

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****OCTOBER 29, 2019**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on October 29, 2019, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Member, Commissioner Andy Hover absent for personal business.

George Thornton, member of the public taking hand written notes for Okanogan Watch Group.

Mr. Thornton asked if the Planning Commission could weigh in on the BOCC's top choices for Planning Director prior to BOCC offering the position of employment. Commissioners DeTro and Branch were alright with that.

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge was recited.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Angela Hubbard, Joe Poulin and David Gecas were present.

Ms. Hubbard provided to the board the draft Planning Commission's Comprehensive Plan Re-Organization ideas, goal and policy for Wildfire section and a draft vision statement for review. (attached)

Mr. Poulin explained inspections will occur this Thursday and Friday so alarms will go off. He will email a notice to let affected people know. Commissioner DeTro explained the pop machine did not give him change. Mr. Poulin will give the vendor a call. Commissioner Branch discussed the Admin public door and suggested the door be replaced with one that does not require a key to get out.

Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) David Gecas

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 9:10 a.m. for 30 minutes inviting David Gecas to discuss potential litigation with legal counsel representing the agency. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Amended Motion Executive Session

Before going into executive session Commissioner Branch moved to amend his previous motion to also invite Tanya Craig, Risk Manager, Aaron Culp, Undersheriff, Chuck Boyd, Risk Pool, Quinn Plant, outside counsel, and David Gecas, County's Civil Prosecutor to the meeting." Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:40 for another 15 minutes.

Executive session ended at 9:55 a.m. no decisions were made.

Update Human Resources Risk Management-Tanya Craig

Ms. Craig provided her update. To help out with the selection for Planning Director she created an application/resume evaluation form. Interviews would come into play at a later time once the top three or four applicants are identified through the evaluation process. Commissioner Branch said he'd like to interview the top four applicants. Commissioner DeTro said either three or four. The evaluation sheet would be completed by her and Ms. Keitzman will tally the scores and the top four applications would

move forward to interview by the Board. Her suggestion was to take the application score and the average scores from the oral board interviews to establish the top candidates. Commissioner DeTro said it looked good to him.

Commissioner Branch said the evaluation form is complete and he liked the criteria. He would like to include all applications received so far in the evaluation.

Motion Public Works Window Replacement Purchase Award

Commissioner Branch moved to accept the quote of D&R Glass in the amount of \$6,881.11 for Public Works window replacement project. It is noted that Discount Glass also provided a quote for the project but their quote was determined to be nonresponsive due to not submitting a quote as specified to change their inferior installation method to a more conventional method. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Resolution 137-2019 Omak Riverside Eastside Road

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 137-2019 adopting and approving the project plans, specifications, and provisions for CRP No.3735-06 Omak Riverside Eastside Road overlay improvement project. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update Assessor's Office-Assessor Larry Gilman, Deputy Jan Million

Drafting supervisor is retiring. Mr. Gilman would like to see some changes to reclassify that position to have two cad drafters with no drafting supervisor. They don't draw in the aerals anymore, now one person does it in the computer. They do still need two people to keep up with the work load due to having to process parcel creations, many boundary line adjustments, and many lot segregations not to mention Okanogan County produces more parcels than most other counties, and he would rather have the supervisory position as equal cad drafters. He continues to work on those proposals for the union. We have 53,000 parcels compared to other counties with similar populations at 36,000 parcels.

Update – Public Works – Engineer Josh Thomson

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

Maintenance and Road Conditions

Favorable weather for grading and preparing ditches. There were quite a few trees down due to the wind storm yesterday so that clean-up is happening too.

The 5-yard public works dump truck that was surplussed for maintenance was discussed. The Clerk of the Board thought we should budget for January 1 to start payments and there is no budget this year for it. The Board previously considered a payment schedule for \$200 per month for three years with a \$2800 pay out after. The fairgrounds would sell the surplussed old dump truck at a spring surplus sale which would pay down the cost.

Steam Treatment Verification Test Today

Engineer Thomson updated the board on the testing today.

Annual Construction Program

Barkley & MVID Ditch Project

The boundary line adjustment appears to be moving ahead and sounding promising.

