

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

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

9:00 a.m. George Thornton member of the public taking hand written notes for Okanogan Watch Group.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Kelly Ross and Joe Poulin were present.

Mr. Gecas updated the board on a proposed meeting next week commissioners suggested moving scheduled meetings to accommodate a 10:30 or 11:00 am meeting. Mr. Gecas reported on legal matters he is attending to and meetings. Commissioners discussed the 2019 Behavioral Health Service Agreement for Therapeutic Court funds that did not include April-August services. An amendment should be approved to include those months before payment is made to OBHC.

Ms. Ross updated the board on the loose ends at fairgrounds that need to be addressed. How does the board wish for us to handle the loose ends? Commissioners directed that calls be forwarded to commissioner's office, commissioners' office staff pick up the mail, and make sure contracts are taken care of. Commissioners acknowledged the need figure out the interview schedule for hiring the office replacement. Joe Poulin said that Kyle Haugen has some instructions on event rentals and what he needs to do on his end. Mr. Poulin knows enough about what needs to be done to relay that to Mr. Haugen. Ensure all RV contracts have wording in them about the county not being liable for damages or theft. Ensure all rentals have a signed contract. Next year's rodeo was discussed and what the contract would entail, there is a copy with notes from Ms. Columbia that the commissioners wish to see. Fairgrounds fee schedule should be amended to include one fee for dry camping in the infield during rodeo type events. \$150 per night was discussed, but without determining the limit some folks may pack them in and then charge themselves. In-field capacity should be determined. The problem is we don't have enough staff to man the gate at these events, said Mr. Poulin. Maximum capacity is x number of vehicles or keep them out due to packing down the track surface. Commissioner Hover said we need to figure out a rental fee for non-profit event and for-profit events for the north end. Commissioners asked Ms. Ross to call around to other fairgrounds to ask how those counties get across the track during events whether they use a sled or some other means to get across. Also commissioners asked Ms. Ross to call Sam Buchert to let him know we are working on the spring rodeo logistics. Commissioners also asked for a list of fees applicable to the grounds to be considered for incorporation.

Joe Poulin updated the board on whether the entrance door on the Juvenile/Prosecutor building can be replaced with a push bar. Mr. Poulin is obtaining quotes for those. Commissioner Hover asked about surplus auction in the spring. Fairgrounds list did not include the old panels or bucking chutes. Mr. Poulin gave separate sheet of those with piping, t-posts, and other miscellaneous items. He will provide the additional surplus list to Ms. Johns who will place it with the other list of surplus items and she will provide complete list to commissioners. Areas with frost heave was discussed. Underground sprinkler system should be added to the Capital Facilities plan. Get it adopted by January 1 with a

draft for review by December so commissioners can budget for projects. Mr. Huston had been working on a draft.

10:00 a.m. Teagan Levine, member of the public, arrived to take notes.

10:10 a.m. Prosecutor Noma arrived for his budget work session.

Discussion – Building Inspections Contracts – Dan Higbee

Building Official Higbee asked if the commissioners contacted any mayors to learn what their long-term thinking was for building inspection services.

Commissioner Branch said he can send an email inquiry to the mayors. Currently, we are only contracted with the cities until the end of 2019. If the county has to hire someone then those contracts will need to be long term. Mr. Higbee said he can handle the extra work as his office is handling it right now. To do it right and with the best level of service, then another person would be needed. Calls for enforcements are coming in, but the county is not contracted to do enforcements. There are options for city's consideration that do not involve the county. Commissioner Hover does not want people to think the county is creating a monolithic empire; however, if we are going to serve the needs of county residents then we need to have the people to serve them. There should be certainty that if the county hires someone long term those cities don't then turn around and hire someone more affordable. It would be easier on the Building Dept. not to go long term with the contracts. It is Mr. Higbee's preference not to provide the service long term. Commissioner Branch will draft an email the clerk of the Board will send to city Clerks for response. Commissioner Hover thought a meeting would be necessary if the majority wish for long term contracts. There are some conditions to be considered to prevent the issue from going sideways. We need to know the full scope of what is needed. Twisp and Brewster is working out well, but the others expect much more as the previous building inspector was providing much more than what we provide.

Commissioners discussed the Public Health request of \$145,000 for 2020 over their 2019 request of \$135,000 requested for training this year. The thought was it would be requested every year if considered this year. Commissioner Hover said there is also the reserves. It looks like they could move \$10,000 into reserves every month in terms of what the Treasurer sees.

2020 Budget Work Session – Prosecutor Office

Lisa Schreckengost, Leah McCormack, Arian Noma, Tanya Craig and Felecia Chandler.

