

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

DECEMBER 29, 2020

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on December 29, 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

Naomie Peasley, Maurice Goodall, David Gecas

Naomie Peasley provided the Fairgrounds update. Fair Advisory Committee Chairman Mike Egerton asked if there was a proposed increase for 2021 Fair rental fee, if not, he is fine with the current charge. Commissioner Hover stated the fee cannot be eliminated because the Fair is an event and events pay to lease the grounds. The Fair is a separate fund outside of county current expense fund. Commissioner Branch stated it is a planned revenue but that doesn't cover the annual cost of the facilities and grounds upkeep. Mr. Egerton said the costs of outhouses and security is hard to budget for those due to contract negotiations that happen after the budget is set. Commissioner Branch stated the Fairgrounds is an event center and the Fair is one of the biggest events held there.

Ms. Peasley relayed the idea to the County Auditor and Deputy Prosecutor regarding her providing event coordination and creating a nonprofit to handle the fair auction software. Auditor Hall said she did not have a problem with the nonprofit for the animal auctions as long as we don't take the money in and pass through the county as it isn't ours.

Contracts for events scheduled in 2020 are to roll over into 2021 but rental rates have changed for 2021. Commissioners discussed whether those businesses are charged the difference between 2020 and 2021 rates or grandfather the previously contracted rate since the events they paid to advertise did not happen due to COVID-19. It would depend on the language in the signed contract as to whether they terminated or not. Ms. Peasley has additional proposed fees to be added to the Fairgrounds fee schedule. David Gecas explained why the county would consider charging for 2021, and to follow the agreement and if not in the agreement then we provide a justification for a significant waiver. Commissioners thought COVID was out of anyone's control and their decision also affects how county business is perceived. Commissioners feel it is justified to waiver. The county was unable to perform its part of the contract, said David Gecas.

Ms. Peasley explained her wish to apply for a grant to upgrade the RV park bathrooms to add showers and new bathroom stalls. A list of prioritized projects would be Irrigation system, RV park Showers & Bathrooms, and gutters.

Maurice Goodall provided his staff update on a CenturyLink phone outage that happened over a 10-day period in the Oroville area. A T1 line went out. Hazmat Mitigation was discussed to include Loomis area. Loomis is not part of the county's plan. A Loomis Water User Association had originally applied and that will need to be sorted out before moving forward to include Loomis.

Federal funds have not yet been received, we are at the mercy of the Federal Government.

The Clerk of the Board discussed the Pest and Disease Control Board information she found that showed Okanogan County created its Pest and Disease Control Board on September 8, 1969 where the BOCC moved to adopt provisions in Chapter 113 laws of 1969 which called for the creation of the

Board therein. (later RCW 15.09) The Clerk also discussed Ordinance 95-1 which created an Agriculture Pest District under RCW 17.12 in order to control starlings. The Clerk discussed the Chelan-Douglas County arrangement where they have a Pest and Disease Control Board with members from both counties and share a pest control agent, Will Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter is scheduled to discuss that arrangement with Okanogan next week.

CANCELLED Update Human Resources/Risk Management Tanya Craig

Employee Evaluation Pete Palmer RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:30 a.m. for 15 minutes inviting Stephanie Palmer to review the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive Session ended at 10:45 a.m. no decisions were made.

Update Public Works-Josh Thomson

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

Maintenance & Road Conditions

Engineer Thomson stated road crews are reacting to the snow. Reminding crews to limit contact with people under 15 minutes to keep crews safe from COVID.

Evans Rod/Irrigation District ROW

Engineer Thomson received an email from Chris Johnson explaining a Gap at Evans Road that needs to be sorted out to secure a Barkley pipe easement. Chris Johnson, has been working on the situation for a year. Engineer Thomson suggested a quiet title for the county to own as there doesn't appear to be an owner right now. The email included an explanation of the situation, several maps showing the alignment survey and land use boundaries and there was an old original deed between Meredith and Intercity Airport association. (attached) State Aviation agrees there is a gap and Forest Service agrees there is a gap. Does the Board wish to pursue this further? Commissioner Hover and Branch said yes but requested several questions be answered first, such as, who has been paying taxes on the property and discuss with neighboring property owners to see if any know of the gap.

Engineer Thomson requested an executive session regarding the evaluation of a public employee.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 11:25 a.m. for 5 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee inviting Josh Thomson. Motion was seconded all were in favor motion carried.

Executive session ended at 11:30 a.m.

Because of the pay increase of the ER&R manager Engineer Thomson requested the Road Way Manager be reclassified. The position is nonunion the request was reviewed by Tanya Craig, HR Director.

