

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 12, 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.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The pledge was recited.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

Kelly Ross, Angela Hubbard, Joe Poulin

Ms. Hubbard updated the board on the recent Watershed Planning unit meeting that went well. The Board wishes to attend the Watershed Planning unit meetings in the future and directed the Clerk of the Board to notice the public that a quorum will be present for purposes other than a regular or a special meeting. Mitigation strategies were discussed in terms of areas/projects that are not mitigated water for water.

Ms. Ross updated the board on Fairgrounds. All emails were made accessible to her and she is handling all the fairground calls. The Board discussed the need to figure out a fee for use of the infield because rodeo attendees were camping and driving in and out and over the irrigation and compacting the track surface. The county should either rent the infield for one lump sum that would include a fee for camping or charge a per car parking fee and then provide a parking pass for everyone who comes into the infield. This option would be difficult to monitor and collect the fee when there is not a staff person on site for the whole event. Commissioners would like to know more about

how a race track bridge sled would work in order to drive across the track without compacting it. The fee schedule will need to be amended to include a fee for use of infield for camping. Commissioner Branch asked about the capacity of the infield. Commissioner Hover said he'd prefer the infield not be used except by event organizers. Mr. Poulin said when the infield is opened up everyone packs in to watch the event and they pay nothing because they can just drive right into the north end. The county should consider the cost of Wear and Tear on everything and that should be considered in the compensation, keeping in mind a good fee keeps them coming back, but if they want to use certain things like tractor or water truck we need to be able to pay for the upkeep of the equipment and be able to pay for things that get broken.

Ms. Ross suggested no vehicles in the infield except the stock contractor and then only allow dry camping in the north end. Allowing camping in the infield creates is too much congestion as people vie for the best spots and if there are tents set up where there are potential safety risks, like in the infield the we run the risk of someone getting hurt. There is also the damage to irrigation systems in the infield and then safety of the track surface.

Commissioners discussed the fee schedule amendment and thought it should include a \$5 overnight parking fee. The group also discussed the need to build a sled to drive over the track.

Commissioner Hover said he would like Sam Buchert to know that no one is to drive into the infield until the sled is in place, and would like to give him a list of fees to be incurred, but we don't know

exactly what is expected for the area and ancillary uses during rodeos he has arranged.

Ms. Ross explained there are three events scheduled for the Agriplex this month. Plus, there are three weddings booked for next year. She discussed the preparation of the invoice for the awarded LTAC promotion funds.

Commissioner Hover said we need to revamp the point of sale system in the fair office so we can fix what the SAO wanted us to fix. He also said the Board should look at the fee schedule before making suggestions for change.

Engineer Thomson arrived at 9:25 a.m.

### **Motion Fairgrounds Fee Schedule**

Commissioner Hover moved to direct Kelly Ross to work on updating the Fairgrounds Fee Schedule to include a \$5 per vehicle parking charge for parking in the infield. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners would like Mr. Poulin to obtain some quotes from vendors on the small works roster for moving the north end fence line at the fairgrounds. Mr. Poulin will consider the process in order to secure some quotes. Commissioner Hover asked

Engineer Thomson to include a purchasing and contracting flow chart for Okanogan County purchasing policy is adoption. He said he would create one.

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

Engineer Thomson said he heard from John Sunderlund about easements for the trail. They want to dissolve the Methow Institute Foundation but want to transfer the trail easement deeds to the county. There are bits and pieces, but not enough to put together any kind of funding match. With the Methow Trails do we have the right of ways delineated on the map? Commissioner Hover said he'd like to see the paths and trails responsibility under Public Works. Engineer Thomson said there isn't a mechanism for paying for certain trail costs in the Public Works budget. Commissioner Branch acknowledged the limitations of the paths and trails fund to transportation related expenditures while pointing out the need for a different fund for recreational trails. He prefers that Public Works have oversight of recreational trails due to maintenance responsibilities, etc. Thomson pointed out that there are many places Public Works already works on outdoor recreation but those functions relate more to motorized trails. Commissioner Hover asked what the definition of the Paths and Trails fund is and what those gas tax funds can be used for Public Works. Engineer Thomson said an additional fund would need to be created since Paths and Trails are restricted. The name of the funds is misleading and should be changed.

### *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

Engineer Thomson said crews are keeping busy brush cutting until it snows.

### *Solid Waste Office*

It is mostly finished, a well built structure, and will be good for the department.

### *WSDOT Coordination Meeting*

Engineer Thomson discussed the meeting. They talked about a few things they are doing on Hwy 155 spur bridge program, also identified bridges on Hwy 153 which will cost about \$109 million dollars and the bridges are not in their 10-year program.

Private accesses are currently granted at 20 feet. Engineer Thomson thought WSDOT should make them whole if landowners are required to make changes due to recent DOT projects that is requiring changes to existing access.

