

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****FEBRUARY 12, 2019****(CORRECTED)**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on February 12, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, absent today due to weather conditions.

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

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

David Gecas, Stella Columbia, Perry Huston

David Gecas explained tax title property that didn't sell at the foreclosure sale. Family members of the deceased came forward to purchase it. A resolution was drafted for commissioners' consideration.

**Motion Resolution 16-2019 Tax Title Property Sale**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 16-2019 disposing of tax title property by private negotiation. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

David Gecas continued, he said the KSPS CEO was contacted for a breakdown of costs so we can have a conversation about a way to pay over time, as it sounded like paying all at once is not doable for the TV District. Mr. Gecas is still waiting on that information. It might be best if the district could update some of the districts equipment where others are benefited. Commissioner Branch said some of the agreements would allow projection to the east towards Nespelem which would provide TV to those citizens.

Stella Columbia updated the board on the FAC meeting last Thursday. The Fair website update is almost completed. She had a call from Stampede Royalty who usually rents camping spaces, the group will utilize the space again this year. Commissioner Branch provided Stella with OCTC membership information.

Commissioner DeTro said he attended the Pest Control meeting yesterday and they said the Hort Association was happy with the Agriplex venue for their annual meeting last week. The propane heater was not utilized because there wasn't an extra bottle of propane.

Joe Poulin updated the board on Maintenance tasks. The jail kitchen pipes in the kitchen floor were replaced. During L&I inspections there was found to be water in the shaft due to the elevator roof leaking. He contacted Mallett Sheet Metal for a quote for the 7x10 roof sheeting. Mr. Poulin explained the Fairgrounds Annex kitchen stove grill is warped and the thermostat is going bad. It's an older stove made by a company no longer in business and they don't make parts for it anymore. He said the stove will need to be replaced. A floor sink that fits a mop bucket is still needed as right now the fill sink is in the computer room with all the electronics and he wants to relocate the water heater and floor sink this year. This will allow rinsing of the mop in a sink other than the one used in the kitchen.

Director Huston updated the board on Planning and Public Works. He explained some additional code amendments regarding signs that would be needed if public works makes changes. He will be picking

up the nightly rental issues after George Thornton provided his comment about the issue. He is trying to push a lot of it to the back burner so he can complete the EIS. Commissioner Branch asked about airport development in the City of Omak as it is a priority. Director Huston thought the city should inform their administrator then.

Commissioner DeTro asked if the county intended to respond to Nick Bayles.

Commissioner DeTro asked about marijuana operations setbacks. Director Huston stated the setbacks were flagged by the Planning Commission, and will come to the commissioner on February 25. Hemp is considered an agricultural product now by the state of Washington. MRD is the zone on the reservation and it does not allow marijuana production. Our code doesn't allow it. Hemp is not allowed in other areas of the county per county code. Right to farm argument comes up David Gecas will look into it. Commissioner DeTro stated there are many upset about it and he is hearing from people about it. Commissioner Branch thought the right to farm ordinance should be consistent with other code. Director Huston explained it was not very enforceable. It isn't that we don't regulate agriculture is it actually about whether or not we are reasonable.

#### **Update – Treasurer's Office – Treasurer Leah McCormack**

Treasurer McCormack provided that some property taxes will be less in 2019 over 2018 tax. Mostly everyone's taxes in the county would have gone down in 2019 from \$15-900 depending on the area and if value went up. This is due to McCleary this year but next year no one knows if this will still hold going into 2020. Her office is doing tax roll corrections and adjustments right now.

This year the treasurer's office will be hosting the County Treasurers conference in Okanogan County at Sun Mt. Lodge. There weren't enough rooms for the amount expected of people expected to attend so not everyone can stay at the lodge. She explained what topics will be discussed and that there are great speakers lined up. She feels it will be a really great conference.

Treasurer McCormack asked about the treasurers back door that has cracks on the walkway that was determined to be unsafe, she said she would not mind if the door was taken out and the space made into a wall. She thought that would be a better fix than spending the money to redo the bridge walkway.

