

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****JANUARY 29, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on January 29, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Member, Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

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

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Stella Columbia and Perry Huston were present.

David Gecas provided his staff update. He explained what a bail bond business needs in order to provide bail bonds. We aren't really set up with the proper forms, so he will redraft for court review. There is also a process for revocation so he is working on that process too.

Stella Columbia provided her update. She handed to the board a request to waiver security for Vintage Faire on April 27, 2019 even though they will be serving alcohol. Ms. Columbia thought security was not necessary because not that many people actually come. Commissioner Hover asked about pressure washing the beef barn again. Ms. Columbia replied that the roof leaks badly and if it rains again during the faire she thought roof repairs would be needed. She also would like to address the needs of Jones Hall and discussed some ideas. She requested additional staff be hired so she can discuss ideas with them. Commissioner Branch suggested Joe Poulin for the walk threw to hear what customers are requesting. Commissioners discussed SWAP meets or farmers markets or sportsmanship events in the Agriplex.

The college event went well and the college organizers were happy with it. A draft resolution for providing 50% discount to qualify under low-income and or infirm for Rotary Club for Business Week was drafted for consideration.

Director Huston provided his staff report. He explained a public records request he is fulfilling. Life Line contacted him about the levy issue losing its momentum. Mr. Walker expressed his concerns to Director Huston about that.

Mr. Poulin updated the board on courthouse complex maintenance. He said he is meeting with Mr. Cooley about the North entrance of courthouse that may have some structural issues. The area is blocked off to keep customers and employees safe.

The Clerk of the Board reported that she has completed and turned in the required Grant Accountability worksheets to the county auditor by the deadline.

Motion Resolution 11-2019 Business Week Fee Waiver

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 11-2019 providing a 50% waiver of the rental fee of the Agriplex and Annex for Business week to qualify low-income and/or the infirm. Motion was seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

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

Ms. Craig explained the county received a Grant from the Office of Public Defense in the amount of \$51,886 to help with public defense improvements costs. Commissioner Hover asked her to bill the therapeutic courts fund at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Craig is working with the Sheriff to conduct another active shooter training. There was an issue with employees' deleting emails when they leave county employment. She would like to work with Central Services to preserve emails. Commissioner Branch thought some additional training might be needed or an email to everyone to acknowledge the policy. She will look into what the Risk Pool might offer at a low cost. The Sheriff's office has been reaching out regarding the courthouse security position that is open. Someone may be appointed to that position in the near future.

Ms. Craig reported further on completed items she is handling and updated the board on several ongoing issues. She will be absent later this week to attend to personal business.

Commissioner DeTro left at 10:10 a.m. and then returned at 10:40 a.m.

Update – Noxious Weed Office – Anna Lyon

Anna Lyon and Larry Hudson were present.

Ms. Lyon provided her agenda and discussed the items listed there.

Ms. Lyon updated the board on carryover funds that will need to supplement other expenditure lines. She would like to purchase GPS equipment for staff, treatment on the Okanogan River, cost share with residents along lakes to help them get started.

Commissioner Hover asked if she is getting any assistance from WDFW in terms of boat launches. They asked if she would provide a report on what was spent and where. She believes other county agencies are not providing enough documentation to WDFW and is why they are now reluctant. They did provide \$1000 for the whole of Okanogan County, which is a foot in the door Ms. Lyon explained. Aquatic treatments around boat launches are done by WDFW but they do not treat milfoil. Both DNR and WDFW are really dependent on the local guys and some are better than others. Commissioner Hover explained of the 300 or so boat launches we have 1/3 of those in the central region. Pushing for funding is what Ms. Lyon does otherwise things don't get funded. The problem with aquatics and boat launches is they treat around the launches and parking lot but the weeds may not be required control and we cannot require treatment. The funds go to those agencies that keep pushing for it. Helping with some of the aquatic treatments is a good thing.

Emergency road kits were discussed. She would like to purchase some for the Noxious Weed vehicles as they did have a need for a kit last year. She would like to get Joan Mason back in for two weeks, no more than 800 hours due to retirement status, she isn't sure how that would work out. She is a licensed operator consultant. A draft resolution will be presented for it.

Ms. Lyon explained they will probably get the field season going earlier this year. She explained anticipated grants and contracts that pays for a lot of field staff salary expenses. DNR notified we have a contract for around \$10,000 with notification requirements on controls with the goal to get all agencies to do their own work. The red tape they have to go through is such that it can be easier for the county to do the treatments. That way the weeds get taken care of.

Ms. Lyon explained the scope of work for 2019 with focus on state lands and increase education. Calibration workshops are planned as well. She discussed other outreach intended. On September 26th there is a Washington Invasive Species conference being held here in the DOT conference room and there will be a weeds across borders tour going into Canada. The room has the electronic capability to provide projector and internet connections. The risk meeting and tour may be combined and some grant funds will pay for refreshments for those meetings.

Ms. Lyon explained the weed identification training for the various weeds with the public invited. She intends to take three weeks' vacation in March. Larry Hudson will be in charge during her absence.

Ms. Lyon explained the need to update the job descriptions for her department as it appears they haven't been since 1992. She provided the information to the board and to member of the public George Thornton, but not for the record.

Ms. Lyon said any field worker going out in the field has a safety concern especially when doing enforcement, so providing training to those field staff is critical.

Update – Public Works- J. Thomson, B. Rough

Josh Thomson, Ben Rough, George Thornton, member of the public and Ms. Tanya Craig were present.