Public Works Building Window Replacement

The board approved the purchase approval for the windows earlier today.

The board approved the specs for this project earlier today.

Tonasket Shop Property

Commissioner Branch said he spoke to someone about the Tonasket shop property. They are looking at installing a side walk. It comes down to priorities and how those weigh against how well the shop property works for us. There is a balance to be kept. Commissioner Branch said the area the plan would serve most is the public. Commissioner Branch had suggested to the City of Tonasket Planner to reach out to other land owners where the benefit is greater than the county's to secure the property area. He thought it would be good to discuss with Tonasket City council member Teagan Christa Levine.

Bridge Inspections

Finished the field work still need to complete paper work. There are some that may need load restrictions. Smaller bridges with new federal requirements were discussed. We are seeing some cracking on the ones with load restrictions already. The bridge on Keystone road is a concern as there is a lot of fruit being hauled out.

Statler Bridge Replacement

Moving along well, no concerns.

Salmon Creek Road @ Cowans

They are not telling us yes and they are not telling us no. Commissioner DeTro explained some concerns he heard of about whether the creek would be rip wrapped, yes that was the plan, said Engineer Thomson. The other concern was that the road isn't going where the stakes are, no, said Engineer Thomson. Commissioner DeTro will connect with the citizen to clear those concerns up.

Are we working with Army Corp and Forest Service, no HPA right now but it is planned.

Similkameen Trail Maintenance / Budget

An estimate was provided on the cost for trail maintenance. Commissioner Branch said he was contacted about the crane going across the bridge? Engineer Thomson provided the bridge designs on the bridge loads to the mover. The rails were thought to be removable by previous Planning Director Huston, but Engineer Thomson said it may be difficult. He will verify.

The rock function was discussed. Does it need to be addressed to prevent people from driving down, asked Commissioner DeTro. Engineer Thomson said the rock could actually be moved down to prevent people from driving down the trail.

Citizens Comment Period

Commissioner DeTro asked Mr. Thornton if he had a citizen's comment.

George Thornton reminded the BOCC about the Planning Commission wanting to review the top Planning Director Applications and resumes for input.

Public Meeting Discussion & Consideration-2020 Title III Proposals

Commissioner DeTro opened up the public meeting.

Rick Balam Okanogan County Search and Rescue (SAR) Coordinator and Maurice Goodall, Okanogan County Emergency Services Manager. Mr. Balam was asked to submit a SAR proposal for Title III funds in order to provide 35 volunteers with ongoing required training. The proposal asks for a truck, equip truck with proper gear, and a portable generator. SAR wish to operate under the rules and they cannot right now do to old equipment. He became involved this year with SAR and would like to see a more viable ensemble by providing the necessary training and equipment. They are lacking cliff and bluff work equipment. Mr. Balam described why he is requesting a vehicle. The old truck which is huge and very long would be put into second position. Title III would pay to equip a new truck with aircraft radios, which they do not have, emergency equipment would be purchased from state bid, and

the inclusive price includes everything needed. He is also looking at purchasing night vision as he has seen many rescues going into the night. All volunteers must be certified which reduces the liability of the work they do. Training would include ways to better create a volunteer group that is consistently reliable and doesn't create a liability to anyone. The Canine group is the most active in training and training is a daily process and they are certified and doing well there.

Mr. Goodall said the old SAR pickup is hard to operate in the woods because it is too long plus it has mechanical issues. Many volunteers use their own equipment, because the county doesn't have the right equipment that is certified, appropriate and stored properly. All equipment is monitored after every training and mission, but volunteers are buying their own plus paying for their training at \$700 per person.

SAR work in conjunction with Aero Methow and others on a call. Mr. Balam explained that a Sheriff's deputy is usually the only personnel using the boat. The new truck would allow the boat to be towed properly. Right now the old truck has over 250,000 miles on it. The new pick-up would go to fleet to get a reduced price. It would be a crew cab with a short box. The clerk of the board reminded that the use of the equipment would need to occur on federal forest land. Mr. Balam said each mission has its own mission number and can be tracked. Mr. Balam said he is on call 24/7 just like a police chief.

