

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on February 5, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Member, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

George Thornton, member of Okanogan Watch Group, taking hand written notes.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

David Gecas, Perry Huston, Stella Columbia

Ms. Columbia updated the board on fairgrounds tasks. She noted the FAC is this Thursday and she would be going over the Pari-mutual with the group. The website is mostly updated for this year's fair. She will purchase some tags for this year during the sale. She discussed the need for cross training and suggested one of the commissioners' clerk so there is back up for calls or when she has to be out of the office and seemed the logical choice. As revenue increases for the fairgrounds more funds can be dedicated to repairs. SWAP meets were discussed as a potential events to draw people.

Director Huston provided his update. The WRIA 49 Watershed Planning Unit will meet Thursday in the commissioners hearing room. He reached out to DOE as we are required to charge the \$500 fee and he has no idea how to submit the DOE's portion of \$350 from \$500 fee. He doesn't know who to submit the report to yet. He'll figure it out.

Mitigation of closed basins was discussed. Director Huston discussed his plan to engage and talk about it. Commissioner Hover discussed placing meters on wells in the closed basin. The fear is that once metered we will charge for its use. Commissioner Hover said we should not be able to charge for water as the water is waters of the state. The meters would provide good data on what is actually being used and therefore it would be worth it, he said.

Joe Poulin explained the floor in the jail kitchen is being torn out. Proline was called in to cut the concrete to get to the cast iron pipes for repairs. The pipes are old. Fred Cooley conducted a site visit to determine if the bridge to the Treasurer's North door would need to be replaced. The rebar is compromised and he recommended replacement.

There are three cotton wood trees that compromise the fairgrounds transformer and various other underground functions. The roots spread out and make the surface uneven and cause problems.

Fairgrounds arena tear-down will first require a letter from CCT on the DHAP requirements are met. Once the letter is in hand the arena tear down can begin. The panels should be stacked and graded by condition. The inside race track rail will be replaced too. The arena portion of the project will be completed by the time the Sheriff's posse comes in June.

Quotes for the Juvenile detention sewer repairs will be scheduled for bid opening and commissioner decision next Tuesday. Agriplex heating during the single digit temps for the Hort meeting was discussed.

David Gecas updated the board on lawsuits he is handling. He stated some work he is involved in with regards to TV District #1, he'll provide an update next week.

Tax title property resolution has been drafted but several people have wanted to purchase it. He

discussed having the time to sort through it.

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

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:55 a.m. for 20 minutes inviting David Gecas to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation the county may become a party when public knowledge will likely result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the county. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended the executive session at 10:15 a.m. for another 15 minutes.

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

Walt Stalder

Ms. Craig updated the board on testing the panic buttons in various offices. The system is antiquated and at max capacity. Parts are no longer available for purchase. The courts are asking for upgrades to the system, but we cannot do what they want with the current system. A quote was obtained for the option requested and it was around \$16,000 from WAVE Systems for the Courthouse upgrade. (attached) Additional quotes were requested by the commissioners from different companies.

Commissioners wondered if there were grant funds to help off-set the cost. Commissioners discussed the use of the Trial Court Improvement fund. Commissioner Hover didn't believe that was the right fund to look at, and thought a safety fund would be more appropriate. Ms. Craig explained the courts wanted special upgrades that only benefit them, so she thought the TCIF would be appropriate. The Clerk of the Board asked if the phone system was still an option, since everyone has a phone. Ms. Craig said it would be an added cost for this option and is complicated to set up and would not provide the detail of where and who is calling. Commissioners thought there were systems not being used fully and thought Everbridge could be an option to explore and is the same company used by Emergency Management for notifications.

Walt Stalder explained the system we currently have and how it's supposed to work and what is currently working and not working. The vendor no longer supports the system we have. We have an alarm system that has been extended well beyond its usable life. Commissioner Branch noted another system that would be supported for a long time and whether or not something like that exists. Mr. Stalder explained in the 1990's radios and computers changed quickly. But our conversation really didn't start until 2014 or so. We really need more capacity than what this system provides. He spoke to Randy Clough about a more IP based system. Commissioner Hover thought a wireless system quote might help give us an idea of costs.

