

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****JULY 23, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on July 23, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch away on personal business.

Member of the public George Thornton, taking hand written notes.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Angie Hubbard, Joe Poulin, Stella Columbia

David Gecas discussed legal matters he is working on and responding to.

Mr. Gecas said he received the revised draft OBHC agreement for OBHC. However that draft had added items by OBHC not previously discussed. When Ms. Craig returns, the agreement will be reviewed further, he said. This agreement would cover the Therapeutic Courts, Mental Health, Alcohol, and Developmental Disabilities funding OBHC receives from the county. Mr. Gecas explained substantive changes made to legal aspects of the VSP.

Mr. Gecas explained permits required for boat races are issued by the Sheriff, but it was questioned whether or not the Sheriff or city had the jurisdiction to issue or not issue the permit. Mr. Gecas told them it's like a highway where either the State Patrol or the Sheriff can pull you over. They did wind up paying for the \$25 permit in the end. Mr. Gecas said Thurston county charges \$500 plus the cost for a Sheriff's deputy to be onsite, and we are only charging \$25. The reason for the permit is that it helps the Sheriff know what's happening on the water should they be needed. We also have a law enforcement services agreement with the city of Pateros, for law enforcement.

Mr. Gecas discussed a rule that is applied to those who retire early. If you work one day out of the month you don't get your pension for that month. Mr. Thornton commented that he could not work for anyone for three years after retiring from his job.

Ms. Hubbard, Interim Planning Director, explained the Planning Commission met last night and discussed the comp plan and commented that a hospital district had not been included.

Joe Poulin discussed the work done on the new fairgrounds arena yesterday. He is worried about the timeline to get it and the ancillary items set up before the fair. There were some issues with cooling in the jail where the system needed to be adjusted. The injection well issue was a result of the system trying to heat and cool at the same time and overflowing the well. The problem was resolved by Ameresco.

Jodi DeCesari with Okanogan County Child Development Association (OCCDA) explained a request for rental fee waiver for use of the Fairgrounds Annex & Kitchen. She provided a letter describing OCCDA services and service populations. OCCDA is a Non-Profit that provides services in nine centers throughout the county. Services include full day toddler and preschool classroom programs, home visits, and Imagination Library Program. They provide many services to underserved populations of women and children in the county. They received funding to expand their offerings and will now have 111 employees and are considered one of the top three largest non-profit employers in the county. Based on the needs of the community they will also be in several schools. However, with

expanded services and because of the increased number of employees OCCDA has outgrown their current training space and needs a larger venue to provide the training. The majority of OCCDA's employees are low income workers as OCCDA often hires people they provide services to. She is asking the commissioners for use of the Annex in August and four other times annually.

Motion Fairgrounds Annex Fee Waiver

Commissioner Hover moved to approve a 50% reduction in the rental fees for Okanogan County Child Development Association, a Non-profit, for ongoing use of the Fairgrounds Annex and Kitchen for their staff training sessions. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Stella Columbia provided her update and asked why an RFP would be necessary for the billboard design service when the cost is going to be under \$2000. She thought it didn't meet the cost threshold. Commissioner Hover read from MRSC website on the process for securing Architect & Engineering professional services which stated "Professional architecture and engineering (A&E) services are services provided by any person, other than an employee of the agency, that fall under the general statutory definitions of:

- Architecture (chapter 18.08 RCW)
- Engineering (chapter 18.43 RCW)
- Land surveying (chapter 18.43 RCW)
- Landscape architecture (chapter 18.96 RCW)

Ms. Columbia wondered if LTAC funds could be used for irrigation design for the fairgrounds that services as a tourism venue. Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Columbia to work with the Clerk of the Board to learn if LTAC funds are appropriate.

