

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****MAY 12, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on MAY 12, 2020, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Commissioner Hover was absent for most meetings due to attending PERC meetings.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

David Gecas, Pete Palmer, Joe Poulin

David Gecas provided a brief update on the work he is involved with such as public records requests and other legal matters. He requested executive session with the board to update the board on legal matters.

Planning Director Pete Palmer stated the well checking grant was extended as requested. Nightly rentals are calling her about when the county will lift the restrictions. She is telling people we are all under the governor's stay home order and that is what is restricting Overnight transient accommodations. Other questions she has taken are regarding events people wish to have without any OTA's for them to stay.

Joe Poulin updated the board on estimates for the courthouse HVAC systems. He provided the info to the board for consideration. (attached) Right now man power is a problem at the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Hover updated the board on the FAC meeting .The Fair Queen has expressed how difficult it has been for her in having to work with the FAC. She had great ideas for compromise but they said No. They decided she could go forward with the little beef barn project. The FAC and the County Commissioners voted on it. The project will get started right away. There was also the question about the electrical project for the pedestals on the south end RV that are up against the east side fence.

FAC member Kris Sims works for the PUD and another person are volunteering to do the electrical who are qualified electricians.

Kyle Haugen asked the commissioners about irrigation and running the electrical in the same ditch as the water. Commissioner Hover didn't think that would be safe, but depending on how deep the trench is the conduit could run deeper than the water. Haven't gotten anyone to do the layout. Washington Tractor does not have time, said Kyle. We may have to do it ourselves. Logistics of customers using the facilities was discussed for those using the horse barns, track and arena for day use. Commissioner Hover said Naomie Peasley will provide additional feedback.

**Update Treasurer-Leah McCormack**

Cari Hall, Jamie Groomes

Leah McCormack stated property tax collections is at 55% right now with several trays of mail to open and receipt. Usually it is at about 58%. We collect about 96% total for the year. She said this year is looking really normal. It was important not to extend the due date because we are not flush. Collection rate in King County collect about 60% from mortgage companies. Ours is about 40%. Our districts got their money, they don't have a fire season like we do so that is really important to ensure they receive

their funds. We are waiving the 1% interest for those paying in May. The revenue through April appears to be normal however receipts coming in the next few months may be less. We won't know the true impacts until around June, stated Auditor Hall.

Tax Foreclosure tax sale was discussed, she did not wish to cancel it. COVID-19 had nothing to do with the taxes due that were not paid.

She expressed her concern about no office staff help in the fair office. Someone who is approved by her and commissioners to handle the money part of the job is preferred. Volunteers are not as concerned about checks and balances as staff would be. Commissioner DeTro stated no one wants to work while they are collecting so much unemployment. It will also depend on what Spokane County does. Leah said she wanted someone at the fair office who could shadow her and her staff on work they should not be doing but have for the last seven years. When they come to the treasurer's office they seem to expect her to tell them what their responsibilities are over there. The FAC will continue to prepare with the thought things will open by the time fair time comes around.

Commissioner Branch stated he would be comfortable if the FAC had a contingency plan in place should we need to address COVID-19 requirements during the fair.

Cari Hall stated it is a concern to have volunteers handling thousands of dollars and requested the commissioners prepare a head of time and involve the finance committee to ensure whomever is handling the money understands how to handle it in accordance with our rules. It is when they take the money, handling the armbands, writing receipts to balance every day, and they want to know well ahead of the fair. Commissioner Branch thought an extra staff person from either office would be best. Cari said it is not their responsibility to do the work they are to oversee the financial parts that need oversight. The Fair manager position has been a revolving door, and we are still in the same predicament with a new manager. Commissioner Branch said he trusts in who it is, but he is unsure how to address the revolving door issue unless you pay more. Cari stated temp employees are different than volunteers.

How hospitals are handled in the future was discussed. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) money and Medicare money came in last week for the hospitals, reported Treasurer McCormack. Commissioner Branch discussed how important it is to know the information when it is received in order to mitigate questions of the public.

