

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****DECEMBER 22, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 22, 2020, with; Chairman Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover; and Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

**Commissioners Staff Meeting**

Maurice Goodall, Naomie Peasley

Maurice Goodall updated the board on fire funds applied. The next phase will look at how much Okanogan County is allotted because we had 3.5 FMAGS and we get to submit for that in addition the cities also apply for it. We must qualify. He isn't sure if Mike Worden is also submitting for a portion. Commissioner Hover said if they want to, he'd prefer fire districts apply instead of the county for things they need.

Department of Ag declared Okanogan Douglas and Lincoln counties as disaster areas. It opened up different loan programs for agriculture.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan summary was provided. He cannot find where we are mandated to have a CWPP. Talking with experts DNR and others he is not finding the mandate, not that we shouldn't have one but just cannot find the requirement. It is a community plan and push towards the communities to have their plan. It is different in each area and fire is responded to differently in each of the different areas. Commissioner Branch stated this relates to the comprehensive plan deliverables as a result of litigation. There are a number of ways to protect the community and willingness of the people in any particular place or cooperative effort among the community. Mr. Goodall replied that the plan would help get people involved, but really reaches out to guide them. Fire wise communities is an acknowledgement process, and not mandated. Director Palmer said it is important to focus on each community in the drafting of the plan and can be used as an education. If they are involved it will be their plan and include practices that community will be able to follow.

Naomie Peasley discussed the goals of the Fairgrounds to increase revenue by providing events coordination to utilize the fairgrounds spaces. Promotion of the grounds will be integral. Outdoor events will better meet COVID restrictions. Using social media and creating a QR code for the fairgrounds that will bring people right to the fairground's website or specific information. Utilizing the technology to bring in a whole other group of people. Capital Improvement Department of Agriculture grants were discussed and ideas for use towards the most important improvements the board wants to see. A list of projects was provided. Working with the Tribe as well for funding some of the upgrades so those would not be included in any grant funded projects. Partnering with Saratoga, NY Fairgrounds to work together to help with ideas for fund raising to pay for our new grandstands. The Commercial Building has lots of problems with leaking roof and flooding that created slick spots and ruined some of the Christmas baskets. RV park bathrooms, roofing on all buildings, and irrigation are the three major project upgrade priorities.

Fair committee meets in a couple weeks. The BOCC needs to decide on the price for use of the fairgrounds for the 2021 fair. Their budget was approved for the same amount for 2021. The Chairman will be consulted for a meeting with the BOCC on the fee.

**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 \$652,898.71. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

#### **Motion Public Health Voucher**

Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$129,380.06 and use tax in the amount of \$3,608.33. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Motion Resolution 184-2020 Reclassifying Pest Control Agent**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 184-2020 reclassifying the Pest Control Agent position within the County's Non-Bargaining Pay Classification Plan at Grade 16. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Motion Resolution 185-2020 Noxious Weed Control Levy 2021**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 185-2020 to set the Noxious Weed Control levy for 2021 at \$9.74 per parcel plus one cent per acre for classified lands and all other "unclassified" lands at \$0.22 cents per acre. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Motion Resolution 186-2020 Okanogan Agricultural Pest District Assessment 2021**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 186-2020 setting the Agricultural Pest District Assessment at \$2.25 per commercial orchard acre for collection in the year 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **CANCELLED Update Human Resources/Risk Management Tanya Craig**

#### **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation Sheriff**

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff, seeing no public who wished to comment, he closed the hearing to public and opened up to commissioners' discussion.

Commissioner Hover read the resolution.

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution a budget supplemental appropriation within the Sheriff's Special funds for Traffic Safety grant in the amount of \$1,970. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

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

#### **Public Comment Period**

Isabelle Spohn

Ms. Spohn commented on the planning update thinking that the comp plan would come back to the planning commission once commerce is done with it. It gets distributed to other agencies for comment by commerce. She asked when the Planning Commission would continue working on it. Commissioner Branch thought that information would be best coming from the Planning office.

#### **Motion CERB GRANT Requests #4 & Request #5**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the CERB Grant and Grant match for Request #4 and Request #5. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Motion Amend Resolution 173-2020 Budget Supplemental CARES ACT Funds**

Commissioner Branch moved to amend resolution 173-2020 to replace the previous attachment A with the 12/22/2020 amended version. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Approve Commissioners Proceedings December 14 & 15, 2020**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 14 and December 15, 2020. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

**Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-4 as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Agreement Union Contract- ASFME -Prosecutor's Office & District Court
2. Cattle Guard Renewals- CCT #N-39; WDFW #N-152A; WDFW #5-95; and WDFW #N152B
3. Addendum to Contract for Legal Services-McDougall Law, PLLC-Okanogan County
4. Resolution 177-2020 Reclassifying Events Coordinator Position

The Clerk of the Board reminded the board to discuss with the Events Coordinator the resolution that changes the work week of the position and takes it out of the exempt employee status.

