

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

AUGUST 20, 2019

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on August 20, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Commissioner Hover attending Union Negotiations most of the day, but will be available if needed.

Member of the public, George Thornton, taking hand written notes for Okanogan Watch Group

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Stella Columbia, Angie Hubbard

David Gecas updated the board on legal matter he is handling. There have been many public records requests that he finished then got a few more he is still working on. He explained the status of the ones he is working on. Dispatch service agreement was reviewed for Mike Worden that has to do with advisory board recommendations and clarifying that those are not binding. Reviewed a renewal of an agreement for Solid Waste for Recycling. Early termination section was of concern so that may be addressed. Worked on securing another conflict attorney.

Executive session was requested by Attorney Gecas after the other staff reported.

Ms. Columbia updated the board on fairgrounds. She explained other security options for events. Martin Esculara Martin Security has provided security before for other events and his pricing is better and the guards much friendlier. Mr. Gecas recommended that if the agreement between Phoenix Security and the County was still in place that it be reviewed to ensure there is no exclusive language, but it is expired.

Finishing touches on arena with sprinklers and charge line. The announcer booth still needs to be set up. The inner rails is about half done. Public works has been setting the posts and expected to be complete this afternoon. The new flag pole was put in over at the fair and a new flag was purchased.

The Sheep Barn asked for a new wash station between the barns, new hitching posts, but it is kind of late in the year for projects like that. It was recommended the group discuss with commissioners as there are plans for converting the wash station water from domestic to irrigation and that would require the whole area the station is located to be dug up. The grass would not have time to recover, so Mr. Poulin would like to do it after the fair instead of the week before. He would like to have a work crew over the weekend to pick up rocks. A temp fairgrounds officer worker may want to transfer to the fourth month temporary maintenance position. There was a guy hired in that position but he didn't come back after the first day. The position was advertised twice after that with no applications.

The Clerk of the Board asked of Ms. Columbia has contacted any media or newspapers to discuss all the fairground improvements to let the public know the fairgrounds has a new arena, new racetrack

Commissioner Hover said he appreciated for all Joe Poulin's hard work on the fairgrounds and

commended Public Works crew for working to get the racetrack rail in.

Ms. Hubbard updated the board on the Special Planning Commission meeting held last night. She said there was a good mix. The recommendation to extend public written comment period was provided and that was agreeable.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:35 p.m. for 10 minutes inviting attorney, David Gecas and Interim Planning Director Angie Hubbard to discuss potential litigation to which the county may become a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update – Finance Committee Meeting – Treasurer Leah McCormack

Auditor Hall provided the board with a finance update. She noted the Treasurer was unable to attend.

Auditor Hall provided revenue and expense reports. Cash flow is going strong with another rush of property tax revenue in October. We always try for 1.4 carry over.

First Tuesday in September is when the preliminary budget is to be provided to the board. The numbers change dramatically between now and the end of October.

Therapeutic Court Budget was submitted to the Auditor, but there were two additional changes for travel.

Auditor Hall explained what is holding up the state audit, it is unclear whether we'll receive a finding on the Uniform Codes that were referenced but not supported as required. They haven't talked finding with Auditor Hall. She explained the issue is at the State Auditor's top tier for resolve.

Auditor Hall explained that counties across the state are pooling their money together to pay for media release to help inform folks about the new laws. Commissioner Branch stated WSAC has offered up assistance to counties for media presence consultations. Having a social media page is another option for pushing information out but it takes a lot of time to maintain. Commissioner Branch would like to know how much time it actually takes to manage.

Auditor Hall explained that her media presence will include things like sign your ballot, same day registration education, etc....

Auditor Hall explained the voter box is being set in the City of Oroville. She believes there will be good turn out next year.

Update – Central Services

Randy Clough provided his update.

Eric Fritts was offered the Network Analyst position and he accepted. Central Services was happy he accepted and are prepared to provide the necessary training. . That is the only good news.

Mr. Clough provided update on the Fiber line to Public Works. The City of Okanogan is posed to sign the Franchise Agreement and required Ordinance tonight at city council meeting. Mr. Clough will contact NCI Data and let them know.

Mr. Clough explained his staff meeting to arrange for Eric training. He will be gone the first week of September. He does intend to take time off in September and October.

Commissioner Branch discussed his wish for a better conference call system that can be used in large rooms. Some devices have blue tooth capability and folks can tune in and hear via their phone. Until

recently there were many telephonic meetings or round tables where folks call in. However we get there.... Polycom may have something high end that is what the commissioners want. The commissioners thought a couple hundred but willing to spend more for a good system.

Commissioner Hover was still attending to union negotiations.
Commissioner DeTro canvassing the election ballots.

Update – Public Works – County Engineer, Josh Thomson Engineer Thomson, Commissioner Branch

FHWA Bridge Inspections Compliance Review

Bride inspection compliance review happened last week. Overall things went well and every time there is a different focus. Nothing profound was learned. Every bridge that is 20 feet long must be inspected. There are twenty three things they review to see what the condition ratings are. Load rating signs may have been removed on a bridge that is required to have the signs.

