

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****MAY 18, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on May 18, 2020, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Review Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes and made corrections.

Discussion COVID-19

Lauri Jones, Mike Haar

Commissioner Hover discussed a draft letter from the commissioners to county residents about everyone doing their part. It does not open the flood gates but it does provide guidance for businesses to safety patronize.

Lauri Jones said a small business group meeting was organized last week and Public Health relayed information about what it will take for businesses to open and for the county to receive a variance. Public Health also wants to open in a safe manner. The businesses were asked to write letter to Public Health to state how they can safely open their businesses. Mr. Haar said there are strict guidelines in place and some businesses are not following those guidelines. He thought the letter from the commissioners to the citizens was a good idea. Ms. Jones said we need to the partisanship aside on this matter to focus on our county and what we want our citizens to know. There is a different matrix for moving to phase II or any other phase. The current phase is not possible for Okanogan County, Ms. Jones said she was able to get some key matrix from local health jurisdictions who said they do not work. They needed to fix the way they were looking at the science. Currently we meet certain targets because we are already geographically isolated. Ms. Jones explained central valley is where new cases are coming up but those are not considered an outbreak. Commissioner Hover said these are not new cases cropping up these cases can be tracked, we cannot say it was poor business practices, no one is saying that. Ms. Jones explained the testing received and where those were distributed. Recovery was explained and there are very few cases that are actually recovered at 100%. She has a call with Secretary Weisman later today who is hearing from counties that have moved into phase II. She said there may be other counties allowed to move into the next phase. We want to make sure the restaurants have precautions in place as well. She is impressed at how serious people are taking the crisis. She has also been receiving graduation plans from schools and everyone just needs to realize this is a different year and we won't be able to do things the same way as last year.

Commissioners discussed this year's Fair as it is not certain how to apply the gathering rules and Ms. Jones doesn't think we'll be in phase IV by June 1st. Commissioner DeTro stated the concern with June 1st as that is when the kids start feeding their animals expensive grain. They want to know if there is a fair to bring them to before they fatten their animals up.

Remote public attendee Pat Leigh of Winthrop, said she is appreciated the effort to work together. She is concerned the actual numbers of COVID-19 cases are not being documented as there have been a number of symptomatic people who went to the Dr. but were not tested. The end of the first wave, not many have contracted the disease and only about 3% of the population will have contacted it and will develop immunities. We will see a second wave, no doubt. How does a crowd place like Bainbridge

Island keep from having a single case in weeks? They limit numbers of people in the store, wear masks, practice social distancing, have self-check outs that are disinfected after every use. The bottom line is that in Okanogan County there isn't a single ICU prepared to take on a single case here. If we have an outbreak people will be shipped out of the county to Wenatchee and Seattle. As it stands now she doesn't see all businesses on the same page nor with consistent levels of precaution. As Memorial Day weekend approaches, we need to be prepared.

It is scary to know how much traveling people are doing into and out of the county.

Ms. Jones said hairdressers are quick to mention other businesses who are not complying with the guidelines. Walmart has a really effective plan in place and has offered their model to help other businesses. We must be consistent with the guidelines to get through this. Home Depot is also counting people, monitoring their staff, offering masks to employees, and yet why are other businesses having a hard time getting the masks. What can we help them with in order to protect the majority of the people? Commissioner Branch discussed what has helped the Governor's office understand what is effective and what isn't and we should support each other in what we must do. If stores require customers to wear a mask in the store then they should make the masks available to customers at the door. For those businesses, the masks should be available. Salons and patrons will be required to wear masks, it's just the way it is.

If we appeal to people's resilience and provide a strong voice of cooperation, then we will be alright. If a variance gets pulled together both the Board of Health and the County Commissioners will need to be able to approve the documents. A special meeting of the Board of Health is set for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. with a county commissioners meeting following at 1:30 p.m. to approve the resolution send forward before the weekend and have our answer on the variance by then. Dr. McCarthy will sign off on the letter, Board of Health would need to agree, and then commissioners approve their resolution. There are other letters to support our united front, she believes we could move forward.

