

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on February 26, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

George Thornton member of the public taking notes for Okanogan Watch.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

David Gecas, Stella Columbia, Joe Poulin, Perry Huston

Ms. Columbia updated the board on the Annex flooring research she did to find the best and lowest cost flooring to replace the worn carpet with. Director Huston reminder her about the proper bidding procedures and that this project was a public works type project.

Mr. Poulin discussed the Juvenile Sewer repairs quotes/bids and he found the lowest bidder is not on the Small Works Roster. The vendor is owner operated. Mr. Poulin contacted the vendor to clarify his understanding of the scope of work. It started out as an informal bid process and the requirement for a bid bond. Commissioner Hover discussed the need to clarify when the county would waive a bid bond and when it would not.

The stairs on the back side of Juvenile need to be repaired and cost around \$25,000.

Commissioner Hover discussed the request for Fairgrounds Maintenance Coordinator and stated the action would be a promotion rather than a reclassification.

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

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. for 20 minutes inviting Perry Huston and David Gecas to discuss potential litigation to which the county is or may be a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover extended Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. for 10 minutes.

Commissioner DeTro extended Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. for 15 minutes.

Executive Session ended at 10:15 a.m. no decisions were made.

**Update – Assessor's Office – Assessor Larry Gilman**

Assessor Larry Gilman, and Chief Deputy Assessor Jan Million

Assessor Gilman updated the board on the transition. The office staff learned a lot about the levies and have plans to streamline levies moving forward. The districts certify to the BOCC and the BOCC certify to the Assessor. We want audits showing we are more in compliance.

Deputy Million explained the levy process was audited last year and she learned the results that there are areas to be worked on in terms of complying with RCW deadlines for certifications.

Assessor Gilman explained some staffing dynamics in his office. He explained the process for accreditation for the appraisers. The Appraiser I after one year is accredited by the state and becomes

Appraiser II. One position was not filled. Between Steve Nearants and himself both are certified and licensed for commercial appraisals so they share that responsibility. There is a lot of training involved before being able to move up. Seniority is a consideration and who wants the position.

A major event happened yesterday on the mobile devices going down. So the appraiser are using paper form. Because the IOS upgrades are no longer compatible with the rest of the world, the company is going towards a Microsoft surface option for the commercial appraisals. The other software vendor is also doing upgrades. The field books are history and very much outdated.

One option is to print paper, finish new construction printing, it prints the field sheet that is taken out into the field for reference rather than using a technology.

The other option is the use of Air cards. There are many areas with dead internet access so the air cards would allow access in those areas. An AirCard® is a high-speed wireless broadband card that gives users mobile Internet access on their laptops, using their cellular data service.

There isn't a cost factor as this replacement upgrade was anticipated.

Commissioner Hover asked about mineral rights and whether those are assessed Assessor Gilman explained the mass appraisal markets in terms of how timber values are handled. The mineral rights can be assessed but timber not so much. The mineral is usually devalued after the materials have been withdrawn. Commissioner Hover asked about perpetual property rights and whether those property assessments annually taxed, no just pay the sales tax. They do not assess timber rights anymore due to the changes in the law.

Commissioner Branch said some lands are in fee and would have to be converted or taken off the roles. They must apply to the state for an exemption. Normally they put it in trust. Assessor explained why and when they can put it in trust and then they notify the assessor when it is placed in trust by BIA. The Assessor will do some research on the past perpetual rights discussed today as the commissioners would like to draft a letter to a constituent.

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

Ms. Craig provided the Department Head salary only comparison information the board previously requested. (attached)

Ms. Craig discussed the positions differences as some counties have combined duties differently structured than we have.

Ms. Craig explained the Sheriff's office is going over their policy and procedures. She discussed the LEXEPOL program and the reimbursements that help offset the costs. It provides questionnaires to help ensure understanding of the rules.

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

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

#### *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

Snow predicted for next Thursday. There was drifting on Cameron Lake Rd which has kept the crew busy.

#### *Pickups Bid Award Possible Action Item*

Engineer Thomson explained two bids were received and compared with the state bid. (attached) The state bid was overall the lowest, but options were explained for award. The bids were split and with that there is a \$1789 savings over the state bid. He showed the breakdown of the sales tax of 8.5%

and what portion goes to what recipient. 1.7% stays local and .225% goes to Okanogan County. Commissioner DeTro said his preference is to support the local. Commissioner Hover thought so too. They can pick whichever pickup is best for the county.