The group first reviewed the Prosecutor Dept. 2020 revenue projections. The revenue includes cities misdemeanor prosecution charges billed by Risk Management among other sources.

Second the group reviewed expenditure lines within the general sections. Commissioners discussed the Professional Services line as expenses appeared to spike. Mr. Noma explained that is where contracted conflict attorneys and land use attorneys are paid from. Some cases require federal experts or a conflict attorney to resolve. Commissioners asked for specifics. Mr. Noma explained WAPA was asked which cases and costs would be involved and how those are dispersed. He thought costs of a criminal matter could be around \$60,000 to \$70,000 additional. He wasn't sure the exact amount needed for land use attorney services because it is based on land use issues that come up during the comprehensive plan amendments. Commissioner Hover said he would not budget for this specifically since there are many unknowns at this point and the contingency can be used if the need arises.

The prosecutor's travel expense line was reviewed. Mr. Noma explained an increase was requested due an occasion when family members are called in to attend a trial. Mr. Noma explained the line includes travel costs for some experts who also may need to travel from out of county. The Treasurer explained, normally, travel costs for employees come out of this line not costs for experts or families.

Ms. Schreckengost said previously these types of charges were being processed out of the travel line. The costs should actually be coming out of Witness fees or included in the professional service bill.

The Witness fees expense lines were reviewed as it covers travel and other costs. The budget for Legal Books includes West Law plus the new set of state and federal rules. The support enforcement budget was reviewed which is pretty much all grant funded. The commissioners need to know how much of the section is grant funded and how much is current expense. Ms. Hall will need to weigh in on the section when she returns. Law books provided to Support Enforcement function should be paid out of the Support Enforcement section. Bar dues of the Support Enforcement attorney should also be paid out of that section.

Mr. Noma explained a request to increase staff wages. He requested salary data from other counties for comparison. After looking at what other counties pay their legal staff, it doesn't appear the county authorized wages that covers the lifestyle needs that outside attorneys may be accustomed to. Commissioner Hover replied that every single employee falls short of 100% of the average of comparable counties. Most department heads and elected official salaries are at an average of 70-80 percentile of the comparable counties. Commissioner Hover said he could not consider raising salaries of those professionals in the \$70,000 to \$80,000 range and not consider a raise for the average worker. Ms. Craig said the last raises given for non-bargaining happened in 2016.

Mr. Noma proposal included a \$53,200 increase to his budget for raises. The amount proposed was over 10% increase to wages and would not provide an even COLA across the board. Mr. Noma wants to make the lawyers wages more in line with the state. We still have positions open after advertising for the last several months. It seems the county is training lawyers only to lose them because they go to another jurisdiction with more money. He has 107 open cases each for the attorneys that remain. He is able to take on the felony cases, but he is also dealing with seven deaths in addition to all the other cases. He said Douglas County had no staff turnover and it's because they pay good wages. Commissioner Branch noted the information provided that shows attorneys that have either been fired or left county employment. (attached) Commissioner DeTro explained the Sheriff has the same dilemma with training new hires only to lose them soon afterward to higher paying jurisdictions.

Tanya Craig asked the Prosecutor whether exit interviews happened with those who left the office. Mr. Noma said yes. He knows in the long run retraining people only to have them leave is inefficient and costly. Commissioners are looking at ways to pay for police vehicles. Mr. Noma said everything the Sheriff produces funnels down to one office, and two guys. Commissioner Hover appreciated Mr. Noma coming in to ask for raises, but the Board's position is difficult as they have to look at the very bottom line. It is something the BOCC needs to discuss and look at but it won't be specific to one department like has been done in the past. Commissioner Branch acknowledged the turnover and the reasons. Commissioner DeTro commented on a proposed bill that dropped in the house to take the marijuana tax and give every county \$1 million for indigent defense services which would make a huge difference! He is encouraging Senators to drop the bill again. Unions should support it as well, as it would make such a difference to any criminal justice department in a distressed county. The county gets only about \$50,000 from marijuana operations which is up from the original \$13,000. The meeting came to an end as Commissioner DeTro left at about 11:15 a.m. for another engagement.

Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:35 a.m.

Commissioners reconvened at 1:30 pm absent Commissioner DeTro. Vice-Chair Commissioner Branch presiding.

Citizens Comment Period

George Thornton, TV District #1 commenting: Omak Mtn lease agreement between the Colville Confederated Tribes and the District for lease of the Omak Mountain site for television tower. The

agreement is being reviewed by the tribe as some changes were requested. Mr. Thornton believes it will be approved in December. The agreement is a 40-year agreement with an opt-out option for certain things. The dissolving of the district triggers the opt-out. There is a requirement that the tribe could say we pay the yearly assessment without an invoice, but that is a minor detail.

