

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****OCTOBER 15, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on October 15, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Commissioner Andy Hover, was absent.

Member of the public George Thornton taking hand written notes.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Angela Hubbard, David Gecas, Shelley Keitzman

Attorney Gecas updated the board on legal matters. He presented an Interlocal agreement between City of Pateros and Okanogan County for Law Enforcement Services. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Interlocal Agreement Law Enforcement Services -Pateros

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Interlocal agreement between City of Pateros and Okanogan County for Law Enforcement Services. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Angela Hubbard provided a revised draft of the Grizzly Bear letter. (attached)

Commissioner DeTro said Fire District #10 has turned in another petition for annexation. This time around they are basing the signatures on RCW 52.04.031.

Shelley Keitzman updated the board on current job openings closing soon and discussed openings that have closed. The Planning Director position closed and application packets were disbursed to the commissioners for their review.

Ms. Keitzman stated the Public Health department is ordering its supply of flu shots and wondered if the county would pay for employees to get one. The historical cost has been around \$2000-2800.

Motion County Employee Flu Shots

Commissioner Branch moved to approve flu shots for employees through the public health department in the amount not to exceed \$2500. Motion was seconded all were in favor motion carried.

Continued Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation-Prosecutor

Arian Noma explained after review of his budget for additional budget and said there were a number of lines that are in the negative. He said he was told mostly likely the office supply line went over because the info

Motion Continued Public Hearing

Commissioner Branch moved to continue the public hearing until 11:30 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Finance Committee Meeting

Leah McCormack, Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost

Leah McCormack explained our payroll average is about \$1.6 per month. When we look at COH balances it is critical to also look at property taxes still coming in. All the expenses that occur at the end of the year that we don't normally have. The 2.2 million may look like a good amount but we must keep in mind the above.

Fund 122 Sewer and Water fund are we moving any money from that fund as it wasn't doing anything. It was created with current expense and so it was thought to go back to current expense. Josh Thomson had relayed a different place for the funds other than current expense. Ms. Hall said the money has to go back to the department that created it, but Current Expense normally put money where ever it needs to go. Commissioner Branch said if there was something sewer wise the funds could be spent on. Ms. Hall said the funds is being prepared with current expense in mind, but Engineer Thomson may have additional information to be considered. If the board does decide to do something it was suggested it be run by the State Auditor before finalizing the decision.

Treasurer McCormack went over funds that have large balances. The Treasurers investment folio was discussed. (attached)

Ms. Hall discussed the on-target revenues. Fairgrounds, Clerks, Building are all above revenue expected.

The revolving fund reconciliation still needs to be done and should be completed by November 1.

Treasurer McCormack looked at Interfund loan taken out three years ago, it was thought a last payment was all that was left, but looking at the numbers it is about \$39,000 more than what is budgeted. A budget supplemental request has been submitted. She owned the mistake as it was a number she missed before.

Because of that a supplemental request was submitted with suggested additional revenue received due to PUD Privilege tax and other lines that received more revenue that what was budgeted.

In a Presidential election year, taxes drop, and she doesn't expect it to lower more than 1.9% but it may fluctuate as it was around 2.61. No changes to her investments.

We need to look at our revenue after October property tax revenue is receipted. Auditor Hall reminded that there are a lot of unknowns such as overtime how those will hit at the end of the year and those numbers need to be known first in order to estimate ending fund balances.

The Fairgrounds Facility loan payment is \$13,154.35 but that is just 2019 December 1 payment. If the board pays it off early the total cost would be under \$38,000, but she doesn't recommend early payoff.

Commissioner Branch said the Road Levy Shift would be around \$150,000 for 2020, but a discussion about that is still needed.

Treasurer McCormack asked if the Liability insurance cost of \$513,000 would be split between Current Expense and public works and if so the budget in current expense would be reduced by the amount public works would pay.

Commissioner Hover arrived at 11:00 a.m.

Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson

Commissioner Hover explained some budget concerns and with the state auditor having us create a separate building department fund and funding it from Current Expense has a huge impact on current expense going into 2020.

