

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

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 4, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

Review Commissioners' Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners discussed their meeting agenda.

Commissioners discussed the Title III proposals for 2020 funding. Both applicants applied for \$82,000, the total amount to be allocated. The BOCC must determine the amount to be awarded as both are eligible for the funding. Commissioner DeTro stated after last week's presentation, he suggested Rick Balam of Okanogan County Search and Rescue be compensated somehow for providing coordination of the services.

The Clerk of the Board discussed the recently signed agreement between Okanogan County Behavioral Healthcare (OBHC) for Therapeutic Courts funds and millage monies. It appears the addendum #1 to the agreement has an effective date of August 26, 2019 and the date does not include billing and payment of services for the months of April through August, 2019. OBHC submitted invoices for those months, but the agreement doesn't appear to cover those previous months.

Briefing Among Commissioners' – Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings & Schedules

Commissioners reviewed their meeting schedules.

At 10:40 a.m. Emily Sisson, member of the public arrived to video and audio tape commissioners' meetings for Okanogan Watch Group.

Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson

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

Maintenance and Road Conditions

Engineer Thomson updated the board on maintenance and road conditions explaining winter hours begin today. They are set for 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The DOT deicer went down so roads were a bit slick this morning on state highways.

Steam Treatment Verification Testing passed

The apple maggot steam treatment device was tested and it passed verification. It worked well even though it was cold outside.

WSDOT Coordination Meeting

Engineer Thomson will be attending the WSDOT Coordination meeting tomorrow and that is why his Public Works update is today.

Salmon Creek Rd @ Cowan's

This project is moving along.

Similkameen Trail Maintenance Budget

Commissioners discussed funds needed for maintenance of the Similkameen Trail. The Whistler Canyon Trail was also discussed due to PNT, Kristen Ackerman, discussion with commissioners last week, of the future plans to place a kiosk there.

Consent Agenda

Public Works did not have any items on the consent agenda.

The board adjourned for lunch at about 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Sisson left the meeting at 11:35 a.m. and returned at 1:30 p.m.

Update – Planning Department – Interim Director Angie Hubbard

Regarding the Lake Management District Ms. Hubbard explained several people within the Lake Management District wish to contest their assessment. Commissioners feel a public hearing should be set to hear the reasons for removal of the parcels. Commissioner Hover said a hearing should be scheduled with Clerk of the board.

Ms. Hubbard said a person from a state agency turned in an agreement regarding the funds allocation for the vaulted toilet, but the agreement is missing a lot of detail. Once it has been reviewed, it will be presented to the board. The project is grant funded but Okanogan County is taking on the vault work and will be reimbursed for the work due to the placement of the toilet being placed on Forest Service Land. They cannot do the work if it's not on Forest Service lands, so the county was asked to do it. The ground prep work was discussed.

WRIA 49 Planning Unit is meeting Thursday, November 7 of this week.

A SEPA appeal was received for the proposed Miller pit but the appeal did not include the \$300 filing fee. The issue was brought up to Tanya Craig and Attorney Gecas to provide further direction.

Comprehensive Plan update was given since Commissioner Hover was not here last week. Ms. Hubbard said the process feels like it's going well, but we'll have to see.

Commissioners discussed the status of the Planning Director application scoring matrix in order to identify the top four applications. The Planning Commission, through George Thornton, had previously requested an opportunity to review the top four applications. Commissioners discussed whether or not to invite the Planning Commission to listen-in on the interviews.

2020 Budget Work Session - Planning Department – Angie Hubbard

Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost, Rocky Robbins, Leah McCormack

The Clerk of the Board displayed the Planning Department's 2020 budget on the wall.

Fund 001.005 was reviewed. Commissioner Hover said there were many expenses that revenue did not match up to. He previously asked Ms. Hubbard to recalculate what they were getting in grant revenue compared to corresponding revenues. He isn't sure some of the grants take into account wages but they aren't really obvious in revenue as they are not 1/1 ratio. He asked if we leave it alone and end up with unallocated revenue, because it is too difficult to calculate the time specifically. He suggested leaving that alone.

GIS is supposed to be split between with the Sheriff and Planning. The Sheriff issues a check to pay back for those costs. The amount of \$79,500 shows in the Planning revenue line in Current Expense paid from fund 124 Communications.