He said the contract looks like a boiler plate template. The contract is with the Tribe but it has to be submitted to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), as it will also need input from them. Mr. Thornton said one provision was to provide FNX the Native American TV channel. The goal of KSPS, once the contract is in place, is to take over the management and technicalities of the district with the TV Board reporting to the commissioners. Commissioners appreciated the work that Mr. Thornton has put in to ironing out the continuance of this service.

The district still needs to figure out the roll-over of the \$40 fee exemptions going into 2020.

Commissioners discussed inviting the Juvenile and Sheriff departments to discuss the Juvenile Administrator's idea for vehicle replacements. Commissioner Hover will send a message to both department heads to let them know to contact the Clerk of the Board to schedule the meeting.

Quarterly Update – Community Action – Lael Duncan

Ms. Duncan explained this meeting would be an accelerated version of her regular update due to another appointment. Ms. Duncan provided a press release regarding grants that serve homeless youth.

They projected reaching 9 nine units by December and have actually served 20 youth to date. The age of the group's youth includes is 18-24-year olds.

Housing Coalition will be meeting with the Board to go over the RFP responses and recommendation. The homeless housing plan amendments are done except for one requirement to utilize the tool the Commerce uses to determine gaps in equity in terms of services and compare with other like size counties. An analysis of our community action client bases of dispersion. The criteria is not specific to size or population. She did look at similar populations. The tool also requires other analysis. We can demonstrate we are not leaving any particular population out. She sent the cross walk and plan to the technical assistance provider and working to get that squared away.

Commissioner Hover asked about the RFP for homeless funds, what is the process on that. It has been a matter of sitting down with the coalition to provide overview and recommendation to the BOCC. Allowable uses, equitable process, red flags, positive aspects, and the funds available. She said Nance set up a matrix but it did not address uses and complicated things as it pertained to certain services. Looking at developing a more consistent matrix everyone can work from. It is recommended and she is happy to get that. There isn't much overlap between the service providers. The housing authority provides some emergency housing services as does OCCAC. She said it is a much more congenial meeting over last years.

Commissioner Hover would like to see the request responses rather than just the recommendation. Ms. Duncan said those were provided to the Clerk of the Board for forwarding to the BOCC. Commissioners asked that the Board be included in these types of emails to the Clerk of the board that way the info doesn't need to be forwarded.

Community Action is seeing a lot of people using the food bank in both the Omak and the Okanogan food banks. A few years ago during recession there was a line that went down the street. Processes have been changed in terms of how the food is distributed. Point system is used with the healthiest choices having the lowest points and sweets such as cakes and cookies have the highest points, so the system helps people make healthier choices.

Home and care program has received several applications for the loan. Hoping to participate in the apprenticeships to expand when the new building is done. Looking at the feasibility for applying the plan and having the funds to do so and be sustainable. Rep Maycumber is also providing level of support.

Still taking low income energy savings program applications for heating. Wood stove and furnace replacements are done when required. Weather does affect the workers when the work is outside.

Does the Board have questions on where OCCAC is going with its programs?

Commissioner Branch explained he's had some thoughts on succession planning for OCCAC that he will discuss with the committee of OCCAC early Thursday morning. He reflected on the lack of such planning for our own Planning Dept.

Discussion – Oroville Rural EMS – Wayne Walker

Dave Mullins, member of the public; Wayne Walker, Life Line; Jon Neal, Mayor of Oroville; Joann Denney, Oroville City Clerk; and an Oroville Council member

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

Mr. Walker thanked the board and City of Oroville for having this meeting. Mr. Walker provided a recap of the 2017/2018 Life Line shared resource model giving the City EMS and Oroville Rural EMS 76 hours of industry coverage. The service is still there, it is the hours of coverage that is different. It isn't a service level change. We are talking about hours of coverage. Commissioner Hover asked for clarification. In Oroville, how many people were on call at one time in Oroville. There was a three-platoon shift with two EMTs on 24/7. At any time, there are two people covering the district rotational schedule. Three on four off schedule and bumped through that way. At the time the agreement was put into place, all projects were based on the info of the time, so no one knew what minimum wage would do. None of us anticipated 46-47% wage increase over five years, so that was the only thing that was missed. Our Oroville payer group is different from another district Life Line serves. When the minimum wage came in Life Line had to change to four platoons to a 48-hour work week with two on six off. There is the historical catchup from around May June of 2018 he presented that minimum wage the payer mixes showed they were running in the red. Commissioner Hover asked about Tonasket. Tonasket is still covered by 8 people 24 hour per day. Why is Oroville different. Payer mix and call volume is different. Tonasket prior to this levy, it was at a higher rate at about \$0.38 per \$1,000. Tonasket has a higher assessed value to base the rate on. With the closing of the mine, Oroville's value went down. Proximity to hospital is also closer for Tonasket. Tonasket School District is the largest district in the state.