Commissioner Branch reported that some cities were reporting reduced property tax stream during the OCOG meeting last night. Treasurer McCormack explained her office was not contacted about it.

### **Update Auditor-Cari Hall**

Cari Hall provided her office update on how she is handling appointments only. Licensing has been very busy as this is the busy period of the year. A large portion of the time is reserved for title work. They are booked solid but not booking out a month at a time. She went through the various sections of her department and discussed reduced revenue, but there have been large increases in the mail and online options. Mail has been incredible with supplies being ordered sooner than usual.

Two elections to organize and it is filing week right now, which can be done online or in person. Online payments are allowed and opportunity to file paperwork in person is too.

The accounting side is going normal. She is working on the annual report and working with departments to gather the information needed for the report. State auditor requested an extension of the governor because many counties may not have the staff, or are shut down. The governor did extend the deadline.

The county audit was scheduled and they are trying to audit us because they didn't move their date

out, but there are certain things she just cannot provide because the annual report has not been finished. With certain departments having reduced staff it takes longer for her to receive the information from them.

Ms. Hall explained on the security side of her office she would like to see security glass across the main counter and she would like to enlist the Clerk of the Board's help with the bidding process to have a quote by September so the grant funds are allocated by December 31, 2020. The additional \$150,000 grant will be more difficult to spend.

### **Update Public Works-Josh Thomson** Engineer Josh Thomson, Kent Kovalenko

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

#### *Solid Waste Facilities-Operations update*

Kent Kovalenko updated the board on Solid Waste Facilities. He explained staffing operations positions that are needed. Modification of one of the positions will be done. He is hoping there are people who apply.

Mr. Kovalenko explained the leachate pond leak.

Engineer Thomson explained the safeguards put into place to ensure his staff are safe. Government construction was thought to have been omitted from the Governor order. All previous public works falls under phase I. He explained what public work projects were thought to be included and what construction wasn't. Some counties are adopting plans, but the plan is for residential construction where there might be many workers, those same guidelines don't seem to make sense when there are single workers in the field on mobile operations. There should be some flexibility. They were told they would have an opportunity to review the phase I plan beforehand, but their comments were not addressed in the publication.

Pre level is moving forward.

Statler Bridge is still moving along slowly with issues on progress. It is moving along.

Park City Loop Rd Bridge B-4 recommending a 4 ton limit. A resolution was drafted for this purpose.

### **Motion Resolution 60-2020 Bridge B-4 Weight limits**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 60-2020 Park City Loop Road Bridge B-4 Weight limits. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Omak-Riverside Eastside Rd paving projects should start within the next month but was delayed.

Revenue Projections were discussed and what projects would be held back for those direct impacts. The grant programs involving gas tax may have less money so grant funding opportunities are reduced.

Engineer Thomson asked what the CARES Act funding is he has seen several postings about it. He saw Okanogan County is getting \$2.5 million but no knows how that will be paid. It is unsure how distribution happens. Commissioners are watching for it. If there are options Commissioner Branch would like to see Public Health receive some of it among other spending. If it is broken down into chunks, then it may be problematic.

Kent Kovalenko explained that Solid Waste saw 59 tons less garbage than this time last year, but he feels we will be on tract.

Reduced fuel costs will help offset costs next year for reduced gas tax this year.

TV district #1 has a couple trailers that need to be removed from several mountaintops.

Mike Worden said a grant closes on May 29. This grant is about \$500,000 and projects would be \$200,000 it is a supplemental reaction for cCOVID-19 response and recover from COVID impacts. The situation he has is that we have not identified another spot for dispatch functions. We haven't designated one. Big centers have a separate building set up. Some have a command vehicle, what he sees is upgrading the Range building by adding a tower wireless data links back into the county. The tower would cost the most. Commissioner Hover asked what a fully equipped trailer would cost. Mike has looked at those in the past, but how to connect it to a data connection and looking at a mobile connection. Commissioner Hover was thinking for fires, because the EOC is in the commissioners hearing room, and if we had a trailer we could park it just about anywhere. Mike said a command vehicle is on their radar for future purchase. The tower option would include point to multi point, so the courthouse could hook up, also connect to fairgrounds and Eastside Park where fire camps are located for whatever scenario. The application is online.