Treasurer McCormack asked what the emerging opportunity request amount was. The Clerk of the Board stated it was for \$2500. The Treasurer said the reason was because she keeps an eye on the fund as that's where the bond payment comes from and she wants to ensure two years of bond payments are secure.

The TV District #1 billing is going out. She isn't comfortable paying the bill just because and she wants some concrete answers on the district viability. What is happening to the district? The bill comes from the Treasurer's office and her office gets the calls when there are questions, she need answers. Commissioner Branch asked if the TV district would draft a fact sheet for the public. George Thornton, member of the TV District Board of Directors replied that he will relay this to the rest of the board. He said the district is planning on drafting an info sheet. The district plans to publish the info in county newspapers, but said it was too late for the tax mailings. That is what they are planning right now. Leah said she doesn't use the service but she pays the \$40. She said about a quarter of the people paying the \$40 don't use the service but donate funds to keep it going. The district is in quick sand with a lot of unknowns about the viability of the district. It is not up to the Treasurer to justify to the people what is going on with the district. Commissioner Branch explained the board was ready to dissolve the district, but when they heard the possibility of making the service three times better, the board held off with the dissolution.

#### **Update – Auditor's Office – Auditor Cari Hall**

Commissioner Branch asked if ballot boxes were planned to be placed on the reservation. Ms. Hall

said six boxes were ordered but they will need to be secured for anti-theft wherever they get placed. She is putting the word out to cities and chambers to get the six placed. Boxes must be placed into a census delineated area with a post office. The previous Auditor was approached by the tribe to place one at the agency, but it isn't in a town. The tribe may get to choose where to place the box and the government center is where they want it. Commissioner DeTro stated there is no timeline in the statute for placing the boxes. Auditor Hall did submit a claim to the state for the costs to maintain, pickup, and lock the boxes because the county is so large.

There are already boxes at Twisp, Omak, Tonasket, Grand Coulee, and Pateros. She wants to also a place a ballot box in Oroville, Methow, Riverside, and reservation.....

Commissioner Branch said he's meeting with the Tribe soon and invited Auditor Hall to go with him. Her priority areas for placement is the reservation and Methow. She come up with an information sheet to bring with her. She plans to get the six placed by June.

Auditor Hall provided info about filing paperwork that will need to be posted about the Tonasket Mayor process. Commissioner Branch stated he is aware of other recalls that happened in another county. Commissioner DeTro doesn't believe the county should be responsible for paying the costs to process the paperwork. Commissioners said attorney Gecas is involved.

Auditor Hall discussed potential bills being considered in Olympia that may have significant impacts to us. There are six bills she is watching that could add thousands of dollars of costs to the county and Jr taxing districts. She will send the commissioners the bill numbers of bills that are of most concern.

Did Commissioner Hover speak with the board about filling the open finance manager position? The auditor's office is really getting slammed and she would like to move forward filling the position. The Clerk of the Board replied that she spoke to him about another staffing request and he told her he still needed to meet with the auditor to work out the numbers for the various requests. Ms. Hall said she had already met with him about those.

### **Bid Opening – Liquide Asphalt – Public Works Shasta Stidman**

Commissioner DeTro stated the time for receiving bids is past. Two bids were received for the Liquid Asphalt bid. Commissioner DeTro opened the bids and reviewed the documentation.

#### Idaho Asphalt

Total bid \$1,023,929.06

#### Western States LLC-Spokane

Total bid \$1,195,610.00

The apparent low bid was Idaho Asphalt.

The bids were copied and originals provided to Public Works staff for review and recommendation.

### **Bid Opening – Soil Stabilizer – Public Works Shasta Stidman**

Commissioner DeTro stated the time for receiving bids is past. Two bids were received for the Soil Stabilizer. Commissioner DeTro opened the bids and reviewed the documentation.

#### Envirotech

Total Bid \$180,914.46 including sales tax.

Bidder provided a Bid Bond.