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

Maintenance & Road Conditions

Commissioner Hover asked about road maintenance in the Methow. Engineer Thomson said those roads are in real bad shape and almost beyond repair. The central roads are doing alright but some are almost behind repair. Commissioner Hover explained some concerns he heard from constituents about differences or inconsistencies in the proposed gravel pit discussions and what was actually in the Conditional Use Permit. As a result more restrictions were requested to be added to the CUP when Commissioner Hover, Engineer Thomson, and Roadway Manager Gary George discussed with those concerned.

Commissioner DeTro said there are many active pits in use that no one knows about because they are quiet and crush for periods of time or crushing is located within the pit thereby reducing the noise. Commissioner Hover said there are two very close to a residential development and church.

Bridge Inspection

Almost half way into the half he needs to inspect this month.

A bridge was identified where piles are punching into the wood cap that is located on Park City Loop road. The pilings are sound, but the cap is not. The bridge is eligible, but we should probably have a structural engineer determine load limits.

Member of the public Stewart Pearl said, it seems like dirt roads produce too much dust and the dust seems to settle into the lakes like Wannacut Lake which reduces available fish. He wondered if something could be done to reduce the dust.

Area 3, 4,5 & 6 Convert Temp Positions to Permanent.

The pros and cons of the positions as they currently are were discussed last week. It is the Engineers recommendation to make the change and requested a resolution

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the county engineer to draft the resolution converting M2 temp positions to permanent and outline all conversions and include which remain temporary. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Public Works Building Window Replacement

Engineer Thomson said he has two quotes. First quote is to cut back the dry wall to fill larger windows. Second quote was to pull the old windows and fit new windows into the current slot which would be less expensive. Those are the two options. Commissioner Hover asked if companies were to now bid on the proposed. Engineer Thomson's said he needs clarification on the second bid. Windows with solar bronze was offered but commissioners do not recommend. The cold in the winter is the real problem, if anything get the U value rating higher. Engineer Thomson will

Commissioner Branch would like to review the differences between Capital Facilities versus Capital Improvement.

Continued Public hearing Supplemental Appropriation Prosecutor

Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost

Hall stated she reviewed the Prosecutor's budget to see if there were unused funds and there wasn't. She explained why. Commissioners were hoping to see the detail of the invoices creating a need for budget supplemental.

Motion Continued Public Hearing

Commissioner Hover moved to continue the public hearing to October 21 at 10:00 a.m. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Barkley & MVID Ditch Project

Has the board thought about putting funds away for ditch maintenance?

Similkameen Trail Maintenance/Budget

Commissioners discussed use of LTAC dollars on county owned trails. The county can submit an application for capital improvement costs.

Statler Bridge Replacement

Project is moving along as expected.

Upper Beaver Creek Road.

Some requests of the land owners were discussed. Not really discussing moving the road. We can apply for more than one FLAP funding with the appropriate match.

Discussion – WDFW Methow Land Acquisitions Collaboration – Jim Brown

Justin Haug

Jim Brown explained how the information on acquisition projects is arranged. He said the Methow Conservancy also wished to discuss the acquisitions and their role. Mr. Brown relayed these are high level projects. One application is a new parcel the county wishes to purchase in partnership for gravel pit and habitat. He discussed Our lands 20/20 transparency project to address concerns about land acquisitions. It was put together to create a process to provide more collaboration with the entity. Project by project basis now moving forward. The O&M concerns are consistent and management of weeds is an ongoing concern. They would check in with the county if projects become funded, then they reach out again through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) process.

Begins with WDFW finds property with habitat values criteria discovery of lands, identify possibility of priorities, form gets completed, including county outreach. Technical review passes, then negotiate with landowner and entering a purchase agreement, then seek funding from RCO or Fish and Wildlife Service.

There were three projects last year, and those have been on hold for acquisition process due to lack of real estate specialist. The problem has not just been WDFW there are other regions without a real estate specialist.

Still have a budget hole due to one-time funding and so have been having to ask on an off year, not sure if funding will be realized. The PILT carryover was only in this biennium. He doesn't want to see it go back. County wants to see full funding.

