

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****MARCH 4, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for its regular session on March 4, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chair Commissioner Chris Branch; and Member, Commissioner Andy Hover, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Review Commissioners' Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover discussed the need for convening the Okanogan County Emergency Services Organization meeting tonight. The county has the ability to call in for meetings and it is allowed. Commissioner Hover and Commissioner DeTro will both call in.

A constituent called the commissioners' office to discuss his concern about a summons by publication legal notice in the February 6, 2019 edition of the Omak Chronicle regarding Peter Morrison and Aileen Jeffries versus Methow Trading Company. Commissioner Hover suggested he call the Winthrop city Mayor's office to speak with the city planner Ms. Rocklynn Culp, to discuss the situation details. Mr. Martin explained reasons it would be very difficult for him or his wife to travel right now to go to court due to the summons. They are out of state and unable to travel. There are two case numbers noted in the publication 19-2-0003824 and 19-2-0003924. The notice said, "Failure to appear would render judgement against the plaintiff Mr. Morrison. The object of the action is to establish an easement by prescription over certain real property in Okanogan." Mr. Martin's concern was that those most affected easily miss the notice by publication and the courts could have easily made a ruling about his property without him even knowing about it.

Commissioner Branch said he would discuss the details with Ms. Culp. Commissioner Hover noted the survey that was performed of the area, was done by the city.

Briefing Among Commissioners—Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules

Commissioners discussed call in comments, time permitting. Commenters, in person, take precedence. Commissioners' agenda to include telephone number to call in. Calls may be prearranged prior to comment period.

Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., Tom Layson with KBTC with Northwest Now interviewed Commissioner Branch. The program seeks to inform the public about the necessity of a transparent government, reinforce the importance of the PRA and the OPMA, and acknowledge the good work by journalists, individuals, and government entities all across Washington State. In conjunction with Sunshine Week, the program will profile the winner of the Washington Coalition for Open Government's Key Award. This year, they are profiling and featuring Okanogan County Watch. The feature will broadcast this Friday, March 8 and will be available on their website.

The interview concluded by 1:30 p.m.

Member of the public, Isabelle Spohn and Katie Haven? Audio and video recording the meeting.

Update Planning – Perry Huston

Planner Angie Hubbard, Dan Higbee

Permit Exempt Wells

Director Huston and the Board reviewed and discussed the exemptions to the requirement for water

permits in RCW 90.44.050 Permit to withdraw". Director Huston said this has been litigated and an AGO generated in 2005 to clarify the exemptions. He explained where the county was muddled in terms of its interpretation of the four categories of withdrawal. This posed the question of whether or not we can use the exemption for noncommercial water withdrawals. Director Huston provided the RCW, WAC's, and the AGO for the discussion. (attached) The Director discussed the county's need to define what single domestic use is and he explained what that definition could be based on and how to approach the question of permit exempt withdrawals and exempt withdrawals. He drilled in on some of the numbers provided in the WAC 173-548-030.

Director Huston and the Board discussed the current uses that would fall under one of the exemptions. If someone wished to withdraw more than 5,000 gallons per day a water right would be needed. Commissioners discussed their experiences with water and water rights and what was figured into the rule. Every case will likely need a detailed analysis. Commissioner Branch would like to focus on rural development. What are we creating the rules for, what are we trying to achieve? Commissioner Branch suggested opening up the rule.

Commissioner Hover asked what the board wanted to do; do we want to see more water to cities and towns, be able to use group systems where appropriate, or create local water code? He discussed the definitions that do not apply to the Methow. He said opening up the rule would generate many competing interests.

Commissioner Hover said if we have group subdivisions we will have to put rules on them. Director Huston explained instances where this was applied before and projects never were finalized. This is the first discussion of what is to come.

Commissioner Branch wondered if a map would be helpful that showed where the county is going with its water rules, a map of decisions made on water and where the board is going with those and then find out what decisions are yet to be made, as it would help the board see a clearer picture.

Commissioner Branch discussed the cost of site analysis as that is a question that comes up in terms of allocation.

Director Huston explained the EAGL system is set up now and it requires the same signature on both the application and the agreement so he prepared a resolution that authorizes him to sign the funding agreement.

The funding to be provided is up to \$300,000 and the funds would pay for the facilitator costs, legal notices, staff time, expenses the county incurs, and some to set aside if some consultant work and analysis is needed that may be outside the scope of county staff.