The Arena Announcer's booth was discussed. The SW corner was decided as the location for the booth and provides a good view from the grandstands, plus the electrical is there. It is under 120 square feet. Money for the camping contracts is coming in. Ms. Columbia explained the plan to purchase Quick Books for the fairgrounds accounting. The program will be used for sales and receipts. Commissioner Hover explained how the accounts should be set up and how the BARS codes are incorporated so reports can be done. He spoke to the Auditor and Treasurer and suggested a meeting to go over those things and to learn the best process. The program will cost around \$2000. Ms. Columbia explained she must also discuss with Ms. Craig the process for allowing minor workers to work on the grounds.

Discussion – Court Commissioners – Judge Rawson & Dennis Rabidou

Shelley Keitzman, HR, Judge Culp, Dennis Rabidou

Mr. Rabidou explained the reason for the meeting. He stated a situation came up that had not happened before. This is the first time the judges have appointed court commissioners outside the regular commission. After one was injured, they looked into it he was not classified as a regular part time employee according to county personnel policy. The judges appoint two classifications of court commissioner: permanent part-time commissioner for regular dockets, then there is the hourly commissioners. Judge Culp explained a court commissioner is a judicial officer and law allows appointment of three and they can do anything a judge can do "at chambers." Anything allowed by statute but don't do jury trial or criminal matters unless agreed upon. Robert Colbert is the permanent part time commissioners and comes on Tuesday's, The other two part time fill in when Colbert has a conflict or isn't available over here. There is no good answer, but they can do all if agreed to by both parties. The minimum requirement is not just BAR, they must go to judicial college in addition to being an attorney, and there isn't any move beyond that. A draft resolution was provided to the commissioners regarding this matter. The request is to get him classified as he meets the requirements. In 2018 the average starting in June was 25 hours per week, and this year 27 hours per week. Ms. Keitzman explained what happens if the hours worked falls under 20 hours. The other two would stay at hourly part time. Those two court commissioners are Shannon Moroe and Mike Lynch.

Judge Culp discussed Judge Edwards was the permanent commissioner, but somehow maintained his insurance status as a part time court commissioner. This position is typically the main court commissioner. Commissioner Hover would like to review the process to ensure proper application of the rules and ramifications. He would like Ms. Craig to be involved in the discussion and she is absent today. He would like to know the classifications and eligibility for insurance benefits. Mr. Rabidou explained the desire is to put him in place as permanent part time court commission by August 1. Judge Culp said he had not considered the retirement costs. Ms. Hall said it is possible the county only pays 50% of the wage of Superior Court Judges, and the state pays for the rest. It is not a reimbursement

Mr. Rabidou provided the commissioners with some papers, but not the clerk of the board, so nothing is in the record of the information provided to the commissioners. The paper would adopt exhibit A and it doesn't prescribe a specific format. Mr. Rabidou said it follows the same format of Public Works. The draft will be submitted to the Clerk of the Board.

Mr. Rabidou invited the commissioners to the OBHC retreat coming up August 22 from 9-12 at Sun Mt Lodge. Commissioner DeTro stated he is meeting in Cle Elem that day.

Question Procedural

Cari Hall, Dan Higbee

Auditor Hall explained a discussion about the Building Department. The vehicle to be purchased to replace the aging truck Options for estimates, then do supplemental for larger amount or wait until bids are received then do the supplemental. Commissioner Hover asked that estimates be received in order to create the supplemental and have the funds ready for purchase. Commissioner Hover asked about the revenue. Ms. Hall will discuss the cash flow with the Treasurer.

Commissioners adjourned at 10:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. today.

Katie Haven, member of the public video and audio recording.

Citizens Comment Period - May call in 509-422-7100

Jennifer Ward, member of the public.

Ms. Ward provided some notes regarding the Tonasket Law Enforcement Service Agreement. (attached) She provided a table with her notes, RCW references, Sheriff's office comments, monthly call activity log for Tonasket, and a blank section for commissioners' comments.

Ms. Ward explained why she became interested in the law enforcement service agreement. She mentioned a woman that went missing in the Tonasket area that might have been a homicide and she doesn't know if that was handled. She isn't sure if the city is better or worse off with the recent arrangement.