#### Roadwise-Spokane

Total Bid \$185,390.69

Bidder provided a Cashiers check.

The apparent low bid was Envirotech.

The bids were copied and originals provided to Public Works staff for review and recommendation.

### **Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson and Admin Officer Ben Rough**

Pete Peterson and two others. Jason??

Engineer Thomson provided an image via projector showing an area within the county behind and to the north of Mid Valley Hospital. The area is riddled with springs and water appears to be coming from the hillside more than ever before. The water is affecting residents along the hillside including Pete Peterson who is here today to discuss his concern. He said the water is flowing right now creating ice everywhere. He cannot use his driveway anymore, it's iffy whether or not his mom can get out of her carport, and there is a foot of ice built up and the water keeps coming ..... He first noticed the problem about three months ago and has lived at his current location for about 5-years. The water is coming into his basement now when it hadn't before. Mr. Peterson asked if the county could help identify where the water is coming from and help divert it away from the residents. The commissioners asked Maurice Goodall to fly over the area to see if a cause could be identified. Information was exchanged among the group.

Ben Rough discussed a draft resolution which would authorize a ~~Solid Waste~~ Public Works office manager at grade 29 which is the same grade as Juvenile Admin and Prosecutor office manager positions. HR agrees it should be a grade 29.

Mr. Rough said a resolution is on the consent agenda that provides the Solid Waste manager signing authority. What is the maximum amount the commissioners are comfortable with. Engineer Thomson's signing authority is \$5,000 and Mr. Rough's is \$500. It was thought that Solid Waste manager should be lower than that. Commissioners thought \$2,500 would be sufficient.

Engineer Thomson mentioned that he discussed Talks Suspension bridge on Methow Trails that has some erosion happening around the base. He said Methow Trails is working with Yakama Nations to perhaps resolve the erosion problem.

The board returned at 3:35 p.m

### **Board of Health Meeting – 1234 S 2nd Ave, Okanogan –Commissioners to Attend**

Commissioners attended the Board of Health meeting. Commissioner DeTro called to inform the Clerk that the board meeting was running late. He asked the Clerk of the Board to attend to the Public hearing and continue it to later in the day. He also asked that she open the bids for the Juvenile Admin sewer repairs and record those into the minutes.

### **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Veterans Fund 101 \$2500**

The Clerk of the Board opened up the hearing. She noted no one was present and continued the hearing to from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. February 12, 2019.

### **Bid Opening – Juvenile Sewer Repairs – Maintenance Supervisor Joe Poulin**

Bids were received for the repairs of the sewer system. They included bids from:

ProLine-Omak

Total \$19,356.98

Lees & Duke-Okanogan

Total \$21,039.49

Ogborn Plumbing Contracting-Tonasket  
\$8,840

Rains Contracting-Malott  
Total Bid \$24,516

Joe Poulin explained all contractors, except Ogborn Plumbing, that submitted quotes were required to come and walk around the project and ask questions. Ogborn Plumbing attended the walk around on a different day.

The commissioners believed the Ogborn bid may be considered non responsive because it is less than half of what the others quoted. David Gecas will be consulted upon to discuss the quotes. If there is a percentage difference.

Joe Poulin to double check with David Gecas, then depending on the outcome he will contact the bidder to clarify then will come back to the board with his recommendation for award.

David Gecas was contacted by telephone to receive advice on the lowest quote because the quote was so much lower than the others. Can we contact the quoter to ask for clarification. Mr. Gecas will look into it and he will get back to us before 5:00 p.m. The Clerk of the Board explained the county's bid policy was followed

**Update – Human Resources/Risk Management – Tanya Craig and/or Debi Hilts**

Ms. Craig explained she met with the Noxious Weed department as they are updating job descriptions. It was found through that process that employees are currently working out of class as many are certified in their field of expertise. None of the comparable counties have the same kind of noxious weed department, so finding comparables is difficult. Noxious Weed already had the funds budgeted for the reclassifications. Finding true comparables has been difficult so they will have to come up with another way to justify.