Mindy Untalan Conservation District explained the District's proposal. The District would like to request another year of funding for the fire wise program and included funds to do cost share on certain fire wise projects in the budget. The District would also like to do another eight to include a rebate process for 75 risk assessments, and create one fire wise community. There are remaining funds from the 2018 contract amendment that Ms. Untalan thought would be spent down before the end of the year. The 2019 agreement may need to be amended in order to use what remains of the 2019 allocation in 2020. There is a wait list for the cost share program because there is such interest. Commissioner Branch asked how the cost share program works. Ms. Untalan replied that homeowners' costs and time are reimbursed for a 50/50 share of the expense of clearing and preparing the property and only after OCD assesses the work product. The majority of the cost sharing is focused in the Methow French Creek area and a few in Okanogan, but mostly Methow though because of their strong sense of community.

The county's initiation of a Title III project must be documented. A project may be considered to be initiated at a point in time before the county publishes its intention to use the funds for an authorized project in a publication of local record as required in section 302(b). The county should document its initiation of title III project in the meeting minutes of its county governing body which reflects the county's agreement to use the funds for authorized uses in title III.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Untalan and Mr. Balam for their time. The Clerk of the Board relayed that she would let both applicants know if they are allocated funds or not.

Mr. Thornton commented that he was on Wilcox Mt. during a rescue and it took SAR about 8 hours to get to a rescue site. He said SAR was busy in the Methow at the time and had to finish up there before coming over here to Wilcox Mt. There really isn't any protocol established for searches in other areas of the county so to him that appeared to affect the situation and timing. He would like to see proper training and the establishment of a network to include the reservation and Tonasket Ranger District. Commissioner DeTro said he used to do rescues while smoke jumping because they could get into the area faster.

Approve Commissioner Proceedings, October 14, 21 & 22, 2019

Commissioner Branch moved to approve Commissioners' Proceedings of October 14, 21 & 22, 2019. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda 1-3, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Ratify Supplemental Grizzly Bear Comments
2. Purchase Approval-Materials and Road Signs Purchase-Newman Signs Inc.
3. Cattle Guard Franchise Renewals Diamond Bell Ranch CGF#7-89

Discussion-Whistler Canyon Trail Kiosk-Kristin Ackerman Pacific NW Trail Assoc.

Ted Murray

Ms. Ackerman provided a letter from the Pacific Northwest Trail Association regarding a proposal to install a PNT-Oroville trail town kiosk at Whistler Canyon Trail. (attached) Also handed out was the Trailhead Kiosk Planning Documents. The kiosk would include education about the trail, and would have a segment that helps them connect to the town and would also provide some historical content. They asked the community members where they would like to see the kiosk and they made suggestions. They seemed to think Whistler Canyon Trail would be a great place to start building a trail town. There may be other future locations in town with kiosks located at key spots. This Whistler Canyon trail kiosk would be used to build off of.

The kiosk design details are still being worked out such as whether there would be paper information sheets behind a Lexar or whether a higher end type of kiosk material made of poly material. Commissioner Branch asked if public transportation information would be included, but community members thought the transportation scheduled too often and will only provide the telephone number for the visitor to figure out.

PNT continues to grow and they are committed to maintaining a local presence and will maintain the signs. Product development, are there plans in the future, potentially going to LTAC funds such as the town's fund or the county's fund to help maintain the trail. Commissioner Branch said there was suggestion previously by Commissioner Hover that LTAC funds be used.

Two points Elis Barnes property and not willing to entertain, then there is the Dagnon's property with a solution to route up and around the spit. Relationship improvement would be necessary, said Ms. Ackerman. The PNT is trying to find good projects to get behind. There is a lot of potential for developing a community Rail Trail loop. National Trail Grant helps communities connect people to the outdoor industries. The reduced matched on RCO grants for communities in need that would require 25% for Okanogan County and 10% for Oroville, communities could collaborate together on a plan in order to apply for the money. A vault toilet might be something an RCO grant could help pay for and maybe the city of Oroville would sponsor or Borderlands Society. Location of the kiosk was discussed with the southern location making the most sense of those discussed.

Commissioners asked that Ms. Ackerman maintain the conversation and send any additional information to the Clerk of the Board for relay to the board.

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.