Miller Project is West of Methow and below Hunter Mountain. It is about 400 acres of the Claude Miller property which lies near the Town of Methow. There is a series of border fences that may need to be adjusted. Justin explained how the property lays out. The potential for public access in that area to use that chunk of public land is very beneficial. Conservation Values were discussed. It has great sage brush step, native bunch grass, has been grazed in rotation so is in good shape, valuable winter food forage for mule deer. Recreation Values were discussed. Available to hunting wildlife viewing, great views up and down the river, nice cover for game birds, and being next to town of Methow provides those residents with a larger public land area. Administrative values were discussed. Management would be determined based on funding and incorporate the same management goals Methow has. Provides county rock needs, saves significant dollars, potential challenge is maintenance of roads, opportunity for county to maintain the road for the benefit and was a significant benefit for the trust.

Mr. Brown commented this was not typically a first-tier request, but they are moving forward with this one. They understand a CUP is required for the county, but would entertain another conversation if that falls through. He would want to have a transparent conversation about it. Commissioner Hover stated he appreciates the WDFW partnership in this. Mr. Brown suggested best sequencing for the exchange is best, but it is up to RCO to allocate, legislature must fund, but despite that believes this is a really good partnership. Preliminary outreach with RCO was done and they think it is a good project too. The project that failed at Whistler Canyon was with Forest Service not WDFW.

Mr. Brown said with the real estate specialist being hired. Commissioner DeTro was surprised at how hard it is to fill a real estate specialist position. Sales are very high business is booming, so positions are hard to fill. Commissioner Branch asked whether WDFW consider partnering with DOT on land. Mr. Brown said not really, but they were signatory as government with Mule Deer Foundation for a fence.

Concerning the Nysether-Sullivan Inholding (Rendezvous & Big Valley Units), they are putting those together in one project proposal. Conservation values were discussed. Both parcels have imperiled intermountain basins sage brush steppe and all three lie in an important migration of mule deer going into the wilderness area. Relying on many collared animals the satellite data shows the route clearly from the valley to Pasayten.

Recreation Values were discussed. Adjacent to significant state and federal lands of the upper Methow Valley for hiking, wildlife watching, and hunting. Make boundaries clearer then people have a better understanding where the boundaries are. Administrative Values were discussed. Incorporated into the Methow Wildlife area. The local DFW staff has experience managing similar habitats and seem well suited to improve the ecological integrity of the site. There

Commissioner Hover said the land is very steep and rocky and it isn't like the purchase is taking away developable land. There are no standing structures. There is about 40 acres of timber that could be harvested or thinned. Commissioner Hover has always thought that corridor had fire potential. Mr. Brown explained there is a cost to harvesting with no mills here, and the great distance involved with delivering the timber. Commissioner Hover said there is also the heightened concern over water so there is a lot of thought going into whether it's a good deal.

Jason Paulsen, Methow Conservancy commented that it is one of the places they are all working together to make happen and use as emergency range in order to deviate from concerns over federal allotments, good grazing land is a resource and we need to have a plan. He feels there is a lot of community support. The trail system goes through it, good ag use, and seems to check all the county boxes. Would like to provide multiple use, but is a challenge due to staffing turnover. Having trouble hiring an assistant manager mostly due to wages and cost of living in Methow is so high. Commissioner DeTro explained how unfair it is to put staff on a post without full O&M funding.

Commissioner Hover would like to invite WDFW back to discuss deer, as it doesn't seem very good. It is an economic piece for the county and see if a discussion can be scheduled. Commissioner Branch said he didn't see one deer on the road driving back over SR 20 at night from the Methow when he usually sees them. Mr. Brown said he didn't have to fence his garden last year, but this year he did. Check station is down. Jason Paulsen said they actually have a program tomorrow at Twisp Grange 7-8 as DFW deer specialist will discuss specifically the population survey on the state mule deer populations.

The projects WDFW discussed last year are still in the works.

Citizens Comment Period

George Thornton said he has gotten many emails about the law suit filed against the county. He is

concerned about potential impacts to county budget. Commissioner Hover said from what he understands there was policy on how the county holds another agency's arrests. The state law has changed but prior to that change Okanogan County had already been working on making and adopting the necessary policy changes this year. The county is part of the Risk Pool so these types of cases are covered by Risk Pool.