The projections worksheet of Life Line was reviewed and discussed. There is no county or city support and that still needs to be figured out. Pro-rated period for reserves etc... is information Life Line needs to know. Mr. Walker discussed projections that were based on known assumptions and expectations.

Cardiac monitor is at end of life, stretchers have life expectancy, but depending on how you look at it, anticipate in five years to replace a vehicle when it comes up next are not built in yet because of factor to look at in terms of shared model. Life Line is happy to provide whatever coverage time they can all agree on. The known costs going forward should be known. Commissioner Hover said Life Line is a large business, we are sectionalizing it into Tonasket, Oroville. Does he go from a line north or just calls contained in school district? Wayne said geographical locations are broken out separately. It can be co-mingled, or sectionalize it to one specific area. The data provided is just Oroville and does not include the county outside the school district's boundaries. There are areas not covered by the levy that Life Line is responding to. Is the data only from within the EMS district boundaries? Mr. Walker said there are sections in No Man's Land such as the NE section of the district where there are sparse

residents located, Life Line responds to. They fit the Oroville geographic area. Information provided by Life Line is of the whole response area as it is larger than the actual district boundaries. They are billed the same way. Mr. Walker explained the phenomenon that happens between Tonasket District and Omak District in the Crumbacher area. Some district lines are not hard and fast. The overlaps are minimum and not where our call density volumes occur. The anomalies happen geographically between districts. Life Line does their very best to understand how each geographical business is doing month to month. There are efficiencies Life Line is able to shift so there is coverage when one unit or another is in a far-reaching area, and Life Line is not charging Tonasket EMS for the time. Commissioners appreciate that level of service.

Looking at Tonasket and Oroville together, is there a geographical area to locate that would provide the most coverage to both areas. Mr. Walker said he has looked at this scenario before. His opinion is there is a more efficient way of serving both is by locating a station at Ellisforde. Aeneas Valley and a portion of northern Highway 20 would be most affected by the scenario. The majority of the call volume is along highway 97 corridor.

Commissioner Branch asked if a single station in Oroville coverage would be around the same as the Omak station. Mr. Walker described the coverage of the Omak station. Commissioner Branch asked Oroville what they think about annexation in order to provide efficiencies. If the service is the same and response times close to what they have been, then yes it makes sense. Mr. Mullins who had joined the table earlier as the discussion progressed and without introduction began to interject.

Commissioner Branch said agenda item today is intended for the contract provider and the commissioners which includes the Oroville EMS. He would like for Mr. Mullins to understand that. Commissioner Branch asked Mr. Mullins to sit with the audience. Mr. Mullins said he wants to sit at the table. Commissioner Branch said it isn't fair to the other public here if they have to sit in the audience and he gets to sit at the table, and he is presiding the meeting and Mr. Mullins is distracting from the meeting. Mr. Mullins refused so Commissioner Branch announced that if Mr. Mullins didn't take his appropriate place in the room that he would shut down the meeting. Mr. Mullins left and sat in the audience.

Can the resources be combined of the two districts in order to get more efficient responses and find a model that also works for the communities involved? Mr. Walker said in every service area there is always going to be the further out locations that just takes more time, it is a time over distance.

Commissioner Branch said sometimes systems need to be considered for change because the model no longer works for these days.

Commissioner Hover discussed operational efficiencies, shared coverage model, and putting in for a facility with reserves. Or does it look like something else where there is no reserves. LL intent is not make a lot of money. They don't know what kinds of unfunded mandates will happen, they have budgeted in a 5% wage increase but there are many unknowns. From a contractor standpoint they are taking a conservative approach, because it is much easier to provide more than to pull back. He doesn't want to get into a situation and just jump right into the original level of service.

40% are in the off hours and 60% happen during the coverage times. 76 hours of coverage in the Oroville area. Is there any way to shift the model to the more coverage side between the two models, and have it make sense, asked Commissioner Hover? Would it be a different spending strategy coming at that angle of a sliding scale so we can put some into reserves? Mr. Walker said in 2019 there was an average of 38 total calls per month 1.1 or 1.2 calls per day.