Discussion HVAC Replacement Systems Over View-Joe Poulin

Joe Poulin stated he received an inquiry from Ameresco about the specs for the HVAC replacement on the courthouse Annex regarding the engineering and design work for the Courthouse Annex HVAC replacements. (attached) Commissioners reviewed the questions posed by Ameresco on design, use of DES, etc...and offered clarification. Because of the units' recent failure, the need to replace the units before summer weather becomes a problem, is urgent, and the commissioners felt the project timeline must be short.

Commissioner Hover said his considerations would be based on the specifications of the project, the best product for the tax payer dollar, and a project cost that is the lowest price.

Ameresco originally submitted a quote that included design and engineering work, which increased the cost substantially, but now they may submit another quote without those costs since the specs do not require that.

It is really a question of are we going to do a project with energy savings or are we just going to fix the thing and replace the equipment. This is a replacement project. There may be some changes involved if something unknown crops up. But the specs are the same regardless of who is providing a quote. The commissioners did not see a reason to go with DES to oversee the project as there were no grant dollars involved nor did the specs require energy savings as a guarantee. There didn't seem to be much design involved with the replacement.

Discussion Okanogan County Land Trust-Jerry DeBacker

This meeting was scheduled for tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

Motion Citizens Letter RE COVID-19 Re-opening

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the letter to the citizens of Okanogan County regarding the COVID-19. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Update Planning-Director Director Pete Palmer

Director Palmer asked the commissioners about contacting the tribe about a discussion on the Methow Fisheries. Commissioner Hover asked if it was possible the Tribe was meeting and whether they might be amiable to schedule a small in person meeting to discuss this. The commissioners can meet remotely if that works best.

Motion Resolution 61-2020 Software Agreement Well Tracking

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 61-2020 authorizing Pete Palmer to sign the well tracking agreement with Dept. of Ecology. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Director Palmer inquired about what the questions were that the Board wanted the Attorney General's Office to answer. She asked where those questions might be. She has done some research back to the hearing on July 28 where commissioners continued the hearing. Since that time we closed the hearing. At some point the question needs to be answered. For Commissioner Hover after closing the hearing, there is a process. The question to the Attorney General was never articulated clearly, but really the question boils down to who clarifies the rule if the rule is ambiguous or if there's controversy it doesn't work. Commissioner Hover said provisions were made to make changes to adjust those. It was not known if the attorney general would be able to answer the questions. There was a process under WAC 173-48-100 that says they shall under a change of circumstances change the rule. Director Palmer said her staff were asked to transcribe the hearing minutes of January 28 and February 25 where the hearing took place.

State Auditor Entrance Conference

Cynthia Medina and Travis Remotely, Pam Johnson, Lisa Schreckengost, Dan Higbee

Travis went over the audit scope. (attached) He noted which areas would be audited. One area different is the tracking and monitoring of assets that are following up on issues found last year. Verifying assets and making sure all asset tags and listings match up. This will be more focused on changes made and annual inventories that departments are supposed to be reporting.

Accounts payable and disbursements and EFT's will be reviewed for supporting documentation allowable supported and approved according to policy.

Restricted funds will be reviewed and following up on issues identified last year to confirm the changes were made and appropriate now.

The last area is required to be audited every two years for employment compliant with ability to pay future claims. Self-Insurance etc....

Financial statement audit to ensure fairly presented, Federal Grant compliance for 2019 with testing highways and roads.

There are three different levels of reporting that was reviewed from most significant to least significant.

This year this time will be tracked separately per area for accountability.

The rest of the state auditor agenda was reviewed and the resources provided there. Will be reaching out to departments to discuss audit testing. Cynthia explained SAO will be doing the audit mostly remotely. There will be a need to pick up documents, but mostly the audit is going to be done

remotely. Commissioner DeTro stated that means the audit will likely be cheaper. Cynthia agreed that some efficiencies would be better thereby reducing costs.

Review Meeting Minutes

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

Motion Meeting minutes April 27, 28, 29

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the commissioners meeting minutes of April 27, 28, and 29, 2020. Motion was second, all were in favor, motion carried.

County Video Tour Over View-GCI Communications-Casey Frangipane

CANCELLED

The board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.