

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****JULY 9, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue N, Okanogan, on July 9, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Commissioner Andy Hover absent until 10:30 a.m.

Member of Okanogan Watch public George Thornton was present.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting – Sheriff's' Conference Room**

David Gecas, Joe Poulin, Stella Columbia and Perry Huston were present.

Mr. Gecas provided his staff report to the board. He presented a professional services agreement for signature. It provides for a Special Deputy Prosecutor for conflict cases noted on agreement.

**Motion Professional Services Agreement-Mark Laiminger Attorney**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the professional services agreement for Special Deputy Prosecutor conflict attorney services for cases noted. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Columbia gave her fairgrounds office update. She explained additional dirt is needed for the horse stalls. She isn't sure who to contact. The FAC had made the recommendation to remove the rocks coming up in the stalls but dirt is needed to fill the holes. She thought dirt that packs would be best. Commissioner DeTro gave recommendations for the white rock and green rock that packs well.

Ms. Columbia explained there are a lot of projects to be done on the fairgrounds. Many items came up at the FAC meeting last night that were requested.

Joe Poulin explained Ameresco is coming out to look at the problems that happened over the weekend with our geo thermal system injection well and problem in the jail with heating and cooling. Mr. Poulin provided photos, and looking at the boiler room a temporary screen was put in that blew out because it wasn't removed. (attached) He further explained no check valve to release air was provided for in the system to let the air bubbles out.

A mop sink and faucet for the fairgrounds kitchen was purchased and will be installed. He thought it would take a few days to install.

Perry Huston updated the board about Yakama Nation's inquiry about the draft resolution regarding WRIA 48 Water Availability and whether that had been approved or not. It had not.

State Auditor has delayed their audit of the Tonasket EMS District. There are some surplus equipment he thought he should go up and get. For the most part it is what it is, we found some things and didn't find others of the small and attractive inventory. He spoke to Mr. Mullins about the district and it appears there is a lot of miss information out there. Director Huston will attend the meeting with commissioners and Mr. Mullins about the district next week.

**Motion Staff Direction**

Commissioner Branch moved to direct the clerk to draft a letter of support for Mid Valley Hospital. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Update–Human Resources/Risk Management–Tanya Craig**

Ms. Craig updated the board on last half Criminal Justice Billings. She reminded the board of her absence July 17-23. The annual loss audit will happen on August 20. Civil Service will hold a corrections testing on July 27. The employee ID cards were discussed. She reached out to Chelan and King Counties to learn how they handle their ID cards. What she learned was that only the first name is displayed or the last name, not both, but when the code is scanned the full name is displayed. She will provided an amendment to the ID Policy in order to clear up some confusion.

### **Update – Auditor’s Office – Auditor Cari Hall**

Cari Hall, Jamie Grooms and Dan Higbee were present.

Auditor Hall explained ballot box requirements. Commissioner DeTro explained there was no specific timeline so Stevens County only provides one per year rather than all at once. Auditor Hall explained she created a plan which she is following for the six we already have. The City of Oroville will get one. Two will go on Tribal land at the Government Building and 12 Tribes Casino. The Tribe has been very welcoming.

She is very excited about the progress made so far. The goal is to set the two tribal boxes before the General Election. The elections conference is required and one bill moved Presidential election from May to March which would run two elections at the same time. It was brought up we need to have two accessibility units, we used to have two until upgrades, so we need another. It takes over an hour to boot up and upload everything before anyone can use it. They are about \$5600 each. She will determine where that cost will be paid from. The other thing is the Presidential Election, it is always a contentious time anyway, they are by themselves from 5-8 with the Courthouse unlocked. She would like security there during election time next year.

Ms. Grooms stated we are up to date on the state voters system. It will take years of fine tuning, but staff is excited about the streamlining of the system. Ms. Hall explained the number of sub agent stations may not be sufficient so she is working on providing additional ones but she can only do so much. She advertised the RFP for 5 weeks.

Budget Call Letter and worksheets were sent out to departments by the required date or July 8. The board requested the budget documents in time for union negotiations as there will be updated wage information noted there.

