

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****MARCH 19, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on March 19, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

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

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Dan Higbee, Stella Columbia, Perry Huston, Dave Yarnell, Joe Poulin

Attorney Gecas updated the board on lawsuits he is handling. He explained documents that were filed.

Mr. Gecas explained Deputy Yarnell was invited to discuss the Dog Ordinance with the board and to ask whether or not the board is interested in changing it and what changes they would like to see. The main change would be to establish the whole county as a dog control zone.

Deputy Yarnell explained we still have the same old dog problems. He is still assigned the animal control duties. A proposed dog ordinance was previously submitted with the changes requested but it died and withered at that time. It was to rescind the current county language and establish a whole new ordinance. He isn't sure why it died at that point. Deputy Yarnell provided the board via email a copy of the Kittitas county dog ordinance to make a countywide dog control zone. Because we are rural we don't get clusters of complaints but their spread out so he doesn't recommend creating smaller zones. The solution would be establish it countywide. He submitted a document that essentially merges the Okanogan County and Kittitas County ordinances and were reworked by David Gecas. What they have come up with is a concise ordinance that addresses the dog problems he comes across every day. People are at their wits end about what can be done with problem dogs. Commissioner Hover asked about the Methow area as he received complaints recently about a dog killing livestock. Nothing in the regulation unless the dog kills a domestic animal. State Law allows lethal action against dogs that kill other animals. Many people do not want to have to kill another animal. Commissioner Hover doesn't want people's pets to be picked up. Deputy Yarnell stated dogs get checked for microchips and tags. He simply wants some recourse to correct the problem. If the dog was unidentified and no way to resolve the problem then it would be posted so the owner can come forward, then the dogs would be put up for adoption. Language in the ordinance requires designation of a shelter where the dogs will be kept under certain circumstances. The ordinance allows for control of dogs that chase other animals domestic or otherwise. He would be able to issue a ticket to owners. Commissioner Hover said he is the last person who wants to put a tag on his dog, but he has experienced dogs with bad behavior. He is not willing to shoot someone's dog. Deputy Yarnell said most people share that feeling. Commissioner Hover wants to ensure enough protection for unruly dogs and be able to do something about it. A balance is needed. Deputy Yarnell said it is the difference between a well-mannered dog who tinkles, smells the flowers and then returns home there is no violation, but dogs that pack up, kill deer and create a nuisance are the ones this law would apply to. The ordinance provides a definition for running at large. He is not willing to scoop dogs up just because they are seen taking a walk down the street, they are not violating anything. Dogs that are allowed to crap where ever without cleaning up after them, could be a violation. There is a reasonableness that is applied to the situation when calls come in about a dog. This will help him better serve the public and will help avoid the neighbor to neighbor conflicts. He doesn't like telling people he doesn't have the authority to deal with the problem which causes people to exaggerate. The lack of regulation causes additional problems. If everyone was a good animal owner we would not

need it. The civil action is basically a letter to the dog owner that says the dog could be reclassified as a dangerous animal, but the letter doesn't have any bite that would encourage people to do the right thing. People walking their baby strollers, folks walking because they have high blood pressure, those are the people he is protecting.

Director Huston explained no categorical exemption so a check list for SEPA would be done even though it isn't a land use regulation and he said there was no reason why it couldn't go through the Planning Commission then back to the board for final adoption. Commission Branch said he isn't willing to drag it through a land use decision process. He wants to ensure it has enough teeth to do what it's supposed to do. There is a need for an ordinance. Other ordinances suggest a fine for the first offense of \$250 then \$500. He isn't out to get a bunch of money from people and wants to be in the middle, he wants people to change the way they deal with their animals.

Commissioner DeTro thanked Deputy Yarnell for the information. He doesn't want to place it before the Planning Commission. He said he wants to provide the right tools to Deputy Yarnell. He wants this to be the Board's consideration.

How many livestock complaints were made last year? Deputy Yarnell approximated 89 vicious dog calls were taken in 2018. 140 calls about strays were taken and those included cows, horses, dogs, and other animals.

Commissioner Hover is interested in fine tuning the sections such as the "at large" section. Deputy Yarnell will make some minor changes, Director Huston will do the SEPA check list and begin the public hearing schedule.

The building services contracts have been made consistent and drafts were sent out to the municipalities for review.

Ms. Columbia explained the church group would like to do the gates again for this year's fair. She said the group was paid \$6,500 last year, but she wasn't sure what was budgeted. She's been discussing the premium book with Eric Fritts to prepare it for Show-Works. She would like some training about how to operate Show-Works. Mr. Fritts is willing to train her. Director Huston suggested an agreement be done between the county and Mr. Fritts for the arrangement.