Motion-Resolution 31-2019 Authorizing Perry Huston' Signature DOE WRIA 49 Agreement

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the grant funding agreement No.WRSRPPG-2018-OkanoPD-00038 between the County and the Department of Ecology, which provides up to \$300,000 for WRIA 49 watershed plan update and authorized Perry Huston to sign the agreement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover asked what it would take to put water meters on subdivisions that use exempt wells for domestic water supply. He said the only way for a group to exist is to have one well on one parcel so individual meters would be necessary to determine the actual amount of water used. Director Huston discussed a water utility for when there is an area required to allow water withdrawals there is the mitigation for the water used then everyone shares in the expense of mitigation or whatever the strategy comes from the plan.

Director Huston discussed that he will go over to talk with the Tribal Planning office on what kinds of

info the tribe wants to see on the application in regards to Archeological resources when there is ground-disturbing activity.

Director Huston explained the county is sponsoring a planning short course. The date is tentative. He intends to let the cities know and others in order to generate good attendance. It is a targeted short course. Director Huston noted it would be tailored to what is most useful.

Motion Tonasket EMS District

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

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$21,700. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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

The March 11 study session will be conducted by Planning Staff due to the Director's planned absence. A nightly rental presentation by Rocky Robbins will be prepared in order to frame the discussion for later. Commissioner Branch asked if there was an interest about nightly rentals and collecting the hotel/motel tourism tax. He is not sure how well that would be received in the Methow. There is a huge impact on low-income housing in some areas where outside businesses are expressly purchasing the houses in neighborhoods and using them only for nightly rentals. Director Huston said he is trying to get the records from Airbnb to see how much they actually pay into lodging tax. Commissioner Branch sees the Housing Trust as one of the main ways of providing affordable housing. Anyway, the county can help to make that happen he is in favor of it.

Director Huston discussed notice requirements and to whom those are sent. Also, publish notice of other things of minor planning decisions. Discussion around LUPA WSAC has identified the need for counties to adopt what we use for noticing requirement for all these things even Building permits. We don't have any policy on how we will publish our notices of decisions that are made administratively or otherwise. There is a resolution he is polishing up for commission consideration.

Upcoming Convening of the Emergency Services Organization

For the Emergency Services Organization, Commissioner DeTro said he will attend via conference call, but will be about 10-15 minutes late. Commissioner Hover will also call in and participate by teleconference. Commissioner Branch will be here in person. Commissioner Branch will chair the meeting in the absence of Commissioner DeTro. The only thing to be discussed is the wages of the Emergency Manager.

Review Meeting Minutes

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

Convening Emergency Services Organization-Commissioners, Cities & EM M. Goodall

A sign-in sheet was circulated and those in attendance signed in.

Commissioner Branch called the meeting to order for Chairman DeTro, as he was calling in later.

Pull everyone together to discuss a request of the Emergency Manger.

Mr. Goodall did roll call.

Jon Culp, Sam Martin, Dennis Brown, Jason Hubbard,

Mr. Goodall gave presentation to show what is currently happening in the Emergency Manager (EM) office. There are two employees in the department. Kayla Higbee and himself.

Changes to the EM website were shown to the group. Many things were pushed onto Facebook, but this new website shows Facebook and other incident info. Information is pushed out. All the links to all the cities, hospitals, and veterinarians are on the site. Countywide map is also been updated on the website and there is a map that can show evacuation areas, roadblocks, flooded areas, river gauges etc...

The alert system has about 20,795 signed up for notifications. Information can be pushed out to specific areas, event codes can be posted for events on the website that will notify people who have signed up. The more it is used the better the system will become.

Commissioner Hover stressed that this system works really well and was used during last year's fires. Getting the most people signed up is very important because information can be pushed out to select groups of people in particular zones. He stressed that everyone sign up. Mr. Goodall described how it would work during evacuations.

Mr. Goodall discussed the new badging system. He showed examples of the types are badges to be used. County employees would use them as well as the cities. He explained briefly, what information it can have and the scanning and tracking ability. It is not quite ready yet, but will be pushed out soon to the cities. He explained what the badges would be used for. Each city will need to approve a resolution adopting the policy and rules of use. It is a requirement. The format was discussed.

Commissioner DeTro joined at 6:15 p.m.

The Multi Hazard Mitigation plan is going to be updated this year. Input from the cities will be important. What do they need, fire hall? Equipment? Structure? What are the risks in each city and those get listed so when grant funds become available those will have already been identified.

The Joint Local Agency Agreement was handed out. Mr. Goodall sees it as professional partner with stakeholders to prepare for all hazards. The RCW 83.52.070 was presented as the directive. The county code also restates the same things found there.

Mr. Goodall discussed the history of the Joint Local Agency Agreement that was signed by the county and cities in 1997. A meeting of the ESO is to be held annually, he is to supply the organization his Emergency Management budget by August 1.