**I-976**

Seems to be passing and directly and immediately affects the road funds. Commissioners discussed laws that financially impact Okanogan County that the people voted in through the initiative process.

George Thornton commented on the constitutional challenges that are made to some initiatives (e.g., City of Seattle) Commissioner Branch added that when the legislature passes laws there is significant debate with lots of information provided. However, the initiative process is less informative and lacks open debate. Often the public does not

realize that reduction in service or maintenance over time may be the result of that initiative that was passed to reduce various fees and/or taxes. The initiative process is our opportunity to provide information so that there may be more consideration and discussion regarding the impacts of the initiative.

Engineer Thomson explained the impacts and distribution of fuel tax to the counties and we receive 139,000 from the TPA, he isn't sure how that will impact what we need to do.

More detail will be discussed at the conference next week. The tab decrease will hit and many will pull money from other places i.e., for other purposes, but we'll have to see exactly how it will impact.

***Salmon Cr Rd.***

No responses have been received on the previous question about moving Salmon Creek Road to prevent losing it down the 20 foot bank. The slope is very steep and the county cannot stabilize the slope within the road's current location to prevent the erosion without additional right of way. He is looking at options to either relocate the creek or relocate the road.

***Similkameen Trail***

Commissioners discussed the two plans, and hope everyone is on the same page.

**2020 Budget Work Session – Treasurer Office**

Lisa Schreckengost, Cari Hall, Leah McCormack, Pam Johnson

Treasurer McCormack updated the board on what the cash on hand is for that remains in the Vehicle Reserve fund in the amount of \$75,274.51. The Building Department had unspent vehicle funds in the amount of \$2022.33 which may need to be transferred back to current expense before 2020 and the Sheriff had a vehicle on order that has not arrived and has yet to be paid for.

The Treasurer's budget was reviewed. Commissioner Hover said it isn't the BOCC's intent to take away all unused funds but he'd like to get to a no net budget.

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The Current Expense tax receivable report was provided that shows amounts through last Friday. It shows outstanding tax by year.

Need the assessor's valuation for the four funds Veterans, DDD, Alcohol and Mental Health for ad valorem. Do we state this years' property tax revenue minus our Ad Valorem and have a greater 100% collection on our taxes, or do we account for the expenses of previous years and then estimate the revenue. The group discussed whether or not a monthly or quarterly report would help reflect the proper expense and receipts. Budget for delinquencies? Ms. Hall said it is misleading to reduce then collect over 100% of our taxes, but it will look funny to the average citizen even though it is done right.

#### **Update – Auditors Office – Auditor Cari Hall**

Cancelled-ran out of time.

#### **Executive Session RCW 42.30.100 (1)(i)– Litigation**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 11:05 a.m. for one hour inviting Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas, Risk Manager, Tanya Craig, Risk Pool Attorney Quinn Plant, and Risk Pool representative Chuck Boyd to discuss litigation or potential litigation to which the county may be or become a party. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended at 12:05 for 15 minutes.

Executive session ended at 12:20 p.m. no decisions were made.

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

Commissioners attended the board of health meeting at the public health building.

Commissioner DeTro returned at 3:25 p.m.

#### **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Liability Insurance Fund 146**

A quorum was not established at 3:25 p.m. The Clerk of the Board continued the hearing to 4:30 p.m. today.

Commissioner Branch returned at 3:30 p.m.

#### **Update Human Resources Risk Management - Tanya Craig**

Prosecutor Arian Noma, Dennis Rabidou

Mr. Rabidou said a decision was made to give a conditional offer to a current employee for the Admin position in the Juvenile Dept. The budget provides funding at step 2 but he is requesting the person start at step 3 because she meets all the desired and all the required qualifications. Commissioner DeTro deferred the question until Commissioner Hover was present.

Transmission and transfer case repairs would come to more than the vehicle is worth. He didn't want to repair a vehicle that may continue to need repairs. Three vehicles are planned for purchase in 2020. This one will need to be surplus to the needs of the county.

Commissioner Hover arrived at 3:43 p.m. Mr. Rabidou explained he'dl like to start his new hire Administrative Services Manager to start

#### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the position to start at step three motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. Ms. Craig will draft a resolution.

Prosecutor Noma said he has a potential candidate to hire in the Deputy Felony prosecutor position. The person meets and exceeds all the minimum qualifications. He would like to hire at step 3 for felony deputy prosecutor. One could easily prove the person is qualified to start at step 5.

**Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the position of Felony Deputy Prosecutor to begin at step three. Commissioner Branch asked how many Felony Deputy Prosecutors on staff, there are two plus this one. He asked how the salary compares to the other deputy prosecutor. Mr. Noma said they are paid more than district court attorney's. Commissioner Branch verified, per Mr. Noma reply, that he also handled felony cases. All were in favor, motion carried.