Commissioner Hover asked for the status of the Building Department. Yes, it must be its own fund because of the restriction on the funds. We go ahead and create the resolution for the fund for budgeting purposes so we start Jan 1 with the new fund, the SAO is okay with that. Commissioner Hover explained requests for increased wages that must be considered. Auditor Hall will get together with Building Official to determine budget for 2020. She recommend when we get closer to December or adoption of the budget the number will be more accurate across the board.

Auditor Hall explained the State Auditor will talk about fairgrounds and solid waste segregation of duties, oversight, policies, etc..... Policies have not been implemented for office administration oversight. Another issue of State Auditor is balancing to our numbers. She spent hours showing Steven Gadd we balance. Mr. Gadd wanted to say it was a mis-statement because they cannot reconcile to our numbers. The Treasurer and Auditor Hall will spend another day with Mr. Gadd to demonstrate to him that we do balance. Until she is satisfied, the audit won't be closed.

Commissioners asked whether Dan Higbee provided the wage numbers for the building department's 2020 budget. He requested an increase to his wage and a bump to Larry Surface Grade. Additional

increases to the office support staff wages were requested. Replacement vehicles were requested as well. He said the vehicles have high miles and he is okay buying used.

### **Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson**

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

Commissioner Hover discussed Evans Road change request for the irrigation ditch. Engineer Thomson said two irrigation ditches are combining where one has the right of way and the other doesn't. The project is located near the airport in Commissioner District #2. A draft new airport master plan is planned for adoption in two years.

#### *Maintenance and Road Conditions*

Everything is geared up for chip seal on Lost River Road Twisp, then Brewster working their way up the valley. Will be on Conconully Road soon. The additional portion of private road at the end of Lost River Road will be chip sealed but paid for by the private land owner. It is about 1100 feet of road. Commissioner Hover explained a private individual that puts down their own oil. They were concerned about logging trucks on the road that is counterproductive burning off the mag chloride. If there is a big sale and we get involved early on, we can work with them on the expected road damages, otherwise not really. Commissioner Hover would like Public Works to check out the situation.

Weed spray program needs to consider the ban on 2-4D. It will have some impact to the budget.

#### *Primitive Roads Resolution*

A memo was emailed regarding 80-2008 changes to take some roads of the roads list such as short sections that have been paved. There is also short segments of roads that need to be added.

#### *Statler Bridge Replacement Project*

The resolution was prepared to adopt the specifications, plans, and provisions. It is on the consent agenda.

#### *Hwy 7 Tonasket Bridge North Construction Project*

Engineer Thomson updated the board on the project.

#### *Barkley & MVID Ditch Project*

Engineer Thomson updated the board on the project.

#### *Edelweiss Sewer Force Main Project Loan Application*

### **Motion Staff Authorization & Direction Edelweiss Sewer**

Commissioner Branch moved to authorize and direct County Engineer Josh Thomson to sign the application for the PWTF sewer extension loan for Edelweiss Sewer Force Main. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### *Consent Agenda*

Engineer Thomson asked if the commissioners had questions about items listed on the consent agenda. No questions were asked.

The new Public Works Office manager was hired and will start next week.

### **Discussion TV District #1 George Thornton**

George Thornton discussed inventory of the TV District #1 that could be used in exchange for services provided by KSPS. The District is getting close to submitting an application to the Tribe for the lease of the Omak Mt tower. He said Shaw Cable provides the feed for our major channels but they are shutting down. Apparently, it is because of a fight between the Spokane County stations and Shaw

Cable and the TV district is caught in between. The Shaw Cable is a Canadian company. He doesn't know the details as it appeared to be a sudden decision. A large expenditure is going to be needed to deal with it. The long term discussion is that there are a lot of assets that could be transferred to KSPS such as cash and the snow-cat. A proposal was made but needs to meet legal requirements. The district is working on language for an agreement for the service and will state how the equipment would be used to pay KSPS for services. Otherwise the equipment would need to be surplussed and sold at public auction. The District meets tomorrow so he wanted County Commissioner clarification before he talks about the contract.

Mr. Thornton discussed new options that could happen but new equipment would need to be installed.

### **Motion Resolution 84-2019 Statler Bridge Specifications, Plans, and Provisions**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 84-2019 the Statler Bridge Specifications, Plans, and Provisions. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Board of Health Meeting – 1234 S 2nd Ave, Okanogan**

Commissioners attended the Board of Health meeting.