2020 Budget Work Session – Sheriff's Office

Lisa Schreckengost, Cari Hall, Leah McCormack

Commissioners discussed the vehicle purchase requests to make sure understanding. Five cars per year would need to be purchased to keep up with rotation. He took out some of the vehicles requested. He wants to ensure he frames the discussion as we are starting out with nothing. One idea is to borrow the money from Solid Waste fund so we take five cars this year over three year pay back we'd have to budget for the payout with interest. He hoped interest could be calculated to include surplus of the vehicles after five years. Budget one vehicle per year and that would pay the loan for the five. Salvage value of the surplused vehicles would pay for the loan interest. Another idea of Commissioner Hover was using ER&R but we would budget for two per year in order to get ahead of it.

Leah said max of three years has always been what the SAO said, but she suggested reaching out to see if a loan could be extended to five years.

The group went down the 001.017 budget. Aaron Culp highlighted some needs and long-term planning requests to focus efforts. First priorities are based on safety, risk reduction, and risk management. A list of the priorities was provided. (attached) Critical need training, hostage negotiation skills, High need skill that increases our capability of dealing with special situations. Facility maintenance and capital improvements has been a dead horse in that those would need significant change and the facility not being designed for the current population. Commissioner Hover replied there needs to be an absolute level of trust when we go over the budgets. No shell games, no padding, and trust the commissioners with addressing the real needs. Aaron Culp explained disadvantages related to having not been through this before and said there is a level of trust and learning.

\$9400 per year for a five-year subscription for the Tasers and any other related expenses and the subscription ends up being a cost savings over time. Commissioner Hover asked if everyone has Taser's none of the new officers have been issued Tasers due to battery supply. Laura said the program subscription includes cartridges, replacement batteries, but slowly dwindling as issues happen because we cannot fix them anymore. Pepper spray is no longer recommended. Commissioner Hover said that line is one area the board may look at. It is not clear what happens if we pull out of the subscription in mid-year. If the county purchases the vehicles Commissioners would expect the repairs and maintenance costs to go way down. Mr. Culp said \$15000 cut would be alright but...

Mobile Radio replacement costs were discussed and whether replacement schedules for both vehicle and radios could be done at the same time since some of the outfitting costs happen when a new vehicle is purchased.

Stone Garden Grant does pay for vehicles and the Sheriff does ask, but they don't feel they should be funding the Sheriff's fleet so the ask is about every other year.

Fund 106 was discussed. It was thought task force was to use the fund, but there hasn't been any activities. It is unclear what the fund is used for. Mike Worden said it is confiscated funds and is very restricted. Forfeiture of funds goes into the fund. It will be looked into.

Commissioner Hover asked if the Range Costs could be expended more from fund 124 rather than current expense. Aaron said it appears over the years the costs have been split 50/50 between the funds. Commissioner DeTro explained liability in using lead shot and how this concern is coming up from California. It may be a moot point for us. Aaron explained an SOP is being drafted with Tanya Craig and David Gecas. Treasurer McCormack explained training lines are budgeted but not used and wondered if the training expenses come out of one area.

Fund 132 was discussed. Commissioner Hover discussed truing up the actual beginning fund balance. The Edward Byrne grant is billed monthly. The physical year is June to July. Commissioner Hover said Current Expense contribution is \$6300 and there is over \$650,000 unallocated fund that can only be used for specific things. He understands the detriment of not collecting the annual contributions from those members to the agreement. Josh said a conversation with the Task Force would be needed, he cannot bring it up as he is not a board member. Sheriff Hawley will bring it up. The point that we budget wise. Commissioner DeTro said people who are budget watchers will ask them what it is, and commissioners need to have a good answer. The voting public doesn't like to see a budget grow without any thing coming out of it. Josh said in 2017 and 2018 the fund appeared to take a loss due to no grant funds. Commissioners would rather see more realistic numbers of what will be spent, that way we can say specifically what the funds are being used for. When the fuel line anticipates \$25,000 of fuel purchase but historically only used \$1300, he would like to see more realistic numbers. Josh explained why there are several fuel line items in the budget and it depends on which agency is involved and if there are seizures.

