and associated equipment. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Purchase Order HART Intercivic

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign the purchase order from HART Interactive. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Groomes updated the board that many annexations were received in the Assessor's and Auditor's Offices. These are fire district annexations. The Auditor is in the process of certifying the Fire District #10 signatures. She wanted to give the board notice these were being processed.

Auditor Hall explained plans to provide voter registration education to the public. Commissioners thought that was a good idea, especially with all the changes happening.

Public Hearing - Cattle Guard Franchise 02-19 Wells Ranch Irrigation District

Engineer Josh Thomson and Anna Randall were present.

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff report.

Anna Randal provided her staff report for four cattle guards in the Wells Ranch Irrigation District area. (attached)

Commissioner DeTro opened up to public comment, seeing no one he closed public comment and opened up to commissioner discussion.

Motion Cattle Guard Franchise 02-19 Wells Ranch Irrigation District

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Cattle Guard Franchise 02-19 for Wells Ranch Irrigation District cattle guard franchise 02-19. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing – Utility Franchise Brewster Flat Users Association.

Engineer Josh Thomson and Anna Randall were present

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff report.

Anna Randall provided her staff report for the Brewster Flat Users Association franchise renewal. (attached) The franchise is regarding the domestic water lines, development of new pipeline, maintenance and operations.

There is no new construction. The limit for these is 50 years and has termed so that is why it is being renewed.

Commissioner DeTro opened up to public comment, seeing no one he closed public comment and opened up to commissioner discussion

Motion Utility Franchise U03-19 Brewster Flat Users Association

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the utility franchise U03-19 for the Brewster Flat Users Association franchise renewal of another 50 years. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Public Hearing - Utility Franchise Brewster Flat Irrigation District U04-19

Engineer Josh Thomson and Anna Randall were present

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff report.

Anna Randal provided her staff report for Utility Franchise Brewster Flat Irrigation District. (attached) Previous operated under another one but were split up. This is for another 50 years in the same area.

Commissioner DeTro opened the hearing up to public comment, seeing no one he closed public comment and opened up to commissioner discussion.

Motion Utility Franchise Brewster Flat Irrigation District U04-19

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the utility franchise U04-19 of the Brewster Flat Irrigation District. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update – Public Works – County Engineer, Josh Thomson

Engineer Josh Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

Road maintenance

Road maintenance update was discussed.

2020 preliminary budgets were submitted yesterday. Some changes may happen before adoption due to Edelweiss and striping truck may be gotten in October instead of January 2020. Some of the cost may be paid from Road fund and ER&R funds,, but won't know until delivered.

Bridge Inspections

Bridge inspection audit will happen this week beginning on Burma road plus six other bridges.

Salmon Creek Road @ Cowan's

Commissioner DeTro explained some contact he has had regarding the matter. He asked if Engineer Josh would follow up.

CCT Road List Request to include County Roads

Engineer Thomson explained the request of CCT to include county roads on the CCT Road program, but there were questions submitted by Okanogan County that still need an answer. He will address further once the questions have been addressed. The request lists a CFR that is pages and pages long to review.

Public Works Building –Windows

Commissioner Hover thought a couple glass companies be contacted to find out pricing for some of the windows. Replace a couple this year and see how it goes.

Elmway Levee

Engineer Thomson said that project is moving along and wrapping up. Revegetation will be done later on in October. There may not be requirement for monitoring. We requested minimization of the cottonwood trees. They are putting in willow bundles and they were referred to the shoreline plan.

Barkley & MVID Ditch project update was given. Some additional information is expected to be submitted. Engineer Thomson said the guy is not interested and it involves a small strip near Bulky Hill. Commissioner Hover explained some other options he'll explore. Engineer Thomson explained what was agreed upon, but that was when there was a different project manager.

The OCOG meeting was last night. Engineer Thomson explained some changes to the policy and why. The funding for two projects was discussed and the feeling of the group was to save money for project matches and suggested reducing the funds spent on travel. It sounds like DOT is starting a highway master plan to look at small rural towns where state highways are their main streets. It hasn't been done since 2007.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.130 (1)(g)

Commissioner moved to go into executive session at 11:45 a.m. for 10 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee inviting the Clerk of the Board to the discussion. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Amended Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to amend his previous motion and invited Tanya Craig/Human Resource Director to the executive session. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 11:55 a.m. no decision was made.

Board of Health Meeting – 1234 S 2nd Ave Okanogan

Commissioners attended the Board of Health.

Members of the public Stewart Pearl and Christa Teagan Levine arrived at 2:50 p.m.

Update-Human Resources/Risk Management–Tanya Craig

Ms. Craig updated the board on Human Resources/Risk Management. Sheriff evidence room audit has been performed.

Ms. Craig explained the Grant she applies for each year for court case costs will increase in 2020 to \$51,787 which is up from this year's award.

Ms. Craig said August 20 is when the Annual Risk Pool audit is to happen.

Ms. Craig explained she is visiting offices to distribute county id policies, go over the rules, and ensure each department is clear on responsibilities and how ID cards are handled.

Ms. Craig said Ms. Keitzman is finishing up civil service enrollment tests for the upcoming boards, and freshening up the outdated questionnaire and now she is ready to start learning how to handle claims.

Civil Service training is coming up. The expenses of the trip will be shared to reduce the costs of

attending.

Bid Opening—Building Department Vehicle ER&R—Jerry Paul, Dan Higbee

Commissioner DeTro stated the time for receiving the bids for the Building Department vehicle purchase has passed. Three bids for the vehicle were received, opened, and read out loud for the record.

Barry Harmony Ephrata

New 2020 Dodge Ram 1500 Tradesman Quad Cab 4x4

Total Bid \$34,621.00

Sunrise Chevrolet

2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Double Cab 4x4

Total Bid \$33,909.47

Jess Auto Sales

2019 Ford F-150 Supercab 4x4

Total Bid \$32,977.67

The apparent low bidder is Jess Auto. The bids will be reviewed and a recommendation submitted for the purchase.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings of August 5 & 6, 2019

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Commissioner proceedings of August 5 and August 6, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner DeTro moved to amend the previous motion to exclude item #4 as it will need to be signed by the Twisp PDA not Okanogan County . Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Appointment Letter – Civil Service Secretary/Chief Examiner – Shelley Keitzman
2. Support Letter – Grandview Timer Sale #98554 & Forest Application #3023464
3. Approve – Memorandum of Understanding - Between Okanogan Omak Rotary Club, Okanogan County and LifeLine Ambulance.
4. ~~Acceptance—Community Economic Revitalization Board—Initial Offer of Financial Aid—Twisp Public Development Authority~~
5. Approve – Memorandum of Agreement – CERB Match -Okanogan County & Twisp Public Development Authority
6. Approve – Professional Service Contact – Between Okanogan County & the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.