Through public records requests she obtained a letter from Tonasket City Clerk Attwood to Sheriff's office. She met with Sheriff Hawley and believes there is some uncertainty on what the 40 hours per week actually means. Is the agreement adding services to the city of Tonasket? She was concerned there was not a public hearing held by the city on the agreement. Commissioner DeTro stated the level of service was negotiated prior to either the city or county signing the agreement. Commissioner Hover explained the level of service without the agreement. The agreement allows the deputy to respond sooner specifically to city issues. The county was up front with its initial negotiations about the first 10 months and the city knew at that time a deputy would need to go to academy. The county provided the services until the assigned deputy returned from academy. Commissioner Hover asked, at the time the contract was signed, was the city's deputy still employed by the city? Ms. Ward said he

was when negotiations began. In June 2018 the city asked the county for numbers on what it would cost for the county to provide the service. More recently the city articulated what level of service they wanted which started the conversation again as they wanted 24/7 coverage with not enough money to cover the cost. Ms. Ward's concern was how the county measure's what the 40 hours per week includes and with the lack of clear definition in the agreement what service is actually provided. The Sheriff administers the contract the county commissioners sign.

Discussion - Census Community Outreach - Lorraine Rawlston

Representatives from the cities

Ms. Rawlston introduced herself. She is with the US census bureau and here to discuss the 2020 census to partner with county and cities. The objective is to county everyone in the country and in the right place. Census day is April 1, 2020. Ms. Rawlston explained why census is done and where it is in the constitution Article 1 section 2 of the US constitution. The most important is because this is how the House of Representatives are divided. We currently have ten right now, with a few states losing their representative so it is critical that every person is counted. Another reason is money, federal government. 675 billion disbursed each year and those dollars depend on the census data to determine the level of funding for each state so we get our fair share of funds. Our school districts, voting districts, population forecast etc.....all use census data. So many important decisions are made using this data it is critical information.

One new thing in 2020 they want people to Self respond. Internet responses are now allowed and not limited to a specific location, toll free number, and the paper form. Commissioner Hover asked if people self respond how with that help Census not doubling up going to houses. How will they know when I answer online not to send someone to my house. Ms. Rawlston stated the responses are tracked in real time and that info is collected before they send anyone house to house. They will always go house to house. Next year the workers will capture census data on tablets which allows real time reporting.

Establishing counts based on where people live rather than where they work. The master address file is created this way. The third quarter is when the list is finished. The portal will be opened in March 2020. Census will send people to group quarters such as prisons, dormitories, and tribal lands. Every person who has not self responded, the census has to go back three to five times to count. By law results are delivered to president December 31, 2020.

Ms. Rawlston discussed the prior long and short forms and what data has become obsolete. American Community survey is an ongoing sampling that is done more frequently.

Ms. Rawlston explained the questions Census will asks. They count people where they live and the ask questions about the relationship of those living in that place of residence. She also explained the information is private and confidential and the lifetime oath each census person states.

The entire country is divided according to census tract. By law census waits 72 years before releasing the information. Census is hiring people within communities to help with the census count.

They are asking the county to establish a complete count committee; work to mobilize your community; develop a strategy and work plan to target and communicate with people; identify community areas that need special attention, recruit trusted voices in the community. Ms. Rawlston provided some good ideas on how to incorporate census information messages to the community in things we normally do. There are toolkits the Census provided. Key census dates were provided and explained. Questions were not provided by anyone in the audience.

Ms. Rawlston will be in touch to see if the county is interested in forming a census count community. She said many counties are partnering to develop one such as Chelan and Douglas, and suggested a

three county count committee and is another option.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings of July 15 & 16, 2019

Commissioners stated they wish to wait to approve the proceedings of July 15 & 16 as further review is necessary before approval and Commissioner Branch is absent.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-3 as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Local Agency Agreement - Highway 7 Bridge N Section - WSDOT
2. Letter- CCT Historic Preservation - Oroville Harvest Shelter Reno - Guy Moura
3. Resolution 86-2019 RAP Funding Old 97 Verestar