2020 Budget Work Session – Jail

Tammi Denney, Undersheriff and Sheriff

The Jail preliminary budget was reviewed. Commissioner Hover was thankful for the notes in the margins. Electronic home monitoring was discussed. It was stated that the count is down. Friendship Diversion charges the county and the bill is based on a formula. It was originally set up to be awash, but from year one it hasn't. The consistency of the expenditures doesn't jive with the amount of population in the jail and depends of what the judge orders. Commissioner Hover looked at the invoice sample and noted why we are paying.

Commissioner Hover discussed Jail overtime costs. If this one-line item is not funded enough to get us through November and December and that is what usually holds everything up at the end of the year with payroll due to no having enough overtime funds for jail staff. We have been on a see saw battle in keeping full staff at the jail. It is always over \$200000. Commissioner Hover noted that staff is fully funded but without full staffing there could be unused wages that helps the bottom line when overtime goes over budget.

The jail will continue to collect food donations. There is not currently a vehicle to pull the trailer with when collecting the food. A cargo van was retrofitted to carry the items. Does the trailer need to be surplus. It is brand new. If we have a need to surplus fairgrounds trailers then us that trailer if they need to. Tammi noted that not as many donations can be collected if the trailer is not used. If we have a decent truck at the fairgrounds then might be an option. The thought was to surplus what we don't need and use the proceeds to purchase a used truck that can be used by either Fairgrounds or jail for food collections.

2020 Budget Work Session – Communications

Mike Worden

The Sheriff's communication budget was reviewed. There are expense lines budgeted in case the sales tax proposal passes. We must replace two Tunk and Coulee Dam. Lemananski and McClure was done this year. If the sales tax passes can we bill that fund for these expenses. Realistically he isn't going to process bills until June and that is when we would begin collecting funds. Treasurer McCormack explained her concerns about budgeting for something we don't know we will actually

have. Commissioner Hover said current expense will need to be reimbursed. Could the expense be paid by Capital Improvement funds then reimbursed within the same year with sales tax funds when they come in.

Commissioners discussed the Thurlow property lien that recently happened due to weeds on the property. The commissioners would like to share the cost with the agencies leasing the space. Everyone has a permit to be on FS property it is not one site serving everyone. FS got the easement for \$1, but with policy changes that could affect everyone. Initial purpose of the easement was for the TV district but since then that access lease has been used by many without any compensation to the Thurlows and vehicles appear to be spreading the weeds. The area is open stated Mr. Worden. In trying to find the middle ground FS has shown interest in collecting additional fees and would be the most appropriate vehicle and whether those funds can be used for weeds will need to come from the.

Approve Commissioner Proceedings, October 7 & 8, 2019

Commissioners needed additional time for review of the minutes and did not approve.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-9, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Re-Appointment Letter — Solid Waste Advisory Committee - Stephen Clark
2. Re-Appointment Letter-Solid Waste Advisory Committee-Wayne Turner
3. Approve – CDBG Public Services Grant Request #3 – September -2019
4. Approve – Notification Letter - Naming WA Military Dept as Okanogan Dispatch Center's 911 to NG911 Transitioning Agent
5. Approve – Cattleguard Renewals – Albert Wilson, M.P.7.601 on OCR #390, McLaughlin Canyon Rd CGR #27-74 and Lewis & Darla Bedard, M.P. 0.608 on OCR #3945, Talkire Lake Rd CGF #76-73
6. Approve – Consultant Agreement – CRP-9221-04 Statler Bridge Replacement Project Materials testing - North Central Testing & Inspection, LLC
7. Resolution 131-2019 – Okanogan County Public & Community Economic Development Projects Prioritizations
8. Resolution 134-2019 Cancellation of unclaimed Warrant
9. Resolution 135-2019 Decrease FTE Collections Coordinator Position

Motion Grizzly Bear Comment Letter

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the comment letter regarding grizzly bear. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 5:10 p.m.