Ms. Craig explained the Maintenance Tech position currently assigned to the fairgrounds should be reclassified to Maintenance Coordinator based on the tasks to be accomplished, supervisory role, and latitude needed for coordination as the maintenance tasks involved is certainly warranted. Commissioner DeTro and Commissioner Branch would like to give Commissioner Hover time to make his budget review. He

Ms. Craig explained some upcoming meetings she will attend in order to sort through contract language.

Maurice Goodall explained his findings about the water coming down behind the hospital property. He explained some temporary solutions and who would be involved. He will speak with Engineer Thomson on the fix.

**Discussion – Emerging Opportunity Request – Economic Alliance**

Roni Holder-Diefenbach

Ms. Holder-Diefenbach explained Okanogan County has four opportunity zones they are Tonasket, Brewster/Pateros, Omak/Okanogan/Disautel, and Coulee Dam/Elmer City/Nespelem. She provided a map. (attached) An information sheet is being circulated to the cities that explains the benefits of the zone. We are partnering with others in the designation and are calling it the NorthStar Opportunity zone. She explained how our region is being developed and who is participating in the creation of the regional website. The website will include the ports of Douglas, Ferry, and Chelan, Rock Island, City of Wenatchee, and Colville Tribes. Okanogan will be included within the regional website if this emerging

opportunity request is approved.

The emerging opportunity application requests funds for our portion of the costs of the website. The Economic Alliance website will be updated to provide a link and status info of the opportunity zone financial investments.

The request is for \$2500. The request was sent to the Economic Alliance executive committee and they approved it for recommendation to the county commissioners.

Commissioner DeTro asked if the Infrastructure Fund had funds available for this. Yes, the County Treasurer's request that the fund build up two-years of bond payments has been met. There are funds for this emerging opportunity request.

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the emerging opportunity request and directed staff to prepare the resolution to memorialize the details of the decision for Feb. 19 decision. Commissioner Branch would like Okanogan County to be acknowledged as a bonifide participant. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. It is a great way to expose our communities to investors who are interested investing in our communities.

### **Continued Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation Veterans**

Commissioner DeTro opened the hearing up for public testimony, then noted no one was here who wished to comment, then he closed public comment and opened to commissioner discussion.

### **Motion Resolution 16-2019 Supplemental Appropriation Veterans Fund**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 16-2019 a supplemental appropriation within the veteran's fund in the amount of \$2500. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **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 \$228,713.51. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

### **Motion Public Health Voucher**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers in the amount of \$2,585.97 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

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

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS and Reconvene as the Methow EMS District. 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 the Voucher certification and authorize the T Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$56,797.83. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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

### **Motion Resolution 22-2019 Signing Authority to Jamie Groomes**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 22-2019 providing signing authority to Jamie Groomes. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items excluding February 4 & 5 meeting minutes from item #1 and excluding item #10. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Commissioners' Proceedings January 28, 29 and ~~February 4, 5 2019~~
2. Authorization for In-County Food Purchases-2019 Noxious Weed Workshops
3. Proclamation-National Invasive Species Awareness Week-2/26-3/2
4. Appointment Letter- Ok. Co. Housing Authority-Anthony Gomez
5. Contract-Lodging Tax Revenue-Omak Visitor Center-LTAC-19-018
6. Contract-Lodging Tax Revenue-NCW Economic Development District-LTAC-19-014
7. Contract-Lodging Tax Revenue-Twisp Works-LTAC-18-029
8. Contract-Lodging Tax Revenue-Twisp Works-LTAC-19-025
9. Contract-Lodging Tax Revenue-Merc Playhouse-LTAC-19-008
10. ~~Resolution 4-2019 Reclassification to Maintenance Coordinator~~
11. Resolution 17-2019 Granting Signing Authority to Solid Waste Manager-Kent Kovalenko
12. Resolution 20-2019 Authorizing Re-hire of Joan Mason-Noxious Weed

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.