Discussion –Building Dept. Vehicle Purchase

Jerry Paul

Mr. Paul explained he was helping the Building Official with his vehicle purchase. Building Official Dan Higbee previously came to the commissioners to ask for clarification of the county's vehicle purchase process as the board moved to approve a vehicle for his department last week. Mr. Paul asked if the approval was for a used vehicle or a new vehicle. The commissioners asked if Building Official Higbee was considering the purchase from the ER&R fund or by department solicitation. Jerry Paul explained the bid process for the vehicle purchase and the possibility of putting the vehicle under ER&R. Mr. Paul said a conversation will be needed so the Building official fully understands the costs involved and how the payments will impact the budget. A new truck is likely the best way to go, said Mr. Paul, but it depends on how fast he can get the paperwork prepared and bid specs published.

Discussion John Culton, Senator Murray's Aide

Commissioners DeTro and Hover discussed various topics of concern. The following areas of concerns were discussed with Mr. Culton for relay to Senator Murray.

Federal funding

Gas tax

Medicare Payments

Commissioner Hover explained a scenario of middle class working family with children cannot afford both health insurance plus child care.

Medicare reimbursement impacts-50% fed reimbursement and the rest of the cost is supposed to be reimbursed by the state, but isn't. Mr. Culton explained the concept behind Child Care for Working Families bill is different because there are middle class private pay families which the bill addresses. Providers get paid directly.

Affordable housing is needed for underserved areas.

Drought

Mr. Culton discussed having looked at the county's moisture map, and it appears Okanogan County is really dry and has been declared a drought area. Commissioner Hover said he isn't sure whether rainfall counts or if it's tracked but his area has received rain when other parts of the county has not. He knows the snow pack is used to determine drought conditions but wondered why rainfall isn't.

Digital currency and Economics

Digital currency was briefly discussed. Commissioner Hover explained the CERB grant was for providing consultation on expanding rural broadband services in Okanogan County.

Wolves

Commissioners discussed changes to the wolf policy that deal with wolves more effectively and how helpful the changes have been. Wolves are right outside our front doors, and people are willing to write a check to support them and then freak out when a full grown Doberman dog is walking nearby unattended. Wolves are smart and they learn and change. Commissioner DeTro mentioned how a Wyoming county deals with the wolves. When a wolf depredates a cow, a wolf is killed, if they take one of ours we take one of theirs. About four years after that was in place wolves can now be seen walking through a cow herd without one depredation.

Weather patterns affecting tree fruit.

Tariffs affecting tree fruit and exports

50% Reduction of markets

Mr. Culton asked the commissioners to discuss weather patterns effect on orchard crops.

Commissioner Hover said due to weather cherries had 50% set because of cold rainy weird weather pattern created a poor environment for cherries. The quality was good, but quantity wasn't. The tariffs seems to have affected the cherry exports. He heard in Tri Cities that it was a horrible year for wine grapes too. He wasn't sure if that was due to tariffs. The fruit industry is having a very difficult year this year. Short term pain, long term gain, has been a moto Commissioner DeTro heard among the growers. The ones that have had consecutive bad years are the ones that will go under, but the ones that are innovative and provide different varieties are the ones that survive. Mr. Culton asked from a small farm perspective, what are the commissioners hearing. Commissioner Hover said Cherries are sensitive to weather. Tariffs is only one thing in the actual things that are going on and lend to the conditions we are seeing in market. Mr. Culton said in DC they are hearing small farmers are really being rocked. Commissioner Hover said the first thing he heard about tariffs was from the nut farmers, but they are also the ones with the sweetest deal on china exports. It is trying to figure out who is getting worked in the deal and be more eccentric. Many imported goods do not go through the same standards as American goods. Commissioners hear concerns about the minimum wage increase as well the county is also feeling the impacts. Commissioner Hover discussed the gas tax and the impacts of that. County retention is also a factor, because state and federal mandates take priority over cost of living increases for employees. The county doesn't get much sales taxes back because many of the businesses are annexed to the city when the business comes to town. The federal payments such as PILT have huge impacts when more or less than expected. .

The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.