The expenditure lines were reviewed and discussed. Ms. Robbins explained the department's two small printers must be replaced.

Are all the VSP Grant and WRIA 49 expenses going to occur in 2020? Yes, stated Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Robbins. The Miscellaneous and Hearing Examiner expenses are not reimbursable. Some funds were allocated in each grant for staff time. (\$10,000 WRIA 49) and (\$2,000 VSP). It all must be spent by October 30, 2020, so there should be time to submit for reimbursement and receive in the same year. Ms. Robbins explained some miscellaneous funds (\$50,000) was allocated for final plan costs within the Miscellaneous Expense line in anticipation of the cost being higher when it's all done.

Remaining expense lines were reviewed. The Plotter ink is very very expensive at \$1500 each time. This may not be an annual expense, but is dependent on whether or not there is a fire or other type of need for maps.

Commissioners asked the Sheriff to meet with them to further discuss the Search and Rescue 2020 budget as expenditure lines would need to be set up to spend from and receive funds reimbursed by Title III funds.

Present: Toney Hawley, Aaron Culp, Laura Wright, Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost, Leah McCormack

All search and rescue workers are volunteers. The coordinator is Rick Balam and he is a volunteer too. They have one pickup truck that isn't efficient and very cumbersome to haul with. Ms. Wright said she had previously discussed costs of SAR with Mr. Balam. The Sheriff has helped with costs of the volunteers in the past but when no funds were available, then the volunteers must purchase their own equipment and training, but it is often difficult to keep up with standards. Volunteers who are state certified can only be deployed to those rescues they are trained/certified to handle. The high angle swift water rescues have special certification requirements and have several levels of training. Equipment does not have certain specificities it must meet. The SAR utilize the Sheriff's office ATV, personal water craft, and other equipment because they don't have their own. The trailer equipment is the sheriff's equipment. Boating safety grant funds are strictly for deputies on the water such as for education, enforcements and inspections. The truck is 2005 and has around 138,000 miles and is extra quad cab with a long bed.

It has come up in the past that the Sheriff spent from Current Expense before going first to their miscellaneous SAR funds. Without Title III funding the Sheriff still has the responsibility of Search and Rescue whether Current Expense supports the cost or not. Commissioner Branch said he would like to look into paying for a SAR coordinator position. The commissioners see there is some issue with that and having a full time coordinator may not be the answer. Ms. Wright said Mr. Balam seems to put in 40 hours per week even though he is retired. Commissioner Branch said we should not rely on Title III funds for search and rescue. How do volunteers feel about using other people's equipment? Ms. Wright said there are a few experts in the Methow who are on the up and up with their equipment.

Motion Title III

Commissioner Hover moved to direct staff to draft a resolution to allocate/obligate \$82,000 of Title III funds to Okanogan County Search and Rescue for use in 2020. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Review Meeting Minutes

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

2020 Budget Work Session – WSU Extension

Kayla Wells-Moses

Commissioners discussed that WSU mandated a 1.5% raise across the board to all its employees and

yet has not covered this year's raise. Commissioner DeTro stated he heard at COG that not many counties are very happy with the mandate. It is too bad they don't have a more equitable solution to support the program as many benefit from 4-H. WSU pays for the 4-H coordinator benefits and taxes, the county pays the wage expense.

The board reviewed the expenditure and revenue lines and discussed questions they had.

Ms. Moses will be attending the WSAC conference in two weeks, and Natasha will be traveling to the 4-H coordinator training.

Ms. Wells-Moses provided her WSU update. (attached) The report showed all the activities Extension has been involved with. Next week is a brainstorming meeting with WSU extension to come up with ideas for Okanogan County problem solving.

Next week's Brainstorming meeting was set for the purpose of creating a proposal for WSU's new semester that would identify work WSU students could participate in here and get college credit. These ideas would then be provided to professors on campus to see which students might fit the program.

Several programs are growing such as the 4-H Program, Master Gardener program participation, and Food and Consumer Sciences program.

Commissioner Branch relayed that several cities have gardens that must be maintained and the cities have budget for those maintenance costs.

Commissioner Branch relayed that several cities are Tree City USAs and have Tree Boards that have declined in active membership especially by younger citizens. Membership often depends on Master Gardeners so he requested that information be shared with Master Gardeners.

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.