

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****DECEMBER 17, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 17, 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 explained he saw a wolf for the first time on his way to the office this morning. The wolf was loping along the road way and stopped about four feet from his truck before it took off into an orchard.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited.

**Update - Superior Court – Judge Culp and Dennis Rabidou**

Dennis Rabidou, Tanya Craig, Judge Henry Rawson, Krisana Shrable

Mr. Rabidou explained he'd like to set a courthouse security committee meeting in January. He'd like to discuss what lies ahead in terms of what the committee will do then relay that message to commissioners afterward.

Mr. Rabidou explained Krisana Shrable is the Courts Services Treatment Manager. Then he discussed the Functional Family Therapist (FFT) work as it includes administering a family-based intervention program that is about 12 weeks long. The outcome is an overall improvement of the issues. There are five major components and the program requires a clinician who works in the community and provides a program that works for the family. The FFT provider works across systems and engages with Dept of Children Youth and Family Services, DSHS and any system that touches the family and juveniles. Mr. Rabidou said it is required that the family participate, if the family doesn't then the juvenile cannot receive the benefits of the program. The benefits help identify the needs of the family and helps them change their behavior and it works when the whole family make the changes. Commissioner Hover asked if the family has to want to engage or are they directed to engage. Initially it requires building a relationship with the family to address any resistance and identify how to improve the system so the outcome is beneficial to the family making the changes as a whole. Once the family understands the system was there to help, then they became more engaged and committed. Commissioner Hover asked how many have been helped. Mr. Rabidou said he didn't bring that information with him today. Ms. Shrable said there are currently three families in the program this month. Targets are set each year for budgeting purposes, but if there are more helped by the program it brings in that much more revenue to the county.

Mr. Rabidou explained his proposal for wage, grade and step increases for a position. Commissioner Hover said the first proposal was to reclassify a grant funded position from grade 22 to grade 26. Currently the person is in grade 22 step 4 with seven months to go before step 5. Essentially, the ask is to reclassify the person currently in the position seven months prior to the actual step increase. Mr. Rabidou explained the reason for the reclassification; it is fully grant funded right now, with about \$101,950 per year coming in from grant revenue for the two positions with about 53% and 47% work load in the evidence-based expansion. Once position is going to be short funding because one is a union position and the other is a fixed grant. Revenue sharing the county gets funded that way. It could be 100% based on history and patterns, said Mr. Rabidou. The cost is going to exceed the grant funding coming at 37% and the rest would come from Current Expense. The actual position wage is

48,000 right now but up to around 50,000. The county may need to cover \$10,000 in wages plus the benefits. The cost could be covered by revenue sharing. Targets are set low on purpose.

Commissioner Hover discussed the bargaining positions and which will be changed from grade 22 to grade 23. Ms. Craig explained why the positions are not equal. The reason for taking one of the two positions from grade 22 to 26 is because of the union changes and that position wage is too close to the lower grades for the type of responsibility it has. Commissioner Hover said he doesn't like the thought of taking an employee who is already working and then moving to a higher step in order to get them to a higher level closer to the management grade we will only be chasing our tail in the end. He said the BOCC could adopt a grade 27.

Mr. Rabidou will work with Ms. Craig on the request.

Judge Rawson explained the legislature took a big step and adopted guardianship and eliminated issues related to it. Our Superior Court Judge's association was opposed to the change and they've had sessions to convince them to back up a bit. A month ago, he received an email from presiding judge of king county as that county did a cost analysis. Cost increased for them by \$172,000 and the rule takes effect in 2021. The legislature used a \$45 per hour for guardian ad litem cost in their bill. The language has changed to get away from legal terms, so they are called visitors who are appointed by the court to do investigations. The \$45 per hour is not realistic. King County thought \$75 was more realistic but that number increased the cost significantly. The state was picking up various costs, but now it is clearly on the county. The big shift occurred and we don't know our numbers, but it is going to be those appointed by the court that are going to be the guardian of a child and who is going to pick up the cost. He contacted Mr. Rabidou who has been on the horn with the office of the administrative courts. It is scary what has happened. He said no education system has been created for the judges. Right now, it is not on their radar for the spring conference and it's a major overhaul. So they are inclined to request the legislature wait to implement.

George Thornton arrived at 8:50 a.m. to take notes for Okanogan Watch Group.

The judges have been working on this issue, said Mr. Rabidou. He asked the commissioners to reach out to legislators about this. Judges need training when laws change and training doesn't appear to be arranged. Costs of the overhaul were not considered either and the impacts on county budget is great. Judge Rawson said utilization of the commissioner will be greater because he and Judge Culp can work on this. He would like them to pick up additional time, so the judges can take on trials of non-jury matters. They are still within budget, but may need to ask for additional funds later.

Commissioner Hover would like to know the costs of the UGA. Mr. Rabidou said he will keep the commissioners apprised.

Mr. Rabidou said he won't be available for union negotiations today, but could be available via telephone conference should he be needed.