Mr. Goodall explained the questions he had about protocol between 2000 and when he was appointed. The costs that make up the emergency management

The cities pay for 40% of Mr. Goodall's wage. The commissioners wanted to ensure the cities were included in the conversation about the request for wage consideration that Mr. Goodall had previously requested of the Commissioners in order to show the cities and county are working together to make the determination. He answers directly to the county commissioners, but how would the council like to handle evaluations. The position he was hired into was as a manager, but he is doing the work of a manager, director and coordinator. The previous Sheriff was provided extra pay to serve a director, but Mr. Goodall feels he is acting as the director now and feels the compensation should show.

Mr. Culp explained he felt the Human Resource aspect of the position does fall on the responsibility of the county. The group should discuss the budget and should at least provide a recommendation to the commission. Mr. Sam Martin asked about the prior meeting and whether or not there were meeting

minutes on how the group handled the hiring and wage setting when Mr. Goodall was being considered for hire. Mr. Goodall explained the process with the final question of hiring being posed to the cities.

According to the agreement, it would be the mayors and commissioners that vote on the wages. The salary costs of the emergency management specialist are paid for by grant funds.

Commissioner Hover stated Mr. Goodall is not a contracted employee with the county, he is on the regular county pay scale, so technically if someone else was hired the group would have to decide where that position fell on the pay scale. Should the position be set at a single wage that is negotiated or do they come in at a certain grade and work their way up the pay scale. He is a Department head, an exempt employee, there are other Department Heads that are exempt who have an employment contract and are not on the pay scale like regular employees. The agreement recognizes the position as Emergency Services Director.

Jason Hubbard asked what part the city plays in making the wage decision. He would like to know if the commissioners agree with how the local agency agreement lays it out. Commissioner Branch discussed what the county considered and how the county wanted to ensure the cities were included in the conversation. Setting the salary does take work and consideration and he thought that perhaps the county should have prepared some options to consider.

Commissioner Hover said the position should be a contract Director Position with a set wage without steps and grades. Cities come together annually to discuss the wage and determine their recommendation based on what their budgets can handle.

Commissioner DeTro agreed the position should be an exempt Director position, but we are just now getting to the point of getting rid of the anomalies but the position should now be a straightforward position that is consistent with how the county handles other director positions.

Mr. Hubbard asked if the current wage was to be considered. Mr. Goodall explained the county pays into a portion of the employees retirement but since Mr. Goodall is has already retired he is not receiving the same benefit that other employees would. Commissioner Hover said the wage to be set would be consistent with the position not because of the retirement situation he described. The wage survey would help determine where the wage scale should be and show if it is consistent. Commissioner Hover stated there were two counties in the survey that have Emergency Services Director.

Mr. Martin commented on the position title in the agreement refers to the position as Director of Emergency Services and thought some of the issues Mr. Goodall described could be considered there.

Commissioner DeTro stated this conversation has been discussed several times since hiring Mr. Goodall, but he does not want to be so hardnosed because he believes Mr. Goodall deserves the wage. Mayor Culp said his opinion is that we have been shorting a really good employee and suggested the negotiation of the contract lay out the 12.5% if that is what is agreed but spell it out.

Mr. Martin asked if the county or the employee could set up a savings type account where both the employee and the county would pay into it like they would a retirement fund.

Commissioner Hover said it does not boil down to just one position, other requests trickle in once one is considered. After this meeting, the county may want to put something together for the cities to consider.

Mr. Goodall projected the population estimates for 2019 to show each city's portion of the Director Pay

request would be. The range of increase to the individual cities was between \$56.62 and \$1,140.

Mr. Goodall explained how this year's budget would be handled and that it would be more in accordance with the agreement. Commissioner Branch discussed some minor changes that would vet people during a disaster. Participation by the cities was discussed and what happens when a plan is presented and not all cities are there when the rest of the organization approves the plan. Mr. Hubbard noted that this council of members would be the same council to decide on the budget for 2020.

Mr. Hubbard asked if the Commissioners would come up with the recommended option and present to the council for a vote. Mr. Goodall would like a decision.

Mr. Culp will need a proposal in writing because the additional funds will need to be moved. Mr. Goodall stated his previous budget proposal to the cities included the 12.5% increase. Commissioners will need to discuss the contract option.

The cost to the county would be \$5943.63 and cost to cities would be \$3875.37 based on population.

Mr. Sam asked that meeting minutes be prepared and sent out ahead of time for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Goodall will send to the cities the info discussed today.

The council adjourned at 7:25 p.m.