

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****JULY 16, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan Washington, on July 16, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Member of the public and Okanogan Watch Group, George Thornton, taking hand written notes and member of the public, Jennifer Ward, taking hand written notes were present.

CANCELLED Commissioners' Staff Meeting-Commissioners Hearing Room

The Commissioners' staff meeting was cancelled by the Board.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:10 a.m. for 30 minutes inviting Tanya Craig Risk Manager/Human Resource Director to discuss complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 9:40 a.m. no decisions were made.

David Gecas arrived because he needed to discuss legal matters with the board

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:40 a.m. for 20 minutes inviting David Gecas, Chief Civil Deputy, to discuss matters relating to agency enforcement action or potential litigation to which the county may be or become a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 9:50 a.m. no decisions were made. The commissioners took no action during the remaining time.

Finance Committee Meeting-Auditor

Auditor Cari Hall and Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost were present.

Auditor Hall offered the Treasurers apologies for being absent today. She reviewed the cash on hand report for June stating the Drug Task Force revenue is growing. Ms. Schreckengost provided the Board with the cash on hand report for the month of June as well as the Revenue and Expense Summaries showing prior year comparisons.

Auditor Hall recommended closing Sewer and Water Fund 122 in December after first discussing the situation with Engineer Thomson as he may need a small amount of funds left in the fund. Because there has been no activity, the board may close it at any time.

Commissioner Hover explained how disbursement of the additional PILT monies could help the Clerk with her file preservation projects. Ms. Hall explained the MARC fund has about \$15,000 or more that could help support the projects. She stated Commissioners are first come first serve and no one else has come forward at this point. Commissioner Hover stated the Planning Department's document preservation project will have to wait as the Clerk's project is priority. He would like to see the two file storage containers emptied and the microfilms converted to digital formats are priority, stated

Commissioner Hover.

Auditor Hall said the county's 2018 audit is about to wrap up. The State and County auditor may agree to disagree on some matters. We all want to do it right and so suggestions can be seen as a good thing because they help with that.

Commissioner Hover discussed the building department's vehicle situation because they have a truck that has 200,000+ miles on it and the truck needs new tires. The dilemma is to either purchase a new vehicle since it is the next one in line for replacement or purchase the tires and hope they fit the replacement.

Auditor Hall asked the commissioners what their timeline will be for preliminary budget. Commissioners said as soon as possible.

Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson

Kent Kovalenko was present.

Mr. Kovalenko said Ecology has approved closure of the old landfill. Public Health has requested the closure plan and a letter requesting to stop post closure. It should be permanently closed within the month.

Apple Maggot

Mr. Kovalenko explained work progress. They are assembling the steam pipes for testing. The test is required to ensure proper system flow and steam distribution for even flow of steam throughout the materials. He spoke to the group who certifies the equipment to learn what they were looking for. His target date for certifying the equipment is late fall. He has no concerns.

Mr. Kovalenko discussed tonnage comparisons of Solid Waste intake at the several transfer stations around the county. He said it appeared the tonnages are down this year, and the figure does include green waste. We are about 4% off from last year's tonnage.

Mr. Kovalenko explained there are several roll-off bins to be surplussed as they are on a constant rotation for repair. He discussed being contacted by some of the garbage companies on the possibility of purchasing the surplus boxes. The Clerk of the Board explained how items must be fairly offered to the public via public sale notice or public auction. Depending on the value of the item(s) the Board may need to hold a public hearing to surplus. Mr. Kovalenko explained only certain people are able to haul the boxes. Scrap prices were discussed. Commissioners asked for the list of items to be surplussed. Mr. Kovalenko will provide the roll-off bin information to the Clerk of the Board for scheduling and resolution.

Maintenance & Road Conditions

Engineer Thomson discussed road conditions and maintenance projects occurring in the county. The FLAP grant funding process was discussed regarding Fawn Creek Road. If the road is brought up to county standards the county may consider additional work on it. Engineer Thomson explained the Forest Service requested the County take over some Forest Service roads due to residential requests for higher level of service on the roads.

Substandard Cattle Guard

Engineer Thomson explained there is a 1974 franchise for the alexander john guard not built to standard has been a problem since 2010, but the guard is failed and can no longer be repaired. It is coming apart, steel is sticking up, and Wilson won't replace it. It needs to be replaced and would be his responsibility to replace. A letter was sent to the party and signed for but no response. Engineer Thomson explained the process for relinquishment that will be taken. It has been nine years since it was determined to be substandard. He said it would be posted for 90 days.