### **Motion Dispatch Coronavirus Grant**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Mike Worden to apply for the COVID-19 grant. CFDA 16.034. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Board of Health Meeting-1234 S 2nd Ave Okanogan separate**

The commissioners attended the board of Health meeting and returned at 3:45 p.m.

### **Public Hearing CDBG Public Services Grant**

Due to the commissioners having not returned from the Board of Health meeting to open the hearing up, the Clerk of the Board announced that the public Hearing was continued today at 4:00 p.m. .

### **Closed Session RCW42.30.140(4)(b)**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into closed session at 3:48 p.m. for five minutes to discuss strategies to be taken with regards to union negotiations. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners ended closed session at 3:53 p.m. No decisions were made.

### **Continued Public Hearing CDBG Public Services Grant**

Lael Duncan of CAC, by zoom audio. No public joined the meeting.

Public Hearing handouts were made available in both Spanish and English.

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing asking for staff report. The Clerk of the Board stated this hearing for the purpose of a CDBG Public Services Grant application to hear public comments on the county's past performance and uses of the funds. The grant, if awarded would provide \$3500 for county administration and \$81,171 to CAC for Public Services. Community Action Council Executive Director Lael Duncan provided the CAC Annual Report for the record and answered questions of the board. The funding allows the agency to recover staff salaries and continue the work to provide the services to the community.

Commissioner Branch reviewed the resolution and packet, stating we have already adopted an excessive force certification and grievance procedure.

### **Resolution 59-2020 Certifications of Compliance CDBG Public Services Grant 2020/2021**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the application and resolution 59-2020 certifications of

compliance for CDBG Public Service Grant and authorized the Clerk of Board to submit the online application for the county. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-8, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Request to Release Funds & Cert CDBG General Purpose-Oroville Harvest Shelter Project
2. Re-Appointment Letter Fair Advisory Committee-Wanda McFarland
3. Re-Appointment Letter-Planning Commission-Salley Bull
4. Appointment Letter SWAC-Dion Gotti
5. CDBG Public Services Req #10 \$5,920.09
6. CDBG Planning Only Grant Reimbursement Req #3 A19 \$5249.98
7. Contract-County Legal Newspaper 2020/2021-Omak Chronicle
8. Resolution 58-2020 Building Permits Extension Due to COVID-19

#### 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 \$367,093.37. 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 \$551.93. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### Motion Methow Valley EMS District

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$57,550.16. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

The Clerk of the Board discussed concerns a caller relayed to her about water use by a marijuana operation near Malott that the neighbor is concerned will dry his well.

#### Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 4:35 for five minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover said the board needs to send something to Naomie Peasley from the commissioners about the Fair this year and the plan to address rules that no more than 250 people gather. Commissioner Branch stated we do not know the answer so we should provide some options. Commissioner Hover has not heard anything on what the check points are. Commissioners discussed the testing for COVID-19 as being part of the process that provides check points needed in order to consider reopening.

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the clerk of the board to draft an email to Fairgrounds Event

Manager Naomie Peasley that commissioners decided no events are to be scheduled until large gatherings are allowed. Due to the uncertainty created by Board of Health meeting today that no events should be scheduled for the rest of the year at the fairgrounds with the exception of the fair. The commissioners feel they cannot give anyone certainty in scheduling events in the Agriplex this year. Therefore all parties that have reserved space should be contacted to cancel and no further leases of the Agriplex scheduled. Falcon Gun Show is very interested in the decision of the board. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner DeTro stated he is moving his motor home to his Conconully property because that is where he lives during the summer.

#### Approve Commissioners Proceedings

Commissioner Branch moved to approve commissioners proceedings of April 21 and April 22, 2020. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 5:10 p.m.