Mr. Walker said if we look at Tonasket and Oroville as one lump sum, there may be a way of coming up with more efficiencies. The current model seems to meet the efficiency needs. Commissioner Hover wondered if the same model could be done for Tonasket. Combine resources in a specific geographical area. Mr. Walker said he could draft a scenario that includes both. Mr. Walker hesitated,

he feels if we look at it like a whole then both districts in the foreseeable future could be viable under a shared model. In the Tonasket District, there are much older vehicles and at some point, something will need to be done with those vehicles. There are ways, if we are sharing resources and costs, then it comes down to Life Line's and use of one of their vehicles instead of purchasing one for \$250,000. Life Line currently does that now with their Omak and Wenatchee stations. Commissioner Branch discussed applying a strategy to address the shortfall. He sees real potential in the conversations today. He hopes to have the information by the end of November sometime.

The meeting was briefly interrupted for a Public Hearing on a budget supplemental appropriation.

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

Public Hearing–Budget Supplemental Appropriation–Non-Departmental \$39,000

Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing for public comment, seeing no one he closed the public hearing, and opened up to commissioner discussion.

Motion Resolution 138-2019 Supplemental Appropriation Current Expense

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution a supplemental appropriate within the current expense budget in the amount of \$39,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch said another date should be set to discuss further with the City of Oroville the situation of combining the districts. Mr. Walker will create the same kind of model for Tonasket then a combined model with shared coverage. Commissioner Branch discussed opportunity to allow citizen input and comments in a more organized fashion on these ideas. Mr. Walker asked if there was other information either the city or the county would like to look at? Commissioner Branch asked if the locations of the calls could be provided on a map of the county so we can see overlay of 2018 and 2019 calls to see the two years together and separately.

Commissioner Branch said another date to meet with city of Oroville about this would be in order. Mr. Walker will create the same kind of model for Tonasket then a combined model with shared coverage. Commissioner Branch discussed opportunity to allow citizen input and comments in a more organized fashion on these ideas. Mr. Walker asked if there was other information either the city or the county would like to look at? Commissioner Branch asked if the locations of the calls could be provided on a map of the county so we can see overlay of 2018 and 2019 calls to see the two years together and separately.

During the break between agenda items Mr. Mullins engaged in a rigorous debate with Commissioner Hover.

Motion Oroville Rural EMS District

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

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,860. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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

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 \$535,434.91 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,044,310.17. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including payroll in the amount of \$44,029.72 and regular vouchers in the amount of \$6,636.36. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Commissioner Proceedings, October 28 & 29, 2019

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 28 and 29, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Resolution 139-2019 Noxious Weed Levy

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 139-2019 the 2020

Update Human Resources Risk Management - Tanya Craig

All medical rates were received for 2020. It looks like non bargaining employees medical insurance is \$4.34 above the cap for employee coverage. The overall cost to the county will be \$5,024.64. Ms. Craig asked commissioners if the county would be picking up the difference. There are six people in the Sheriff's admin also affected.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct Ms. Craig to draft a resolution to increase the county's portion of the medical cap in the amount \$5.00 so employees don't have to pay more. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Craig updated the board on the application scoring matrix to be used on the Planning Director applications. The top four candidates would be interviewed after a work session to develop the oral board questions. Commissioner Hover relayed that it would be good for the Planning Commission to sit in on the interviews. All questions are pre-arranged and will be the same for all applicants. Ms. Craig said the interviews would be closed session due to employees possibly disclosing something that is not public like medical information. Commissioner Branch considered an alternative for Planning Commission involvement where the Planning Commission would submit their questions ahead of time. Ms. Craig suggested the Planning Commission chair or a representative to sit in on the interviews rather than the whole commission. It is fine with Ms. Craig as long as the process is a Fair and impartial interview. Commissioner Branch provided some questions for the interview. Ms. Craig will draft some questions for the board to review. Commissioner Hover asked if Commissioner Branch could come up with some good planning questions to add. Commissioner Branch discussed some scenario type questions to add to oral boards. HR removed the liability of the board by scoring the applications to find the top applicants to interview. Commissioner Branch agreed that this approach was objective and a good way to go.

Ms. Craig explained applications for the Event coordinator for fairgrounds have been received. She would like to use the same process for the Events Coordinator applications. Human Resources has revamped the questionnaire for that too.

Does the board want to combine the application score with the oral board scores, yes.

Motion CDBG Planning Only Grant Agreement with Dept. of Commerce

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the CDBG Planning Only Grant agreement with the Dept. of Commerce for the Housing Needs Assessment funding. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

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

1. Approve – OBHC – Therapeutic September Service Agreement \$35,960.87

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.