### **Motion Bid Award Public Works Pick-up trucks**

Commissioner Branch moved to award the pickup bids to Jess Auto in the amount of \$259,990.60. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### *WATV Routes, Signage*

Engineer Thomson showed the different versions of the Fine sign for riding WATV off road. If someone is on private property riding off road with WATV or some other licensed vehicle what is the recourse? What is the fine for riding off road onto Forest Service property? The various Fine signs were previewed

Engineer Thomson explained his research on the matter and found that HB 1028 and 5666 are about the same which allows WATV use on ORV roads. HB 1846 is regarding the disbursement of licensing fees, but he cannot find anything that would affect what the county is trying to do right now.

### *Twisp Carlton Rd Speed Reduction Petition*

A petition was received from Peter Laffan regarding a speed limit reduction on Twisp Carlton road south of Twisp. A hearing will be scheduled.

### *Levee Repairs*

Engineer Thomson explained the work to be done and what plantings would be done on the county property adjacent. Snow-berry was an option, but Commissioner DeTro explained there is a horticulture fly that resembles a fly that hosts on tree fruit and he suggested no Snow berry buses be planed. Engineer Thomson said he requested that no cottonwoods be planted.

### *Area 1 Leadman Out of Class*

Ben Rough explained the area one supervisor position is vacant. The lead man of that area was assigned the duties of the supervisor temporarily. He thought it would take about a month and a half for the hiring process.

### **Motion Resolution 28-2019 Out of Class Pay**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve Resolution 28-2019 authorizing out of class pay for public works employee with the extra responsibility of area 1 supervisor. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Engineer Thomson explained the items presented via consent agenda and asked if the board had any questions or concerns.

From here on out, if Ben Rough has anything to discuss with the board then those items will be included in the Engineer's agenda.

Member of the public Salley Bull arrived at 1:30 p.m.

Member of the public George Thornton arrived at 1:30 p.m. to take hand written notes.

### **Citizens Comment Period**

George Thornton, TV Dist. #1 member, explained all his emails to KSPS were being blocked by their server so that explained the stall. It has been cured. They have a big new transmitter they believe will solve all the problems they need to get up on the mountain to make it work. How to get it up there and hooked in is the question. There is a snow cat that may work. No response from the Tribe regarding a lease for the space on Omak Mountain. It does appear that to work with the BIA is a slow process.

There is some reluctance of KSPS due to the lease with the Tribe for the Omak Mt site. The long term goal is to match the service provided in the Methow here. Commissioner DeTro thought the County's Communications Dept. snow cat could be utilized and recommended Mr. Thornton contact him and work that out.

### **Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation – Superior Court \$3305**

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

### **Motion Resolution 27-2019 Supplemental Appropriation Superior Court CE**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 27-2019 a supplemental appropriation within the Current Expense Superior Court Budget in the amount of \$3,305. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Discussion – County Observations – Salley Bull**

Ms. Bull explained she is advocating for an OB doctor for Tonasket Hospital that would allow the OB services to continue. She attended a strategy meeting held by the Hospital where it was discussed that the hospital would be the OB center for the whole county. She was working with the hospital at the end of 2018 with promotional ads that included OB services and they were getting the word out. But then soon after a letter was published in the newspaper that the Tonasket OB center would be eliminated. She explained instances where a mother needs emergency care immediately, but now the woman and baby would have to travel long distances and would not receive the needed care in time.

Ms. Bull explained she contacted Confluence Health and they told her north county is a losing operation and is considering moving its doctors to Omak.

Commissioner Hover thought it would be helpful if an entity could come and discuss how telemedicine can work here and what would be needed to have the service available. It is hard for him to see how all three hospitals can remain viable by offering the same services. He is trying to figure out what specialty each could provide and still provide emergent care. Commissioner Hover said something must be done to ensure viability of the hospitals as he doesn't see how in its present situation. Ms. Bull thought the commissioners could direct the hospital and the hospitals were under the authority of the commission. The commissioners explained their role and the authority being only influential not binding.

Ms. Bull provided her talking points. (attached)

George Thornton said he was on the hospital board and would be discussing these issues with legislators soon to figure out ways to work together.

### **Discussion – Software Purchase Authorization – Randy Clough**

Randy Clough discussed the budget request for the purchase of the needed software and patrol car laptops. The commissioners reviewed resolution 26-2019 which included the financial information prepared by Mr. Clough and the county auditor. In order to provide funds for the total costs of laptops, a supplemental appropriation will be needed.