Motion Show Works Training Eric Fritts

Commissioner Hover moved to allow Eric Fritts to train Stella Columbia on Show Works. With the understanding that an agreement between the county and Mr. Fritts is executed for the arrangement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Joe Poulin requested temporary maintenance workers be hired for fairgrounds. He is one man short, but would like to hire two temporary employees because he isn't sure Trustees will be available. The Clerk of the Board explained there was no budget for temporary maintenance workers in either the Maintenance or the Fairgrounds budget.

Mr. Gecas explained an executive session is needed to discuss the Future Wise legal matter.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:52 a.m. for 15 minutes inviting Attorney David Gecas and Perry Huston to discuss legal matters to which the county may be or become a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner DeTro extended executive session at 10:09 a.m. for another five minutes.

Commissioner DeTro extended executive session at 10:14 a.m. for another five minutes.

Executive session ended at 10:19 a.m. No decisions were made.

Finance Committee Meeting –Treasurer McCormack, Auditor Hall

Leah McCormack, Cari Hall and Lisa Schreckengost were present.

Treasurer McCormack provided her Finance Committee Agenda and discussed the items listed there.

Cash on hand for current expense was discussed. Property taxes are beginning to come in, so the account balances are being watched daily in case a transfer is needed before the end of the month. She assured everyone it will not be in the negative. The transfer of \$400,000 is budgeted for transfer. Fund 122 is still being invested. The other thing is they are very pleased to welcome Lisa Schreckengost as the new County Finance Manager. The Treasurer reported on the interest from residual funds was around \$40,000 and is a good difference from prior years.

The investment portfolio was discussed. The Treasurer showed the interest rates at 2.7% for residual where the interest earned goes into current expense.

Auditor Hall discussed the detailed revenue reports. She did not see anything that stood out abnormally from the normal. We are where we should be at 16.668%. Some departments will have more or less depending. All budget transfers and supplementals that address what the county knew it needed to address have been completed. She would like to bring the annual report to the board and review as a team. Is the board open to the annual report being posted to the county website for the public to access? Commissioner Branch said yes, it would be helpful due to the narratives and he suggested comparative data from years past that would be most useful. Economic Development data and creation of a tool is what he thought would help people understand a change or a benefit.

Commissioner Hover said if the \$400,000 is needed how will the board be informed? Treasurer stated she would know by Tuesday, March 26th. What is the county's policy on transferring partial amounts, how do we deal with that? Treasurer McCormack replied that it is specified in a memo from the Commissioners' office and have always moved the whole part. Her department doesn't know some is needed now and some in the future. She isn't sure a policy is needed for this. She said some may need to be moved because of how tight the numbers look, but it can be moved back.

Director Huston explained his professional services line item will need to be adjusted.

Commissioner Hover asked why the Jail revenue was up so high this time last year. Last year it was around \$500,000 and this year it is around \$180,000. It might be because they haven't billed everything out yet to the cities.

Auditor Hall will get on the schedule early May to present the annual report to the board prior to its due date.

Director Huston asked how the board wished to deal with the revenue discussion Commissioner Branch asked about yesterday.

Discussion-Ok. Co WSU Extension Office Appendix A & Staffing Request

Ms. Kayla Wells-Moses and Natasha Hemmer-Moffitt were present.

The annually approved Appendix A allows an amount of money for the 4-H Coordinator position. WSU will cover costs of the 1% raise.

Ms. Wells-Moses stated the other reason for this meeting was to follow up with the board on her request to increase the salary of the WSU Extension office manager as the wage for the position right

is close to minimum wage. For an office manager with the assigned responsibilities and compared to other positions doing the same work, the board should consider a wage increase. Also, when minimum wage goes up next year, the current salary will be less than minimum wage. The request was to reclassify the position from Grade 7 to Grade 12. The impact would be about \$2,900. A supplemental appropriation can be done later in the year.

Commissioner Hover moved to direct staff to create a resolution changing from grade 7 to grade 12. Motion was seconded, all were in favor.

In 2015, the budget for Extension was \$48,000, with this year's increase it is \$98,500 so we almost since 2015 we have doubled the money the county is putting into the Extension office. Commissioner Hover has heard how much WSU has made with its team, so when the county is considering additional funds to the extension program, it is a big impact when it gets close to \$100,000. He would like to meet again with Mike Gaffney acting director of WSU. The position will be filled by June or July at the soonest, so it could be someone else other than Mr. Gaffney. Commissioner Hover would like to discuss this further with whomever is chosen for the Director position. He would like to know WSU thoughts on the extension in the county as we haven't see services increase, but rather decrease. Extension was part of the pie that had to be paid back due to two negative hits, even though athletics has been doing well. Commissioner Hover would like to see some reciprocation.

Motion Appendix A-MOU -Okanogan County & Washington State University

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the 2019 Appendix A-MOU between Okanogan County and Washington State University and authorized the chairman to sign Appendix A in the amount of \$40,336. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Wells Moses explained the portion of staff salaries that WSU pays for and the outreach provided.