The commissioners asked for additional quotes for a replacement system where mixed virtual buttons and hard buttons can be utilized. They also wanted to know what other counties are using.

### **~~CANCELLED Update – Communications/Dispatch – Mike Worden~~**

Mr. Worden cancelled the update after this Monday's discussion on radio network improvement funding.

### **Update – Public Works - Josh Thomson and Ben Rough**

Dave Hilton, PH; Randy Clough, CS;

Ben Rough provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

#### *Network Connection*

The network connection to Public Works building was discussed. Mr. Clough explained attempts were made to get the system to light up, with zero success. The existing pair that is working crashes all the time. Mr. Rough said the situation is at the point that staff cannot do their work using the internet right

now. NCI's schedule is running about a month or two out for a fiber circuit and that is too long to wait. It will take around \$1500 to make it work a little better right now. The board discussed use of the Capital Improvement funds and how much it would cost to replace the entire fiber line. They also discussed the wired point to point option, but bandwidth may be an issue.

The board discussed whether the county wanted to pay a monthly charge for the wireless service or pay \$21,000 for our own fiber line which would be expected to last at least 20-30 years. Mr. Clough said quality and speed should be considered too and the need to upload and download large files. There is no local company qualified to do the repair work. Mr. Rough said V-Land costs can be covered for a few months, but the new system costs would need to come from somewhere else. The group will press ahead and try and get the system to function. Commissioner Branch stated this could be an emergency type situation.

Mr. Rough updated the board about a Solid Waste Grant pre-approval process. He asked how the board would like to handle the approval. He showed the pre-approval form had already been signed.

Mr. Rough asked the board if they had any questions about the items listed on the consent agenda. The board did not.

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

Engineer Thomson asked the board about additional Riverside Levee findings as the Corp isn't getting anywhere with the diking district. Commissioner DeTro will follow-up with his contacts.

Engineer Thomson explained some bid openings had been advertised incorrectly by the newspaper so the bid openings were rescheduled.

Engineer Thomson discussed the work of OCOG and that the day-to-day should be outlined as it will give the OCOG accountability. The day to day decisions by the Planning Director to Planning staff was discussed.

### **Citizens Comment Period**

George Thornton, Maurice Goodall

George Thornton provided public comment, representing both the TV District #1 and Okanogan County Watch. He explained the TV District met recently he summarized the district's status. He is going to meet with BIA to find out where we are at on a potential lease on Omak Mt and who would actually be approving that on the Tribes end. He said, the Tribe expressed their need for a single entity that they can deal with on a reliable process would be best. He is looking at the potential that KSPS could be the operating entity under a contract with the TV District. He will update the county commissioner via email when further information is known. He is working with county Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas on the legalities of the situation. Letters of Interest received for appointment to the district board of directors were recommended for approval which fill the board seats. There is room for both. He said both Marcus Alden and Ernie Rasmussen would benefit the district with their expertise.

Mr. Thornton asked if the board would consider receiving comments via telephone conference call. It would provide easier access to the county commission from the public. There doesn't appear to be many coming in to comment anyway so providing an opportunity through a telephone call seemed reasonable. Commissioner Hover expressed his concern that we would not be able to tell who is on the other end, that it might not be the person they say they are. It is the only down fall he sees with allowing call-in comments during the public comment period. Commissioners discussed allowing call-ins but would place a time limit when there are others holding the line to comment.

Mr. Goodall asked the board if a decision was made yet on his request. The commissioners did not respond.