Engineer Thomson discussed the M2 Truck Driver position to compare costs of permanent employees versus providing temporary employees and the additional costs for advertising for temps and assuming two weeks training for each temp annually which brings the effective costs to \$259,754.

The Hwy 7 north paving portion should be done by the end of the week.

Barkley & MVID Ditch Project

Commissioner Hover updated the Engineer on the Evans road request. He stated the landowners realize it would be very difficult to realign the road, but they are asking us to look at another road on the north end that somehow cannot impact the farm work being done there.

Engineer Thomson said the Public Works Trust Fund Loan (PWTFL) application submittal was discussed with the Treasurer, so now the application will be submitted. The Treasurer was in favor of this solution for cost of the Edelweiss sewer force main project.

Engineer Thomson said he has a meeting in Mazama about the snowplow parking. We have an agreement with the fire district as they wish to develop a well there. Commissioner Hover said Department of Ecology said they do not need a water right for fire suppression water. Engineer Thomson wanted to inquire about use of the water for road work. He said he will further explore if that is an option.

Engineer Thomson will be out of the office next week, so there will be no Public Works update.

Citizens Comment Period

Jennifer Ward resident of Tonasket, WA.

Ms. Ward explained work she previously did with on the Tonasket swimming pool upgrades and the help she provided to the Parks and Recreation Board.

She said, this year, she was compelled to attend Tonasket City council meetings to understand what had happened to their police department. She said she wanted to share her efforts with the commissioners that have been focused on the Tonasket police department. She discussed the new law enforcement agreement between the City of Tonasket and the County for law enforcement services and it is her observation that it has given the community a false sense of security. She said the discussion among her council began in February but the council was not able to answer questions then and not now. She explained her involvement with the town hall meetings that were held to answer questions of the community. She was concerned the council made decisions two days prior to members recall petition. She was very frustrated at the time about questions being unanswered about the law enforcement agreement being more in favor of the county. She said it was hard to see the department dismantled while at the same time getting the community excited about moving the department to another building. Ms. Ward discussed concerns about the 40 hour minimum at \$17,000 per month for the service. The sheriff recruited and hired a deputy who had to be trained and it was her feeling that the city isn't getting the service as stated in the agreement. Commissioner DeTro explained the difference between the commissioners responsibility versus the Sheriff's. He said the commissioners cannot tell the Sheriff what to do as he is his own agency, the commissioners are responsible for the county's fiscal budget while the sheriff is responsible for public safety.

Commissioner Hover explained the negotiations with the City and options posed as the law enforcement agreement was drafted. The county told the city the county had to have more people in order to cover the city, so the city was aware that another deputy would be needed and trained. There was quite a bit of thought put into shifts, call volume and price of the deputy. Commissioner Hover recommended her questions of clarification be posed to Sheriff Hawley. There were three employees of the city and she wondered why those deputies were not transferred to the Sheriff to help cover the

city. She said portions of the agreement such as the 40 hour minimum coverage isn't happening.

John Oakes Tonasket. He a family member that was sentenced for taking his guns back in June 2018. He has been trying to get his guns back from the Sheriff and it has been a year in June the case has been closed. He wants his guns back. Mr. Oakes said the Sheriff has them and they won't do anything. He called Stacy Nicholson five times and they don't get anything done. He talked to Melanie he tried to talk with the Sheriff but they won't allow him to contact him. The prosecutor told him it has to be reviewed. He wants his guns now, it has been too long. Commissioner DeTro said he would speak with the Sheriff about this matter. The prosecutor told him the commissioners cannot do anything about it. The commissioners cannot order another elected official to do something but they can have a discussion about the issue with them.

Update – Building Department –Dan Higbee

Building Official Higbee was present.

Building Official Higbee provided the Building Department application trend packet. (attached)

There were 31 permits issued in the Methow for single family residents. It isn't a ton of buildings. People may not realize houses sometimes take a year to complete, many people in the Methow order special building supplies.

Motion Staff Direction

Commissioner Hover moved to allow the building official to begin the process to purchase a truck to replace the one with high miles scheduled for replacement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

A supplemental appropriation will be needed to pay for the vehicle. Mr. Higbee will speak to Auditor Hall about the BARS numbers and where the funds are to be moved whether Vehicle Reserve or Current Expense Building. He will discuss this with Auditor Hall.

Mr. Higbee explained Auditor Hall indicated to him that the commissioners were to draft a resolution to create the new enterprise fund for the building department.

Commissioner Hover asked why the building department uses pickup trucks over SUV's. Mr. Higbee explained that the trucks last longer and are able to go where they need to. He gets more miles out of them.