Commissioners thought the resolution could be provided and the board would discuss it next week during staff.

**Motion Resolution 187-2020 Road Levy Shift**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution regarding the 2021 Road Levy Shift in the amount of \$300,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

**Department Head Quarterly Meeting**

Present: Leah McCormack, Pam Johnson, Tony Hawley

Commissioners thought each department could give a year end summary of their department.

Leah McCormack explained with online shopping sales taxes are up. Property tax receipts were not affected either. Excise taxes are up on real estate sales. They've processing around 25-30 per day from a few years ago of only about 5 per day. Treasurer looks forward to a better year than what we've had this year.

Larry Gillman explained he is tracking the excise tax with 2007 being the highest to day and we shattered it this year. The sales of real estate have not been negatively affected by COVID. People are relocating and real estate is in a bidding war situation with not enough housing to go around. It has been a hard year to meet deadlines this year but not missing them.

Sheriff Tony Hawley provided a summary of his department Helped 9 families and 21 kids with shop with cop last week. It was a fun thing this year. Several donations were received from the community to help with the effort. Body scanner for the jail arrived today so training will ensue the tool is utilized appropriately. Still an issue with COVID in the jail with both staff and inmates. Staff are being trained on the body worn cameras as well which will help keep the COVID contact down.

Karen Beatty provided a summary of the Central Services department. She explained some good equipment they received for \$1 and an upgrade of the switches that was needed.

Maurice Goodall thanked all the departments who reached out to help during the fires and COVID. He has moved the offices to the much larger corner office from the center office. It has been a joy to be able to work with everyone in such a positive manner.

Commissioners discussed the digitization of the planning files that are stored in the area Emergency Management moved into.

The Assessor has a lot of information not yet digitized. They do not want to lose it as it includes 100's of years' worth. He would be interested in storage and scanning that (Northwest Vital Records) DBA

Access providers in Spokane. He said if stored at State Archives they take all the information and you cannot get the files back.

Treasurer McCormack thanked departments for not being super territorial with their departments and for the cooperation between them to work as a team. We all need to work together to get it done. Commissioner Branch thanked Commissioner Hover for his involvement gathering the needed information for the various budget decisions.

Kayla Wells Moses provided a WSU update. Will continue to work remotely. Provided one of the first Wi-Fi hot spots in the state. 8-new master gardeners certified after not having any for several years. Worked on the Capstone project to develop a needs assessment on what the draws are to Okanogan County and remain employed here. Developing info graphic to present to the commissioners on the findings. Finished success 9-week work shop and 42 participated with most Okanogan County residents. Commissioner Branch asked what the average age is of the master gardeners. Kayla said half of the new group were not retirement age.

Judge Short gave a brief update on District Court. Administration of the Courts for CARES Funds to expand options for people who do not have internet or devices to access the internet. Coordinating with agencies around the county to provide this. Most courts are online except jury. There is an online system that some larger counties are using for victims of domestic violence to use for those who cannot travel to Okanogan County for this. Petitions can be filed online. Hoping the Administrative Office of the courts approves those funds.

Working a monthly meeting regarding domestic violence and stalking that includes prosecutors, health organization, treatment providers and court staff for court innovation. It doesn't cost the county any money.

Auditor Cari Hall provided a summary of the very intense work of the general election. Sheriff's office provided security for which she was very grateful. Huge number of documents being recorded. Property sales have not slowed down due to COVID in Okanogan County.

Mike Worden explained one on tract to get a generator for the whole courthouse it is ordered pending the electrical bid. It will improve the durability of IT and computer phone systems among other things. Brand new item is a way to make our internet connectivity more robust and will see how to integrate into our system. We issued an RFP for radio network and evaluated those bids. A recommendation will be brought to the board for final approval to move the projects along.

Commissioner Hover explained the work on the updated Capital Improvement plan to insure all departmental projects are included. He will send a draft out to departments for review and additional input so it can be adopted. He thanked everyone for their continued work during this difficult year.

Commissioner DeTro thanked everyone for their work on the budget to be able to adopt it before December 31.

Commissioner Branch thanked everyone in pulling together to be as safe as we can to get through the pandemic. He is hopeful inoculations will become available soon especially for those working with the diseased. Sheriff Hawley explained his staff as first responders is qualified for the inoculations.

The board adjourned at 2:45 p.m.