Vehicles were discussed as Mr. Rabidou would like to order three right now. Commissioner Hover said he'd like to discuss with finance committee before he says yes or no. \$153,000 for four cars including the replacement of the van. Two \$67,000 the other \$37,000.

### **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

David Gecas, Kelly Ross and Joe Poulin were present.

Ms. Ross explained the Soup Around the World event requested a rental fee waiver as the funds go into a fund that helps with vet bills. Over 4,000 dogs have been rescued in Okanogan County over the years and most are adopted. They get adopted all over the state. The fund helps veterans and seniors pay for vet bills. Jan Short, Tom Short and Sarah Spence, run Okandogs. Dogs they rescue see the vet, the fund helps pay those bills. The fee schedule was read. A waiver of the fee must directly

benefit the poor or infirm. Commissioner Branch explained why the waiver could not be given for this. Commissioner DeTro said the county is 100% behind what they are doing, but the state auditor does require we follow our own policy. He asked Ms. Ross to create a check list to see if an entity can be considered for a fee waiver. Ms. Ross explained there is no lighting on the south end of the fair office. She suggested a motion sensor light be installed to provide more safety for employees at night.

The office porch roof has several leaks. Both maintenance issues should be submitted to the DUDE.

Joe Poulin updated the board on the well issues. The water must be shut down in order to address the return line from the courthouse in order to fix the problem as there isn't an isolation valve to repair pipes in-between. Ameresco/contractor is on the way to make system repairs. The jail water to water heat pumps are down, but the VAV boxes are functioning until it gets down to zero temperature.

David Gecas asked for an executive session to discuss legal matters.

### **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)**

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:25 a.m. for 15 minutes inviting Angela Hubbard and David Gecas to discuss legal matters to which the county may be a part or become a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 9:40 am, no decisions were made.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover directed the Clerk to send an email memo to the County Treasurer to transfer \$37,220.22 cash from 160.000.000.597.00.00.00 juvenile section into 197.000.000.000.597.00.00.14 vehicle reserve. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Finance Committee – Leah McCormack**

Lisa Schreckengost

Treasurer McCormack provided information packets to be discussed today.

Treasurer McCormack explained an issue that happened within the Vehicle Reserve fund that is now corrected. She asked who will be monitoring the budget for the expenditures coming from vehicle reserve fund in the future. She explained the Juvenile dept. didn't request the cash to be moved from 160 to 197 when they purchased their vehicle from 197 which left fund 197 short on cash for paying a Sheriff's vehicle invoice.

Treasurer McCormack explained the cash on hand report. The revenue statement was reviewed. The planning dept. is about 20% under their revenue that was budgeted for 2019. There are some departments under 90% revenue collected. Going into 2020 the commissioners should keep their eye on the Jail as their revenue may need to be reconsidered as they appear to be coming in higher than expected. It is something to be aware of. Juvenile revenue is down.

Overall the revenues are pretty right on mark. Commissioner Branch asked if the received to date column was end of month totals. Yes, it is. The commissioners thanked the group.

### **Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson**

Engineer Thomson explained the agreement with Ellisforde Transfer Station should be amended to include the CPI percentage that is set by state and extend the contract term. There is a starting rate and an adjustment built into the contract. A statement assignment is also added.

Emergency declaration and guidelines within the purchasing and contracting policy is being researched as it is not known how an emergency purchase to address an emergency situation plays into the policy. David Gecas is also involved with the question. Commissioner Branch believes it

should be framed somehow and determine which situations would be involved. If the emergency is such....then what...is prior authorization of the board required for purchasing. The review of the draft by legal staff is about complete.

The commissioners did not have questions on items to be approved that are listed on the consent agenda for Public Works.

### **Citizens Comment Period – may call in 509-422-7100**

George Thornton, Tanya Craig

Send an email to veterans VSO to ask to discuss position authorized through budget. Assistant position was based on 50% funding through work source. Need to discuss that to either rescind the resolution or determine the level of the position.

Commissioners asked Maurice Goodall to come and discuss his budget request prior to Emergency Management Council meeting tonight. Commissioner Branch will attend the Emergency Management Council Meeting tonight.

Does the Emergency Management budget contain a line item where emergency purchases like sand bags are processed? What are the things EM must purchase to address an emergency? Mr. Goodall said the general pot would support those types of purchases. Since he's been in the position, the emergencies he's had to deal with have been from the fires from the 2014-2015. He explained he submitted a budget that had \$3500 additional request that the cities have paid in 2019 but then the county did not approve the increase for which the \$3500 was collected. The Emergency Council had approved the increase for 2019 and the county commissioners didn't. Commissioner Hover explained his position on this matter. He feels going back retro, the county sets the budget and employment contract every year and he feels the question of retro or not is to be determined.

