

## RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

### OKANOGAN COUNTY

**JUNE 18, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on June 18, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, , and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Commissioner Andy Hover absent today.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioners said the pledge of allegiance.

#### **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

DPA David Gecas, Stella Columbia, Joe Poulin, Perry Huston

Mr. Gecas updated the board on legal matters he is handling. He explained requested research he has conducted on the water issues and interpretations of the law and 2cfs rule.

Commissioner Branch explained his concern over getting into a situation where the courts are making the interpretation, it seems simple and it's not, using water to manage growth is not a simple task. Commissioner Branch emphasized his concern that people will work to control growth with water and not the appropriate planning and zoning.

Ms. Columbia explained and provided a general idea of the projected revenue for the fairgrounds for the year. (attached) It appears 43 bookings have been scheduled for use of the fairground facilities this year. She explained efforts to beautify the entry area landscaping with some plants and rocks. Her daughter is going to volunteer in the afternoons to help design some graphics on the Agriplex. She provided an example of some black silhouettes across the Agriplex. The commissioners liked the example. (attached) Ms. Columbia stated she is still working on the big sign.

Joe Poulin gave his staff report on maintenance activities both at the fairgrounds and courthouse complex. An HVAC is being replaced on the VG building by Cascade Mechanical.

#### **CANCELLED Finance Committee Meeting – Treasurer Leah McCormack**

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

Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there. He noted he was heading to Blaine today for conference.

#### *Maintenance Road Conditions*

Getting ready to chip seal, finishing up on pre seal.

Paint stripping is happening. A new one is ordered by we won't get it until next winter..

#### *6-Year Transportation Improvement Program*

A draft was provided last week for review. The commissioners feel it is a good list and have not additional suggestions to add or take away.

#### *Buffalo Lake Road*

It is paved striped and pretty much done. It looks great. The speed limit on that portion of the road was proposed to be reduced to 35 as designed. But when the Engineer drove the road at 35 mph it seemed slow. He will look into leaving it at 50 mph with portions being signed with suggested reduced speeds.

The goal is to have the two property right-a-way agreements signed by the other party so the commissioners can sign next week.

#### *Org Chart*

Engineer Thomson stated the org chart will be updated since there are quite a few changes to note. He asked what his title should be noted as. Is it Director of Public Works or what? Commissioner Branch stated he is fulfilling that role and the engineer's role so that title would fit. It will be clearer if noted as Public Works Director/Engineer.

#### *Fairgrounds 5 CY Dump Truck*

The information needed for surplus the dump truck will be provided by public works. Once the Clerk of the Board has the information she can advertise the public hearing and request other surplus items from departments.

#### *Consent Agenda*

No public work items listed on the consent agenda.

Commissioner DeTro explained some county parking has permanent permission for parking on private property. He asked that land owner permission is obtained prior to any county equipment being parked on private property during projects.

Commissioners thanked Engineer Thomson and he exited.

#### **Motion Resolution 79-2019 County Wide ID Card Policy**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 79-2019 that adopts the Countywide ID Card Policy rules. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Citizens Comment Period – May call in 509-422-7100**

Member of the public Becky Vansteenkiste. Director Huston was asked to assist with the enforcement issue.

Ms. Vansteenkiste passed out her complaint letter and photos. (attached)

She stated she is representing her neighbors too as they are not able to come. She said her community needs help addressing a junk yard that keeps growing with lots of junk being brought in. She said it started quickly but it has been an issue over the last 20 years.

Director Huston explained he has opened a file on this situation. He said there are two code sections that could apply and then explained those. Director Huston stated a complaint file was created. The enforcement letter will give the landowner 20 days to respond to the compliance. It does take some time to get enough pressure built up for someone to do something. Commissioner Branch explained the county process and the cost involved with putting a lien on the property. Ms. Vansteenkiste said garbage blows all around from the property on to hers she is fearful and knows there is cruelty to animals and she doesn't want to live next to someone who is cruel.