Motion Surplus Seven Solid Waste Roll-Off Boxes

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft a resolution to surplus 7 roll off containers with a value of \$500 each. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update – Noxious Weed Department – Anna Lyon

Ms. Lyon discussed resent search and control issues where a warrant was required in order for staff to come in and control weeds. She explained the process to obtain the warrant took quite a while because she had never served a search warrant before.

She said the first one done in the county took three weeks to do a place in the Methow, they got the warrant and took care of the issue. Now, someone else has said Noxious Weed may not enter the property and the Prosecutor asked that the proper process be done so a template was created for future. She is looking at doing civil infractions for those who have not controlled the weeds which is the same process used for enforcements but would allow right of entry.

She is meeting with Sheriff Hawley, sending an email to prosecutor's office to see how this process

would work

The WAC there is no cap on the amount the courts can fine due to noxious weeds. She would like to talk about capping it, so it is more reasonable to control the weed over getting the infraction that won't send people to the poor house if they get fined.

Commissioner Hover asked what a landowner gets for their weed assessment. Ms. Lyon said if weeds are found on a property that are mandatory control her staff will work with the landowner on those weeds. They will do everything they can to help the landowner control the mandatory weed. What are the options when someone cannot afford to control a mandatory weed? She said she has not seen the cost over \$3200 and that was on a 180 acres parcel that required back pack work because of the topography. Noxious Weed works with people on payments to recover the department's losses. Ms. Lyon explained when a lien on the property is required and how the department works with the landowner before that happens.

She is meeting with the Sheriff and courts about the civil infraction as she doesn't want to continue with the \$500 per day per parcel thing.

Ms. Lyon explained that Lake Osoyoos received its treatment. Follow up treatment is planned at the end of July in the Buckler area. Ms. Lyon explained she got a phone call from the BC ministry and discussed the treatment on the lake to be done. They know what our intent is, our time frame, and they are on notice we have done this.

Ms. Lyon has been working with Perry Huston to rebuild the code section from scratch. She intends for her board to look at it in the fall due to how busy and crazy it has been.

Ms. Lyon explained how devastating it would be if our lakes obtained the Zebra and Quagga. Permanent boat stations are on the Idaho border and one on Hwy 395. It is all water craft that are being inspected.

Bid Opening RFP Domestic Violence Funds–Superior Court Clerk

Charleen Groomes, Susan Speiker and Margo Amelong were present.

This is a small percentage of money from filing fees and amounts to around \$500 annually. There are the back years not included in the 2017 contract. That is about 7954 not including future years and would likely be no more than \$500.

Two bids were received. Support Center submitted on time and Room One was one day late.

Motion Accept Late Proposal

Commissioner Branch moved to accept the late proposal by Room One. Motion was seconded, discussion ensued. Commissioners discussed there was one place in the bid packet that said applications would be taken on the day they were opened, then in another place it said the applications would be taken the day before opening. The bid packet was confusing as to which date the bids were actually due. Commissioner Branch asked about prior RFP bid opening in 2017. Susan Speiker did work with Mr. Gecas on the proposal that was advertised and reviewed all the documents and RCW. Commissioner Hover stated the two bids will be considered and both may be considered for contract. Clerk Groomes said a point system would be used to score the submittals. Commissioner Hover would like to discuss with David Gecas as he thought entities could go over the requirements together with county staff. No further discussion. All were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover asked what the qualifications of each entity was. Ms. Amelong stated Support Center is a community based service providing services for the entire county.

Commissioner Hover asked the Clerk if \$16,000 would be sufficient amount to take care of the two file containers in the VG parking lot. Each has 60 boxes of files.

Approve Commissioners' Proceedings – July 8 & 9, 2019

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of July 8 and July 9, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-9 except for item 5 and 8

1. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Use Agreements – See List
2. CDBG Housing Rehab Grant Request #24 & #25
3. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #10
4. A19 Dept of Ag Grant Request Fairgrounds Arena Racetrack Project
5. Special Occasion Little Montessori School Heli Barn 7/17/19
6. Reimbursement Contract Military Dept. WA 911 -Communications
7. Support Letter Mid Valley Hospital Infrastructure Grant Sunderland Foundation
8. Resolution 86-2019 Designation of Primitive Roads
9. Resolution 87-2019 PUD Tax Distribution

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(f)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 4:00 p.m. for 10 minutes to receive and evaluate complaints brought against a public officer inviting Tanya Craig Risk Manager/Human Resource Director. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 4:10 p.m. no decisions were made.

The board adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 30th day of July 2019.