Commissioners asked that Auditor Hall be contacted to go over the budget adjustment.

### **Motion Resolution 26-2019 Budget Adjustment CE and Equipment Reserve Fund**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 26-2019 a budget adjustment within Current Expense and Equipment reserve funds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Discussion – Emergency Staffing Request – Anna Lyon**

Anna Lyon, Larry Hudson

Ms. Lyon explained they've been reviewing staff job descriptions for the Noxious Weed Office. She provided the job descriptions and position analysis to be discussed to the board. It was an eye opening experience it was obvious they needed to be updated. She explained the job descriptions may not have been updated since 1992. The salary levels were also analyzed because our county comparables have coordinators none have field supervisors, three have inspector, and it appeared some had only seasonal positions. It was difficult to arrive at an obvious scenario because of the disparities across the state. The commissioners discussed the situation and asked questions about the current staffing levels.

Erin is a public operator license and next year with the bump in minimum wage it would appear she would only be making \$.20 cents more that minimum wage.

She would like the board to look at the job descriptions and salary surveys to determine a solution they are comfortable moving forward with that will address the wage disparities.

She provided information to the board showing the current staff wages. She is having a hard time find staff to fill a field position. People would rather work at Dairy Queen with air conditioning rather than work in the field with the weather and wildlife.

Ms. Lyon explained the issue was discussed by her board and they were in favor of providing the necessary consideration. She has the funds already. Commissioner DeTro said if her board was all for this, he was too. Commissioner Branch said he's heard from prior employees who had concerns about enforcements. Commissioner Hover appreciated the work put into this, but she is in a regulatory position and the board establishes the assessment and asking the board to raise wages of staff and it seems we are in a circular motion. Ms. Lyon explained over the next five years the current assessment will be sufficient. She would like to have four people in her office right now because it is haywire. Okanogan County is huge compared to the comparable counties.

The commissioners will consider the circumstances. Ms. Lyon will be on vacation, but she will be available via cell phone if she must be contacted.

Eric Fritts dropped in to discuss the 200 worker hours that Work Source will pay for an internship for a service officer assistance. He wanted to give the commissioners a heads up that he has already started the process and someone in mind. There is a stipulation that the county retain the person permanently afterwards.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve items 2-13 excluding items #1 and #14. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- ~~1. Commissioners' Proceedings February 19, 2019~~
2. Contract-Lodging Tax –Conconully Chamber-LTAC-19-004
3. Contract-Lodging Tax-Methow Trails Cap. Imp. LTAC-19-012
4. Contract-Lodging Tax-MVSTA Marketing-LTAC-19-011
5. Bid Award-Grader Packer/Rollers- LyCox Enterprises
6. Bid Award-Slide In Water Tanks- Steve Peck Fabrication LLC
7. Cattle Guard Renewals-Oberg Brothers CGF#24-98; CGF#4-78; CGF#3-92
8. Delegation of Canvassing Board Authority-Commissioner Branch & Hover
9. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Use Agreements January & February: Chelan Fruit, Wenatchee Valley College, NW Wholesale, Hort Association, Sunrise RV
10. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Use Agreements for 2018-Per attached list
11. Authorization to Call for Bids-2019 Gravel Crushing or Supply Project-PW
12. Bid Award-Soil Stabilizer-EnviroTech Services-PW
13. Resolution 25-2019 Highway 7 Bridge North CRP No. 9437-07-PW
- ~~14. Resolution 26-2019 Budget Adjustment- Equipment Reserve/CE-\$15,000~~

**Motion Ordinance 2019-2 Amending OCC 17A.220 & 290**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve Ordinance 2019-2 adopting revisions to OCC 17A.220 & 290, findings of fact and conclusions of law. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Motion Resolution 29-2019 Intent on Sales Tax**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 29-2019 which outlines the intent to consider additional sales tax for communications. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Motion Resolution 30-2019 Authorizing Temporary Help**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 30-2019 authorizing temporary help within the sheriff's records office not to exceed 70 hours total through March 31, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Maurice Goodall, Emergency Manager, explained his efforts to convene the Emergency Management Council to discuss his salary request. Commissioner Hover noted that Ms. Craig provided salary comparisons for the salary requests of the various department heads and wanted some time to review it. He thought the board would know on Monday.

What criteria would the board use to determine the level of compensation of salary requests? Commissioner Branch said employee evaluations could be used to base them on. He said the information he's looked at so far justifies the requests.

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.