Motion Resolution 190-2020 Reclassifying the Public Works Road Way Manager

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 190-2020 reclassifying the Road Way Manager from grade 34 step 5 to grade 37 step 5. Public Works budget reflects the change. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Employee Evaluation -Josh Thomson RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 11:35 a.m. for 15 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee inviting Josh Thomson. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,

motion carried.

Executive session ended at 11:45 a.m. no decisions were made.

Public Comment Period

Isabell Spohn

Ms. Spohn commented on the sound being too loud and then too soft. She asked about the comp plan alternatives and who would be involved with selecting those. Commissioner Branch replied Director Pete Palmer would update the board on the status once she returns from holiday time off.

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 \$1,108,766.30 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$238,120.89. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$62,261.50 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$52,842.67. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion – Retro Payroll 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 Retro Payroll voucher in the amount of \$130,658.63. Motion seconded and carried.

Employee Evaluation -Tanya Craig RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 2:05 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Tanya Craig to discuss the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 2:20 p.m. no decisions were made.

The Clerk of the Board provided two letters from the Assessor's office regarding an error in the calculation of the State Utilities portion of the 2020 levy process that affected Tonasket EMS District with an over levy (\$1,305.67) and County Roads in an under levy (\$608.83). The letter stated the correction can be made in just one year on the 2021 Levy collection or within a 3-year period. It was recommended to the Assessor's office to be corrected in one year on the 2021 Levy collection not within the 3-year period.

Employee Evaluation -Karen Beatty RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 2:30 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Karen Beatty to discuss the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 2:45 p.m. no decisions were made.

Commissioners discussed the 2020 contract used for business advertising on the fairgrounds by businesses that was discussed earlier today.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings December 21 & 22, 2020

Commissioner Hover moved to approve December 21 and December 22, 2020 commissioners' proceedings. 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 Amendment #1 -2021-2022 Law Enforcement Services City of Okanogan
2. Agreement Amendment #1 CERB Consulting Services ACRS
3. Resolution 188-2020 Homeless Housing Funds Oroville Homeless Shelter Sewer Project
4. Interagency Contract-Prison Commitments -Department of Corrections

Employee Evaluation -Naomie Peasley RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 3:00 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Naomie Peasley to discuss the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended ended at 3:15 p.m. for another five minutes. Executive session ended at 3:30 p.m. no decisions were made

Employee Evaluation -Maurice Goodall RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Commissioner Branch moved to go into executive session at 3:30 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Maurice Goodall to discuss the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended five minutes to 3:50 p.m. executive session was extended another five minutes to 3:55 p.m. Executive session ended at 3:55 p.m. no decisions were made.

Discussion-Prosecutor New Hire Request-Arian Noma

District Court prosecutor position and candidate being considered to fill, but due to the pay scale, the candidate is asking for more. The expense of \$1200 to add his family to health plan is too high. Mr. Noma stated this candidate is fresh out of law school who was practicing law under the direct supervision of another attorney. He has not done a jury trial, but has prepped for them. Mr. Noma said the candidate provided an interesting skill set is that he was council president and member of city council 2011-2017 prior to law school. He knows how to deal with people and would be good for the office. The ask was \$300 above step 5 of the current pay scale. There are other attorneys with more experience that are currently at step one. He would be moving from Utah. He is one of the only persons to apply for the position.

Commissioner Hover doesn't mind hiring people at a higher step but it is concerning when others are still at step one that have more experience. He is just out of law school and so it is hard to justify. Commissioner Branch stated the Board can work with the situation. He is concerned that Mr. Noma resignation is affective January 15 and appointee to the Prosecutor position may have a different opinion. He doesn't have a problem just a concern. Commissioner DeTro asked, if hired, would he accept step 4. Mr. Noma was not sure, but he is willing to talk to him. Step 4 would be \$5051. Commissioner Hover said hiring between step 1-4 is normal. Commissioner Branch asked if there was enough professional support to have a starter attorney learn his way through the prosecuting position. Mr. Noma said he needs more support in the office but he has hired three to four people in his tenure and was able to guide them through the process. If the position was advertised with the salary range stated does he think he would have gotten more applicants? Mr. Noma stated he did not think it would have made a difference because there were so few who actually applied. Commissioner Hover said he would rather have all the positions filled.

Motion District Court Prosecutor Position Allowed to Hire at Higher at Step

Commissioner Branch moved to provide for the offer at step four, motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner DeTro congratulated Commissioners as they will be sworn in at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

The board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.