Functionally Obsolete bridges are hard to get funding for.

Statler Bridge Replacement Project

This project should start September 3, 2019 and the contract is on the consent agenda for today's approval. He will ensure the public is notified of the Salmon Creek Road closure for that project.

Petition to Vacate Platted Roads in Methow

The platted roads being petitioned for vacation are not on the county road system, the roads are platted roads to undeveloped lots and would not strand anyone if vacated. Chapter 12.90 of the county code states in part...if the road is vacated the petitioner pays the value of the land vacated and includes assessed value of the land plus the development cost, but doesn't pertain to this situation. This section of code was often ignored in the past and he doesn't see where the county can authorize a waiver. A public hearing will need to be set plus a resolution drafted that directs the engineer to report on the vacation.

Commissioner Branch would like to ensure the process of pulling back the neighborhood commercial zones in the unincorporated towns where there may be platted roads for development, are not affected by the minimization of that zone around the unincorporated towns. Engineer Thomson will look into it.

CCT Road list-Request to include County Roads

Engineer Thomson explained the list was taken back by the tribe to be revised. They had some roads listed that weren't county roads.

Elmway Levee USACE Project

He hasn't had correspondence stating they are done, but it does appear they are finished.

Barkley & MVID Ditch Project

No changes in the Barkley and MVID ditch project

Commissioners returned after the lunch hour. Commissioner Hover in union negotiations.

The Clerk of the Board requested ratification of the Interlocal Agreement for Special Investigations Unit (SIU) to Investigate Officer Involved Incidents that the Chairman signed during regular session yesterday. The agreement is between the counties of Okanogan, Chelan, and Douglas and the cities of East Wenatchee, Wenatchee, and the Washington State Patrol.

Motion Ratify Interlocal Agreement for Special Investigations Unit

Commissioner Branch moved to ratify the Interlocal Agreement for Special Investigations Unit as signed August 19, 2019 by the Chairman of the Board. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Citizens Comment Period – may call in at 509-422-7100

Dennis Rabadou dropped in to discuss the commissioners attendance at the OBHC board retreat at Sun Mt. Lodge on Thursday, August 22 from 9-12. The media was provided 24-hour notice of the meeting as a quorum of commissioners will attend.

George Thornton informed the commissioners about money needed for TV District #1 to care for its obligations. A meeting of that board happened because of money issues. The budget is about \$80,000 and looking at \$68,000 of expenditures. Building upgrades to Omak Mt. due to neglect over the several years. Required to remove generator and building on that site. The facility is also needed on the Mt. They simply do not have enough money to support those expenses. Commissioner DeTro said Laurie Morgan expressed concern about the public notices when the system is down. Commissioner DeTro suggested reaching out to combining with another communication district for direct feed. Mr. Thornton said he is on the TV board to clean it up not negotiate. Mr. Thornton explained some other options and possibilities to use some infrastructure that was in place before in the Oroville area to Eder Ranch.

George Thornton said the other issue is the Boards reliance on the previous Director and it has left a big gap. Things being worked on have almost come to a stop. He would like to see the commissioners do something sooner rather than later to fill that gap and hire an appropriate person. His role on Planning Commission he sees things slowing down the Ellisforde situation is piling up deeper and deeper. The recycler appears to just be moving the piles around. Commissioner Branch stated he has crafted a job description he received from another county but Risk Pool is reviewing it. Mr. Thornton said he would rather the commissioners not rush, but expressed the need to address very soon.

Nancy Soriano commented about water. In the context of mitigation for WRIA 49 we need to establish water scarcity. Gena wrote up a report that gather information from the Comp Plan. The previous author declared he would never incorporate any of the water issues into the plan. We have a cookie cutter, it is about East side of the river versus the West side of the river. The sub areas. There should be zones based on water availability it is all in the old plan. Tunk Valley has 13 in precipitation and 97% is lost due to evaporation and the other 3% goes down to the river. That is 100%. When the fire happened in 2015 200 wells were so dry and the creek was dry the firefighters had nowhere to get water to fight the fire, plus there is no fire district in Tunk Valley. There is nothing larger than 5-acre parcels in Tunk Valley 6,000. The larger parcels are under public ownership. At 200 wells they had a dry creek. What Gina McCoy came up with would be sufficient to establish there is not enough water for more wells. Commissioner DeTro said when we get the contract to create the data for inventories for WRIA 49. Soriano said an extinction should be made between WRIA 49 and WRIA 48 and legislature has given two contradictory directives. The WRIA 49 don't worry about impacts, but in WRIA 48 senior water rights are protected. You cannot drill a well and mitigate the senior water rights. The board should have enough information to make the distinction. This is not about WRIA 49. Tunk is the largest shrub step in the county and cannot be considered the same as the land crops are grown on, yet it still has the same densities. We have to establish reasonable zoning based on water availability and scarcity to protect the WRIA. There is hydraulic continuity. The county should not be relying on Aspect on WRIA 49. Take a page from the Methow play book so identification of east side of the river which is very different than the west side which has much more water available. There is lots of evidence showing the difference. Commissioner DeTro said the comp plan is addressing the water and is being addressed due to the litigation with Yakama Tribe. Commissioner Branch said the comp plan is for the whole county.