### **Discussion – WSU Re-Classification Request – Kayla Wells-Moses**

Ms. Wells-Moses provided the board with information to support her re-classification request for the office support manger. (attached) She stated the current job description has not been updated since WSU extension came to Okanogan, as far as can be found. She provided a new re-write of the job description. The request is because currently the person is grade 7 and is only making three cents more than minimum wage and minimum wage goes up next year. Even if the position is bumped to a grade 10 the person would still be in the same position she is now making below or at minimum wage. The request is to re-class the office manager position to grade 12 which is consistent with other Clerks in the county. She explained the outreach she did to other extensions and all are making more than Okanogan office support. The new job description is reflective of what the current office manager actually does because the old one doesn't reflect the proper duties.

An email was sent to the 4H unit director about providing additional support to the 4H program staff and Ms. Wells-Moses said the reply hasn't been received yet.

Commissioners discussed the various wage requests they've recently received from Emergency Management, Building Official, and WSU Extension. Budgets were reviewed.

Commissioner Hover explained some other funds that pay for salary and benefits that actually shouldn't be paid by that fund. The hit to current expense would be around \$50,000 if moved. He explained MARC fund could be used to pay for departments to scan things and the Archival Preservation fund would pay for an Auditor's staff.

### **Legislative Discussion – John Culton with Senator Murray's Office**

Mr. Culton was welcomed by the board. Commissioners relayed their legislative requests and concerns to Mr. Culton.

Countywide CERB Planning Grant funding for internet services was discussed.

Mr. Culton said there is specific broad band dollars for hospitals and schools. Commissioner Hover stated the Methow School is trying to get connectivity. The school has been used in the past for the fire emergency operation center. His understanding of the bill is that it opens up more access to funds by rural communities. It is called an E-rate program for school districts and libraries within schools. He read from the bill what the bill covers.

Commissioners discussed other bills of interest that the hospitals and school districts would benefit from. Mr. Culton asked whether the commissioners would be able to provide information to the hospitals and schools if he sent it to them.

Mr. Culton explained Family Health Centers appear to be forming partnerships with the hospitals because so many serve rural communities. Commissioner Branch stated Emergency Medical Services are really feeling the pinch because Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements are not covering the basic cost of providing the EMS services. The county has three EMS Districts in the county with different boundaries than the hospital and does not cover the whole county. The commissioners discussed their consideration of establishing a utility district which would require everyone to pay into the service. Right now the ambulance comes regardless of whether the person pays into the service district or not.

Mr. Culton asked about wolf concerns the board may have. He has heard wolves are a big problem in the quad county (NEWC) area. He said additional resources might be available for additional range riders, he thought. His question is could the state say you can do independent wolf management on

delisted lands?

### **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 \$141,149.58 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,026,018.68. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

### **Motion Ordinance 2019-1 OCC 17A.400.130 Water Availability Study Areas**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve Okanogan County Ordinance 2019-1 amending OCC 17A.400.130 water availability study area and designating Upper Tunk Basin, Lower Tunk Basin, and Tamarack Springs Basin located in the Water Resource Inventory area #49, as water availability study areas and repealed ordinance 2018-13. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Letter - Invitation to Meet-Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the letter to Glenn Casamassa, Regional Forester, inviting him to meet with them and discuss the various topics requested in the letter. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Appointment Letter-TV District #1 – Alden**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the appointment letter of Marcus Alden to the TV District #1 Board of Directors. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Appointment Letter-TV District #1 - Rasmussen**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the appointment letter of Ernest Rasmussen to the TV District #1 Board of Directors. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 2-6 excluding item #1 for further review. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Commissioners' Proceedings January 28 and 29, 2019
2. Cattle Guard Renewals: WDFW Brandon Trouer CGF#16-76; Haeberle CGF#38-74; WDFW CGF#N-182; Keene CGF#10-13
3. Contract Acknowledgements-January 2019 Fairgrounds Facility Rentals-Chelan Fruit, Wenatchee Valley College, NW Wholesale
4. Reappointment Letter SWAC-Leslie Michel
5. Letter of Non-Objection WSLCB-Bush School Valentine's Day Event Feb. 14, 2019 Kaltenbach
6. Resolution 15-2019-PW Temp Employee Wage Definition

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.