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

Ms. Craig was invited to discuss the Solid Waste department and the idea of separating Solid Waste from Public Works and she discussed options on how the separation might work as this is something public works has been talking about. Engineer Thomson said he is thinking efficiency wise and did not believe he needed to be involved as the department head of SWAC, he believed Kent Kovalenko would be the best department head as the Solid Waste manager. Where does the board see Kent's authority? Ms. Craig explained it is more appropriate for him to sign off on the Solid Waste vouchers as he is more aware of solid waste operations.

Commissioner Hover explained what an organization chart might look like. He doesn't want to increase the number of department heads though. Commissioner DeTro said it would be a threshold of determination made between the Solid Waste manager and the engineer depending on what responsibilities are delegated. Commissioner Branch doesn't mind the interaction by department heads and prefers the manager tell the board what is happening with Solid Waste. It would free up the Engineer to do other stuff. Right now Mr. Kovalenko reports to Mr. Rough. But Mr. Rough is giving Mr. Kovalenko more responsibility through his transition. Commissioners discussed the potential position regardless of who fills it and that is what should be considered. The details of how this idea would work financially was discussed so one fund isn't benefiting another.

Engineer Thomson said, right now, with the person we have, it would work great, but looking into the future it is unclear.

Mr. Rough recommended that Mr. Kovalenko be given signing authority which will allow Mr. Kovalenko to operate and work through the kinks while Mr. Rough is still here. Sooner rather than later is his recommendation. Ms. Craig will draft a resolution giving Mr. Kovalenko the authority to sign vouchers.

A proposal for an office manager position will be discussed at a later date.

Right now putting together the summer temps for solid waste and roads. Mr. Rough said in the past we have matched union wages and temp wages are fine, but if we did want to match to union wages, now would be the time before posting the positions. The temp wages have always been step 1 for that position. A more formalized approach could be memorialized via resolution. He is looking at mid-February. Commissioner Hover would like to know what the breakdown would be. Mr. Rough provided the scenario on the back of his agenda, but doesn't include overtime. The hourly union rate will go up in 2020, said Ms. Craig. The difference is \$2328 for this year. Commissioner Hover asked if Mr. Rough has heard grumblings on the pay differences. Temps could potentially work every year for the county and never see a wage increase because they always start at step 1. Mr. Rough also explained a proposal from Mr. Kovalenko who requested an additional truck driver position be authorized for Solid Waste. Right now the truck driver is dedicated to leachate and has with one temp. There are funds enough to budget for this. Commissioner Hover asked if the position is justifiable and is it really needed and not just a want. Mr. Rough will come back to the board with responsive information.

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

Elmway Levee repairs

Met with Corp yesterday on projects in Omak and Okanogan. They are focusing on mitigations on tree removal and looking for offsite areas along the river to replant. Some property was suggested for replanting right along the riverbank nearby where the bank is eroding away. The proposal was for cotton woods, but working with WDFW on other native options like fast growing large willow.

Omak Rotary Club invited Engineer Thomson to one of their meeting to explain what public works does.

Engineer Thomson explained the items listed on the consent agenda and asked the board if they had questions.

Citizens Comment Period

George Thornton, County Watch Group taking hand written notes.

Mr. Thornton asked whether the commissioners will respond to the question about the Engh Road Marijuana grow that has been complained about at the Planning Commission meeting last night. Commissioner Hover acknowledged having received a comment about it. Neighbors complained to George Thornton about how little time was given for the notices. Commissioners discussed other comments they've heard regarding the operation. George heard considering the concentration of grows in the area the residents feel blind sighted by this operation. Perhaps a 60 day notice would help. Commissioner Hover said people don't understand the application process. People need to come in to the public hearing and submit comments. Commissioner DeTro stated it might be a good idea to make everyone apply for a conditional use permit and have everyone under one regardless. Commissioner Branch stated two things are important, rules on the table, existing process, existing grandfathered in operations and then we have comments from the public about individual operations. Were the comments considering the new rules being considered?

Discussion – Insurance Options – Alliant & Keith

Ms. Craig has been trying to contact Alliant to confirm the meeting that was set several months ago but she has been unsuccessful. Eric Sandberg is with Alliant and were Maloney and O'Neil to see about putting together a presentation about their offerings. The commissioners were okay with that.

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 \$452,890.52 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$903,319.78. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and 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 \$78,455. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers in the amount of \$50,546.93 Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Meeting Minutes January 14, 15, 2019

Commissioner Hover moved to approve meeting minutes of January 14 and January 15, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Letter of Recommendation-Ed Nickel for NCW Workforce Development Council

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the letter of recommendation to appoint Ed Nickel to the NCW Workforce Development Council to fill the vacancy left by of Debi Clark who retired. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Letter of Agreement Teamsters Juvenile Detention Unit

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the letter of agreement between Teamsters Local Union No. 760 and Okanogan County Juvenile Detention Unit. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-9, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Commissioners' Proceedings January 22, 2019
2. Okanogan Athletic Booster Club – Application to Serve Liquor
3. 2019 LTAC Contract - Tonasket Chamber of Commerce
4. Cattle Guard Franchise Renewals – Various – See Agenda Bill for Names & Guard Numbers
5. Intergovernmental Agreement – Noxious Weed Board and Lake Management District #1
6. Proclamation Through Celebration July 4th
7. Resolution 12-2019 Ad Valorem Taxes for 2019
8. Resolution 13-2019 Annual Road Log Update
9. Resolution 14-2019 Annual Road Construction Program Amendment

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.