Ms. Soriano said the comp plan doesn't sufficiently address water and it should. Commissioner DeTro said we should go back to the 2009 version of the Water Plan.

Discussion–Governors Disability Issues Committee & Employment–Marilyn Crandall

Ms. Crandall is from the Governor Committee on Disability

Assessable Communities Program has money to give people. The fines charged when parking in handicap parking spaces is where the money comes from. A packet of the information discussed today was provided.

Patricia Voucherio said the overall commitment to addressing

Community outreach is important.

Warren Voichbran explained the state passed this in 2010, but on a mission to generate more interest. There are communities that have started committees. The act creates awareness and create ways to increase accessibility. People usually think about ramps and various other things related to physical disabilities. Hearing aides, access to theatre venues, access to community vitality functions of the community. It is not mandatory to create a committee, but would include people with interest in disability issues and would advise the county on disability issues.

The funds available create a new committee, or designate an existing committee or expanding a voter advisory committee managed by the State Auditor or join with another county. Only one of the counties can be over 70,000 and is the cap. The funding pays for the committee expenses. Fund projects that specifically address the needs of disabled.

Ms. Crandall explained what some counties created with the funds. Commissioner Branch asked about the voters committee could be turned into this committee. Auditor Cari hall explained she has struggled to attend to the issues in here office here but money has been an issue. There are many things that could be addressed to make accessibility to our courthouse services better for people with disabilities.

Auditor Hall said she has a hard time keeping members on the committee. Her aspect is strictly about getting everyone in to vote but she knows there are other things that can help for those with hearing impairment or site impairment. She's been working with Tanya Craig to see if the LEOFF board could be the committee for this. Commissioner Branch mentioned Aging and Adult care and they are also concerned about access.

A broad spectrum of disabilities representation is best. We need one person with the driving force to be involved. We need to have a plan in order for the committee to work. We get the best feedback from people with disabilities. Auditor Hall said there are language barriers in her office and explained the device that interprets, scans, and prints. Commissioner Branch asked if a follow-up email could be sent to remind us this is something to work on. When we think about improvements to the courthouse this could also be something they address.

Public Hearing–Budget Supplemental Appropriation–CE Elections, Juv. and Vehicle Reserve Funds - \$70,252.00

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

Motion Resolution 106-2019 Budget Supplemental Appropriation

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 106-2019 a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$70,252 for Building Department vehicle purchase, and to allocate additional revenue in Elections and Juvenile Department budgets. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Bid Award Jess Auto-Building Department

Commissioner Branch moved to award the bid to the lowest bidder for the Building Department vehicle purchase from Jess Auto in the amount of \$32,977.67. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Resolution 107-2019

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 107-2019 creating a New Elections Position with the Auditor's office. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover asked about position numbers being noted on resolutions when a position is created in a department. Ms. Craig said she could not because the position number is only generated in EDEN when a new record is created and then notes the resolution number that created the position. She said she wouldn't be able to create the position number until after she receives the resolution to create the position. Commissioners discussed ways to ensure a good tracking system for positions that are created.

Commissioner Hover asked if there was a way to include some identification to the position that is also used in the Payroll employment system. Commissioner Branch feels the process could happen internally. Having the reference in the resolution would be good should we ever do away with EDEN the notes there may not transfer to a new system so having the cross references in the resolution would help. Reclassifications would have a number already.

Commissioner Hover stated another reason for this is because the BARS codes don't really mean anything in this regard. He would like a list of positions by department.

Motion Staff Direction

Commissioner Branch moved to direct staff to find a way to track positions in the resolution. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update-Human Resources/Risk Management–Tanya Craig and/or

Shelley Keitzman

Shelly Keitzman provided the Human Resource update. She said she is shopping for better insurance rates.

Both Tanya and she are registered for Civil Service conference in September.

She has completed the civil service test updates to make them more streamlined and take out redundancy in the process.

Oral Boards are scheduled this week and Shelly has been working with David Rodriguez and Laura Wright to ensure consistency. There are 12 people scheduled for the testing.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings of August 12-13, 2019

Commissioners did not approve the meeting minutes.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items removing item #1. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried

1. ~~Approve – 2019 LTAC Reimbursement – NCW EDD~~
2. Approve – Agreement with ISpyFire – Sheriff Communications
3. Contract Award–CRP No.9221-04 Statler Bridge Replacement–N&N Excavation LLC
4. Resolution 105-2019–Budget Amendment-Current Expense/Prosecutor Fund 001.016

The board adjourned at 3:40 p.m.