**Discussion – Brainstorming Session – WSU Extension**

Mike Gaffney via telephone conference call, Natasha, and Roni Holder-Deifenbach

Brain storm ideas of work that could be done by WSU students here in Okanogan County to address opportunities to address real world issues as a student project. Instead of WSU staff coming up with the ideas, it was thought the county would be best coming up with the ideas.

County website update to ADA. Mr. Gaffney said it is a larger initiative than anticipated at the college. Capstone course could help with the web design project. The other departments across the campus putting together an inventory with 40-50 capstone projects across the campus. Extension, Computer Science, Sociology etc.....distance to degree program with proof of concept. One is a social ap that is looking at food safety regulations and getting some help with that. Looking at availability of nutritious food near schools in Kitsap County. The program has grown there as enthusiasm is generated. Trying to figure out a way to organize under one umbrella in order to engage successfully with the colleges. We are hovering on something real big here, said Mr. Gaffney.

Commissioner Branch inquired with TV District #1 Commissioner George Thornton as to whether there would be opportunity for students to engage with development programming for the district. Mr. Thornton said there isn't an opportunity at this time for TV District. The Merrill has an internship for students who must complete their major projects.

Ms. Deifenbach asked if Mr. Gaffney is familiar with Opportunity Zones. Yes, he knows something about those. One challenge is putting together prospectus for different types of concepts for development of raw land. Yes, the conversation has been happening, but right now Rural Communities Design Institute with primary thrust redevelopment of public spaces that could be fixed up and used for something else. Students work directly with communities to design and present. How many projects are we talking about.

Mr. Gaffney explained the concept used to relay the idea was taken well by his peers. He thought a list of projects to the college would be helpful as they plan next spring's programs. He would be happy to replicate the idea along with any additional input from us. He said if each problem could be described in a couple sentences with some solutions that would then be forwarded to the college for review and maybe it could turn into an annual thing.

Another opportunity is providing rural broadband services to our rural communities. We are in the process of doing a planning study to find out connectivity, access or lack of, and gaps in the system.

A list of ideas from the previous meeting then the additional ideas after today's meeting, will be compiled and provided,

Commissioner Branch asked about assistance with Citizen involvement measures, like community surveys which are often Mr. Gaffney acknowledged the possibility.

Two levels of project work the university can do, 1. internships which allows a student obtain the hours needed in the community, but there is also work that can be done from a computer anywhere. The College likes to get credit for what they are doing and Capstone projects must be overseen by a



professor and can be complicated.

Natasha said getting a good job around here is difficult, she suggested a needs study.

### **Motion Purchase of District Court Blinds for the Courtroom**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the purchase of the District Court blinds in the amount of \$600+. Motion was seconded, all were favor, motion carried. Commissioner Branch commented that he felt that this expenditure may have been made within the scope of the court's budget without waiting for such approval.

### **Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Liability Insurance Fund 146**

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to the public, seeing no public who wished to comment, he closed public comment and opened up to staff. Ms. Tanya Craig explained this budget supplemental will provide adequate budget for the county's liability insurance payment. The prior approved budget was not sufficient to cover the increased cost of the insurance. Commissioner DeTro closed the hearing to staff and opened up to commissioners' discussion.

### **Motion Resolution 141-2019 Budget Supplemental Liability Insurance**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 141-2019 a budget supplemental appropriation within fund 001 and 146 in the amount of \$123,000 for the full liability insurance payment. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Methow Valley EMS District**

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

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$56,797.83. 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.

### **Motion Office of Public Defense Grant Agreement No. ICA20023**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the grant agreement and authorized the chairman to sign agreement No. ICA20023 between the Office of Public Defense and Okanogan County for improving the quality of public defense services per chapter 10.101 RCW. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Civil Service Commission Reappointment Pilkinton**

Commission Branch moved to approve the reappointment letter of Lee Pilkinton to the Civil Service Commission. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Commissioner Proceedings, November 4 & 5, 2019**

Commissioner Branch moved to postpone the approval of the meeting minutes until next week. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Budget Amendment Civil Service**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize a budget amendment in the amount of \$200 from Contingency Reserve to Civil Service budget for advertising. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Staff Direction**

Commissioner Hover moved to direct staff to draft an appointment letter for Lori Caswell to the Fair

Advisory Committee meeting. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Approve – Kelly Imaging Systems – Corrections Maintenance Agreement
2. Approve – Fair Facility Use Rental Contract – Annual Meeting- Okanogan County Child Development Assoc.
3. Approve – CDBG Public Services Grant Request #4 – October 2019 Services
4. Approve – MOU – Okanogan Omak Rotary Club, Okanogan County and LifeLine Ambulance Placement of Artificial External Defibrillator in the County Jail
5. Approve – Resolution 140-2020 Annual Road Construction Program Public Works
6. Approve - Resolution 142-2019 Search & Rescue 2020 Title III Allocation

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.