Natasha provided an update of the master gardener workshops, 4-H clubs activities, and composting workshops.

Commissioners requested a monthly update from the county extension office. Impact report of Okanogan County is planned too that will help commissioners pass info onto their constituents.

Natasha explained April is national 4-H month so classes are planned on how to handle the American Flag. She asked if Eric Fritts, County VSO would be willing to do a presentation for this as he has already presented at schools. She has reached out to him already. She discussed using the stars from retired flags to thank veterans for their service in the month of April. The commissioners were in favor of Eric Fritts helping out in this way as it is part of his job. The commissioners had positive responses. This falls fully within the realm of what he does. There will be some publications to get the word out for April.

Grizzly Bear education was discussed. Natasha stated the Horticulture Association donated \$500 to help people with the fee.

CANCELLED Update-Human Resources/Risk Management

Tanya Craig and/or Debi Hilts

Member of the public, Christa Levine was present.

Citizens Comment Period

May call-in at 509-422-7100-Time may be limited-Calls taken in order received.

Stan from Chiliwist wished to comment on road maintenance. He was before the board about six years ago and discussed road maintenance then and made suggestions about how to maintain a

road. He explained a crown in the middle of the road would be helpful in draining the water away from the road. The part of the road with the crown hasn't needed any work, but other parts that do not have a crown have many issues with culvert pipes sticking out, lack of drainage. French Creek is flat, and run off is going down the road when the road should be dry. If the outside edge is one to one slop, it's because that's where all the gravel ends up due to being graded flat. He spoke to the operators and they say they don't have the material. Stan said it's because it's in the ditch now. He asked how the commissioners feel about it. Commissioner Branch stated he understands the situation, but he isn't sure whether the issues were discussed with the Public Works Engineer. The worst piece is a mile from the black top. Down to boulders in one area and in another area it has 16-18 inches of gravel built up. Commissioner Branch said the best thing right now is to discuss the situation with the Engineer.

Commissioner DeTro said the number one complaint is lack of gravel. He suggested Public Works Engineer Josh Thomson and Road Manager Gary George be included in a discussion about crowning county roads rather than grading flat.

George Thornton explained Swanson Mill road is the same way, graded flat with standing water in the middle.

No callers called in to comment.

Bid Opening-County Legal Newspaper-Commissioners Hearing Room

Commissioner DeTro stated the time for receiving bids for County Legal Newspaper is here. Three bids were received, opened, and read. The Clerk of the Board noted that Monday, April 1 is scheduled for the bid award as the RCW requires the contract to be let that day.

Commissioners read the total costs for the dummy notices:

Dummy Public Hearing Notice
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #1
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #2
 Dummy Public Works Invitation to Bid

Wenatchee World

Daily \$16.46 or Weekend \$16.79 for Single Column width price
 Daily \$32.92 or Weekend \$33.58 for Double Column width price
 DUMMY Notice pricing using above Double Column width price
 Dummy Public Hearing Notice - \$49.03 Weekend or Daily \$48.06-1.46 inches
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #1 - \$107.80 Weekend or Daily \$105.67-3.21 inches
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #2 - \$169.92 Weekend or Daily \$166.58-5.06 inches
 Dummy Public Works Invitation to Bid \$225.32 Weekend or Daily \$220.89-6.71

Omak Chronicle

\$5.25 per column inch
 \$45 flat rate foreclosure notice for a per tax parcel.
 DUMMY Notice pricing using above cost
 Dummy Public Hearing Notice-\$15.75
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #1-\$45
 Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #2-\$45
 Dummy Public Works Invitation to Bid-\$73.50

Sound Publishing Joint Bid for Gazette Tribune & Methow Valley News

\$5.00 per column inch
 \$5.00 per inch for subsequent notices
 DUMMY Notice pricing using above

Dummy Public Hearing Notice-\$15.00
Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #1-\$37.50
Dummy Tax Foreclosure Sale #2-\$60.63
Dummy Public Works Invitation to Bid-\$67.50

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 \$136,400.85 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$884,922.99. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including payroll in the amount of \$32,676.21 and regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,522.82. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-8, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Commissioners' Proceedings March 11 & 12, 2019
2. CRAB Certification of 2019 Reports for RATA funds
3. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #6 \$10,675.62
4. LTAC Contract-Marketing & Promotion-Confluence Gallery-LTAC19-005 \$5,000
5. LTAC Contract-Destination Marketing PLAN-OCTC LTAC19-016 \$75,000
6. LTAC Contract-Cap. Improvements Winthrop Ice & Sports Rink-LTAC19-014 \$14,000
7. LTAC Contract-Marketing & Promotion Winthrop Ice & Sports Rink-LTAC19-026 \$3,100
8. Resolution 35-2019 Creating Two Sheriff's Deputies Tonasket Contract

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.