### **Public Hearing-Communications Sales Tax Initiative-Mike Worden**

Mike Worden and Aaron Culp were present.

The audio recorder was turned on. Commissioner DeTro opened up the public hearing stating this hearing is about a ballot proposition sales and use tax for communications.

Mr. Worden described what led up to the current communications situation and why we need funds for communication services. Existing infrastructure uses third-world technologies and production of those devices ended in 2011 and more recently discontinued maintenance services. The current system is degraded and poses risks to the public due to potential failure. This system is as basic and inefficient as can be.

During the 2015 fire, it brought to light how bad the system actually is, and led to the need to find a long term solution. Building a network was a solution. There is one general channel for all wildfire needs which poses a problem for fire and law enforcement. We need separate channels for each. The efficiency and effectiveness of a new system provides a much more user friendly system and simpler to operate which in turn allows law enforcement to focus on public safety. This plan has been explained to other entities throughout the county. Letters of recommendation have been received in favor of the proposition. (attached) Mr. Worden read from which groups the letters were sent.

The RCW states 0.02% sales tax is available so the plan does request that in the proposition. Mr. Worden described the uses of the funds to operate a communications system that is sustainable. Mr. Worden requested the resolution be approved to place the proposition on the ballot.

Commissioner DeTro called for public testimony and called on the names of those listed on the sign in sheet.

Diane Thurlow lives on McClure Mountain on her family's ranch and today they still use a tractor to plow the road. She said long ago her family allowed the use of the property for communications. But now, she has concerns that her family has no income from the use of the property. She asked what the use tax is? She feels her family has allowed the use of the property without proper compensation. For over 200 years the Thurlow family has worked honestly for their living and in 1992 and others have made a dishonest living off the backs of others. It is like a bunch of thieves.

Todd McDaniel City of Omak Administrator explaining the interactions with the county about the

proposition. Even though no letter of support was provided it didn't mean they were not supportive but has questions. There are concerns we need to negotiate the contract and should be discussed regarding infrastructure. There is a lot of infrastructure out there that would not support the upgrades.

Carlene Andrews Mayor of Pateros stated other plans were not as well done as this one. She believes it is the best choice. The use tax allows visitors to participate in that process. The City of Pateros did provide a letter of support on the plan and longevity.

Commissioner DeTro closed public testimony and opened up to the board. Commissioner Branch asked about the contract and agreements would those be outside of the proposition. A population threshold must be met before the contract is required stated Mr. Worden. A group could be formed to address how the funds are spent. Mr. Worden said there is not a government structure largely left up to the Sheriff's office to make the decisions. Commissioner Hover said two things public safety and infrastructure. With this we put this out to the citizens to ask if they are willing to help us create a safer environment. The commissioners are responsible for the budget, a committee would only be providing recommendations. In the end the commissioners budget for the use of the fund after taking in the recommendations of the Department. He believes it is a good idea to allow the citizens to vote on this. It does place a little burden on those visiting our county as they may not reap the benefit.

Commissioner DeTro heard as much as 30% tax payer dollars are actually transient people coming in to shop and recreate. Ms. Thurlows comment was taken in, and if this does come to fruition and the committee if formed, he would like to support some discussion on it.

### **Motion Resolution 85-2019 Communications Sales & Use Tax Proposition**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 85-2019 which approves a proposition to the citizens of Okanogan County to authorize placing a proposition on the November 5, 2019 General Election ballot which if approved would authorize the collection of an additional .2% sales tax for emergency communications infrastructure as authorized by RCW 82.14.420. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner DeTro closed the public hearing.

### **Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9680. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Commissioners' Proceedings--July 1 & 2, 2019**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the proceedings of July 1 and July 2, 2019, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-2 removing item #3. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Approve – Local Agency Agreement Supplemental #2 – Public Works
2. Approve - Authorization to Call for Bids - Projects Plans, Provisions and Specifications for CRP No. 123-2018 – Statler Bridge Replacement.
3. Resolution 84-2019 – Okanogan County Road Project No.9221-04 - Statler Bridge Replacement Project, Provisions and Specifications.

**Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the T Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$56,797.82. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Dated at Okanogan, Washington this 16th day of July 2019.