

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****JANUARY 14, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on January 14, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners reviewed their consent agenda items and meeting agenda.

Briefing Among Commissioners

Commissioners discussed individual meetings they attended last week. Commissioners discussed with Director Huston UCSRB hatcheries, screens and better outreach.

Legislative Update – Potts & Associates

Lobbyist Jim Potts, Zach Kennedy, Chief Communications Deputy Mike Worden

Commissioner Hover asked about fully funding State PILT. The funding was discussed as the request has been made to fully fund. PILT funds help CE, but also schools, fire districts etc... and doesn't just help the county current expense it helps these other entities too. So when they do not fully fund PILT then it actually affects those other entities in addition to county.

Commissioner Branch discussed that he would like a meeting with the 7th and 12th district legislators in the next session committee meeting.

Commissioner Branch asked if the Cannabis tax expansion to counties bill, has that moved along. Mr. Potts said what he has seen is more about access to minors, there no funding distribution issues have been noted.

Mr. Worden said through the State 911 office there is an interest in consolidating the number of dispatch centers in the state and what is that conversation in the legislative halls is like? Potts will need to ask around to see what those numbers looks like. Mr. Worden would like to keep an eye on how it proceeds. Potts stated they would keep their ears open and let us know if he hears anything.

Commissioner Hover talked about the \$750 million allocation to explore removal of lower Snake River dams. What does that mean for us? He hopes we would use our money more wisely rather than trying to come up with something else and wondered what that appropriation would look like. Governor budget is considered at the high water mark and appears to still be short.

Commissioner Hover relayed that he intends to leave by 2:00 p.m. tomorrow to attend to personal business.

Discussion – Ad Valorem Distribution & Calculation – Assessor Gilman

Leah McCormack, Pam Johnson, and Jan Million

Commissioners wanted to learn how the Ad Valorem allocations impact the budget. They invited Assessor Gilman and staff to help explain the calculation variables.

For 2019 budget, are we taking the highest collection amount from 2018, adding 1% to it, then taking the 2018 new construction amount and adding it to it. Previous new construction is considered a

bonus.

For road levy shift, it is a straight shift.

Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Veterans we do not see it broken out in the budget as it is an allocation. For the veterans, we allocated \$80,000. Is that amount something the commissioners allocate more funds to?

Treasurer McCormack explained the Delinquents make up for the allocation to ad valorem because it is a mandated amount of the State. Mental health drives the ad valorem. Assessor Gilman also discussed the open space properties are considered on a receivable list each year as the payments come in on delinquents.

Commissioner Hover noted ad valorem has been happening consistently over the many years, but he wants to know exactly where things are at. Delinquent taxes, how do you budget for that? He would like to see where those are noted. Treasurer McCormack thought she would ask other treasurers to see what they do. He is trying to figure out whether or not to allocate more money to Veterans and what impacts on current expense might take place if the board does. He would like to get to the point where we have 2.2 million in our reserve.

The levy rate spreadsheet was provided and discussed. It showed what the rates would be for various house values.

Commissioner Hover wants to know, after the last voucher run of the year, the more accurate number of the actual carryover will be. Commissioners are not going to penalize departments for having carryover nor would they want a department to spend down their budgets unnecessarily.

Tax credits were discussed. We distribute by factor or percentage, not by TCA. This way small districts are not bankrupted when a larger business goes out of business, such as a mine. This way the affect isn't going to put another small business out of business because the devaluation is done early and spread out equally among the tax payers. The Jr. Districts are the lowest on the totem pole. Everyone gets a piece of the pie and everyone absorbs the cost which is proportioned out everyone by percentage. The state allows us to do this.

Commissioner Hover discussed PILT. It hurts the county when the game department buys irrigated lands because irrigated lands are valued higher. The legislators are not good stewards either as they have not approved pre loading criteria to manage the land by. Assessor Gilman noted that perhaps the use of the land should be continued if the game department buys it.

Citizen Comment-Request

A constituent came in with his wife and daughter. His name was William R. Wright and he is very frustrated about the cows trespassing on his property. He said the city of Omak leases property to a cattle owner. He said the cows are coming over his fence and creating a safety issue for his children. He said he has spoken to the city and to Deputy Yarnell about the problem.

Mr. Wright asked if the county would talk to the city about the situation because it is getting confrontational with the city and the cows owner. Commissioner Branch said he would discuss this concern with the Omak City Administrator Todd McDaniels.

He has tried to involve the Sheriff's office and was told he could not seize the cattle trespassing even though the law does allow for seizing them in the federal and state laws.