Commissioner Branch explained his position on this matter. Mr. Goodall said the council is made up by county and cities that both monetarily support Emergency Management. The county and the cities are to be considered equal as they pay the same based on population, but when the final decision on what the council recommends is on the commissioners how is that equal? Commissioner DeTro said the council does not have final authority. Commissioner Branch said with the budgeting being the county's responsibility that the buck stops here. The statute RCW 39.52.070 was provided to the commissioners. We have a joint management plan and it was accepted by the State in 1998 accordingly. Commissioner DeTro said Mr. Goodall has been put off with no decision. Mr. Goodall said when he was hired he was told this would be rectified within six months, and it hasn't. The 2020 budget was submitted and budget approved and it included a wage increase, but commissioners have not formally approved the increase. Whether the county pays retro or not should be negotiated, said Commissioner DeTro. In April the council recommended a pay increase, but the 2019 budget had already been set. There are many asks from departments to the BOCC, said Commissioner Hover. Commissioner DeTro said big future adjustment will take place in the next 2-3 years. He said the council is meeting tonight, so he'd like to wait and hear the results. Commissioner Branch discussed the issue with the salary adjustment and comparisons.

Mr. Goodall said one thing not in his contract is the use of the county vehicle because the vehicle is taken home every day.

### **Update Human Resources / Risk Management - Tanya Craig**

Ms. Craig updated the board on Union Contract negotiation status. Rates were sent to those affected and to the board. The sheriff's office had a retirement and a lateral transfer so they've had two promotions. We also have a vacancy in Dispatch and still trying to hire correction officers.

### **Motion Closed Session RCW 42.30.1401(4)(b)**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into close session regarding union negotiation at 2:23 p.m. for seven minutes inviting Tanya Craig to discuss the position to be taken during collective bargaining. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

At 2:30 pm Closed Session was extended another 10 minutes.  
Closed session ended at 2:40 p.m. no decision was made.

### **Discussion – Housing Needs Proposal Review & Recommendation – Lael Duncan**

Sue Edick, Lael Duncan and Lisa Appel were present.

Ms. Edick explained several RFP's were received for the housing needs study. The housing coalition met and narrowed it down to three proposals. (attached)

The score sheet of the responses was provided to the BOCC. Ms. Edick said the group proposed in person interviews with all three consultants and would like a commissioner to be part of that process. Commissioner Branch said he would attend. The group intends to schedule the interviews either the first week in January or the 14th and 15th of January. The group would prefer not to interview all three on the same day. Commissioner Branch said he prefers to interview all three at once on either January 15 and/or January 16 as that would work best for him. Questions will be drafted and sent around.

Commissioners directed the Clerk of the Board to draft a letter of support for Housing Authority of Oroville for a grant they are submitting. Language for the letter was provide by Sue Edick. The letter will be addressed to the Dept. of Commerce to the address Sue will provide.

### **Motion Letter of Statement to Fire District #3**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the letter of statement regarding the official creation of the fire district by Okanogan County as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Resolution 166-2019 Lake Management District Rolls**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 166-2019 adopting the rolls of the Lake Management District #1. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Commissioner Proceedings, November 25, 26 and December 2, 3, 9 & 10, 2019**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve commissioners' proceedings of November 25, 26 and December 2, 3, 9, and 10 of 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-13 as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Ratify – Facility Use Rental Contract – WA ST High School Rodeo Association - 10/5-7/2019
2. Approve - Facility Use Rental Contract – Zamudio Graduation – 12/21/2019
3. Approve - Facility Use Rental Contract – Planning Department - Technical Advisory Meeting – 1/9-10/2020
4. Approve - Facility Use Rental Contract – McCune Wedding Reception – 6/13/2020
5. Approve - Facility Use Rental Contract – Gaona Quinsenera - 10/10/2020
6. Approve – CDBG Public Grant Request #5- November Services - \$2,818.52
7. Approve – 2020 Supplemental Agreement Janitorial Services Public Works/Solid Waste - WDB Janitorial LLC
8. Approve – 2020 Supplemental Agreement Janitorial Services for Public Works Building, - WDB Janitorial LLC
9. Approve – Everbrige Emergency Alert System Contract-Emergency Management
10. Approve – Interagency Agreement between WSDOT and Okanogan County Sheriff's Office

11. Approve – Amendment #1 Agreement Methow EMS and Aero Methow Rescue Service
12. Approve – Employment Agreement between Okanogan County and Karen Beatty
13. Approve - Meadow Point Family Housing NEPA – Request Release of Funds and Certification

**Motion Reconsider**

Commissioner Branch moved to reconsider the previous decision to approve the consent agenda. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

**Motion Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-13, excluding item #11. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

**Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Services Contract between Methow EMS District and Aero Methow signed November 12, 2013. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

**6:00 p.m. Okanogan County Emergency Services Organization Meeting Quorum of Commissioners Hearing Room**

The Board of County Commissioners along with cities and towns sit as representatives on the Emergency Services Council. The Council has its own secretary who took down the proceedings of the meeting.

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.