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

Ms. Craig stated the HR Assistant will start July 1, and Shelley Keitzman was selected. Shelley will continue to help out with payroll until someone is found to replace her position in the auditor's office. Also, Sheriff recruitments will be needed as someone will be retiring.

We do have a line in Non Departmental for training expenses so funds can be used for the ID cards. There are several things she has found needing to be improved which she will go over at the Department head meeting next week.

She would like to pick up the new county website again. She wanted to wait until June before selecting a company to ensure adequate cash and budget is available.

Ms. Craig explained the OJT grant is done by population rather than case count. This year she expects around \$51,787, which is slightly more than last year. She provided the board with the estimated state funding distributions to counties for 2019. (attached) It really doesn't cover much especially when dealing with cases where mental health services are required. She has been reconciling employee records and forms to ensure accuracy. She will conduct oral boards soon due to several openings in the Jail and Sheriff's office.

### **Discussion -County Wide Burn Ban-Fire Chief Kevin Bowling and DNR Rep**

Maurice Goodall, Kevin Bowling, Ron Wonch from DNR

A ArcGIS map showing the county was displayed. The DNR assessed lands follow the old rules and the county follows the new rules. How would the differences be addressed. Mr. Wonch said not all acres are DNR assessed such as irrigated improved property. Their new system allows them to show different fire rated areas.

The map is interactive and people can search their address to see if they are within a specific burn ban area or not.

Commissioner DeTro stated he sits on the Wildfire Advisory Committee and he knows they are trying to address the "no man's land" areas. The committee is trying to Quantify those areas not served by a fire district so it can be better served.

Mr. Goodall expressed concern about how to provide people with the current fire ban information especially if the county established a burn ban for the valley now and for upper elevations later. The system can handle the parcel layer, but it would be difficult to search. Mr. Goodall said his system map can search addresses, he showed an example. Doing it by conditions or date? Mr. Wonch said by conditions.

There would be three sections Methow, Valley and Highlands where one or all could be under a burn ban.

The Sheriff is the one to enforce the county burn ban. The group discussed if he has enforced the burn ban previously. Mr. Goodall said he doesn't know if the Sheriff would enforce the burn ban, but thought some education might be needed.

Commissioners reviewed the permit issued by Pest Control to understand the instructions.

Kevin Bowling stated he would like the county to approve a burn ban effective this week, but he is comfortable with the county taking the time to draft the resolution so it is clear and concise. Mr. Goodall believed that was a good idea. A draft will be created, submitted for review and numbering.

Commissioners discussed how recreational fire waivers would be handled and who has the authority to allow and issue permission. Commissioner DeTro stated Aaron Burkhart Outfitters requests a waiver every year for his business get together. His property is irrigated and he is a fire fighter with his own equipment. Mr. Goodall said it is good if people are given permission that they have something in hand that says so.

Will a permit be required for recreational fires and who would issue those? Kevin stated if a permit is issued by an agency then they should also be able to enforce. The fire chiefs are volunteers and wouldn't want to be burdened with issuing them.

Commissioner Branch asked that a discussion on the draft burn ban resolution be scheduled for first thing Monday morning. The recreational fire waiver will be discussed with the full board.

### **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 \$534,516.88 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$958,854.95. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

### **Motion Public Health Voucher**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including payroll in the amount of \$32,544.44 and regular vouchers in the amount of \$194.56. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Commissioners' Proceedings - June 10 & 11, 2019**

Commissioner briefly reviewed and discussed the minutes but did not approve.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

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

1. Approve –Letter Dept of Agriculture RE: Fairgrounds Arena/Track Grant Closeout
2. Approve-MOU Use of Portion of Virginia Grainger Parking Lot-Hurst Construction
3. Approve -A19 Form-Meadow Point Family Housing Development-Down Payment Fund #141

The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.