Commissioner Branch would like to speak to Omak Administrator Todd McDaniel's and discuss this issue with him personally. It would be the best course of action at this point.

The Clerk of the Board provided the Board with the packet she provides to people who call about cattle on their property or when someone's insurance company calls about cattle on the roadway. She noted RCW 16.24.070.

Commissioner DeTro left at 11:45 to attend the Horticulture meeting at Roadhouse grill.

Update – Planning – Perry Huston

Engineer Josh Thomson, Admin Ben Rough, and Gina McCoy member of the public taking notes on computer.

Comprehensive Plan

Index of comments

Transportation Plan/Circulation Element Capital Facility Planning

Level of Service Classifications/Capacity

County Roads

Agency Roads

Private Roads

Large lot/Exempt Segregations

Road requirements

Primitive Road Analysis

Director Huston discussed road standards and subdivisions and areas where standards should be used in the plan. Engineer Thomson discussed private road, primitive road, agency road, and paved road standards and how those are designated in the plan. Road studies are needed to help make a determination. The group discussed county road standards guidance for subdivisions and the language to use in the policy and what improvements are necessary. The principals need to be outlined in the draft. The plan is currently under review by the Planning Commission. The rest of the work could be salted around depending on what structure the commissioners want to see.

Engineer said, through RTPO, there is \$78,000 for planning activities. Engineer Thomson said at the February meeting he will discuss these activities and the RFP they needed to get a firm yes from the board for a primitive road study. We'll need to use the funds we have till June, if that is a direction they want to go with regards to RTPO primitive road study. He thought we could look at all unpaved roads and ask where development will happen in order to apply cost estimates for those areas into the document. It is one thing that can be done in the Planning Dept. or in house with people with local knowledge. Commissioner Branch stated he is in favor of doing it in house and noted we provide ourselves the capacity to do it, but make sure because we do as it is easy to get partly through something and it stalls.

Commissioner Hover would like to see it started earlier rather than later in order to utilize RTPO funding.

Ben Rough stated we should at least have a conversation about them that way we aren't putting the burden on Perry's shoulders every time something comes up. Engineer Thomson stated from the cost perspective if a primitive road is shown to warrant paving where does that cost get paid from. Taking on road miles is difficult too because road funding doesn't come from that. It could be cheaper to chip seal a road and maintain every 10 years or so than it is to grate it every year. Even when land values go up the road fund doesn't go up more than 1% over the previous year.

A plan of work could be drafted. If Planning undertook this it would have to be both Planning and Public Works staff teaming up to accomplish. Support could be gained if we interface with the cities, for example North Omak. The developers also want to see where that will happen.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 2:45 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Perry Huston and Josh Thomson to discuss a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase to avoid increase costs. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 3:00 p.m. no decisions were made.

Mapping Project

Webinar

Director Huston stated a webinar is being requested for the mapping project. Years ago there was discussion about everyone chipping in for use of high resolution photography which is now everywhere. The agency has secured funding and now we have gotten around to seeing the webinar. It may cover some satellite imagery. There is certainly value in it for Planning and Public Works. If the commissioners are still interested should that be set up in the commissioners hearing room. Commissioners would like to see it during a Planning session.

WRIA 49 Watershed Plan Update

Request for Qualifications-update (Omak Assistance)

Grant application-update

Operating procedures-update

Planning Unit Members Roster (OTID Assistance)

Director Huston updated the board on the Watershed Plan and which entity will be doing what. The commissioners are looking for a recommendation from the initiating governments. Commissioner Branch expressed concerns relay to him by Todd McDaniel about timelines. Director Huston said it should also express how the initiating governments will make the day to day decisions. The county as lead entity will draw up the contract.

Director Huston said there is some predisposition that the Planning Unit will make their decision and will act like a filter without a formal ratification process. Commissioner Branch said if there is something he feels strongly about and doesn't inform the other two he will be very clear because it will be a controversial thing.

Grant application is being amended with the suggested information from Vanessa. Preset funding, but if something comes up beyond that is there other funding available? The impression Director Huston got was that we get what we get for what we propose. He does hear a certain message repeated over and over what we get.

He has a polished up the member roster.

Commissioner Hover discussed his desire to include the mitigation record. The plan is important. The map analysis was generated from maps over the years.

Airport Safety Zones

Tonasket-update

Champerty Shores update was provided. The infrastructure fund could help with the \$25,000. An RFQ will need to be hired for the design work, which would also inform the bond issue. Combined opportunity zone was discussed as there is some help through Economic Alliance for those zones.

Reviewed Meeting Minutes

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.