

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 3, 2020, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Member, Commissioner Andy Hover; and Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

The full detail of the commissioners' proceedings was captured via AV Capture video and is available to the public on the county's website.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

Joe Poulin, Naomie Peasley, Maurice Goodall, Pete Palmer

Joe Poulin asked for executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Commissioner Hover discussed the possibility of purchasing a new stove for the Agriplex Annex as the free one from the Eagles is very rusted and grimy. There is a point of diminishing value when it takes more hours to clean and restore than what a new one would cost. The annex refrigerator was previously replaced using the donation of \$3500 that was supposed to go to purchase a stove. Ms. Peasley stated the most important thing is a griddle stove and oven as those would be utilized at fair as well it would allow more types of use by renters throughout the year.

**Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(d)**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:15 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting David Gecas, Joe Poulin and the Clerk of the Board to discuss potential litigation. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:25 a.m. for 5 minutes.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:30 for 5 minutes

**Executive session ended at 9:35 a.m. no decisions were made.**

Ms. Peasley received an agreement from Pape for seven years advertising service in exchange we would get their used tables, chairs, and wracks with a value of \$10,730. The advertising would include two signs for the arena plus a sign on the Agriplex for \$700 for a total value of \$10,700.

Ms. Peasley stated the fee schedule would need to be amended. Commissioners reviewed the proposed fee schedule changes. Commissioner Hover asked the Clerk of the Board to draft a resolution for consideration. Ms. Peasley will provide her the fee schedule in word form for the amendment.

Ms. Peasley researched other county's that charge for winter storage on their fairgrounds and found they charge \$7.00 per linear foot and we only charge \$2. It was proposed to increase our charge by \$1.

Ms. Peasley proposed removing herself from the fair advisory committee as recording secretary to have the FAC committee appointed secretary do the FAC meeting minutes instead which would be submitted through her to the Clerk of the Board who would then provide to the commissioners. Maurice Goodall stated the reason why the commissioners selected the Fair Coordinator as the FAC recording secretary. It was to have someone at the county level involved with the volunteers.

Commissioner Hover said the commissioners appropriate the funds, the FAC volunteer and he would like them to have a feeling they are doing something. Commissioner Branch said as long as it works he is alright with it as long as Naomie keeps them accountable. Ms. Peasley said she is going to push the FAC to review the policies and procedures and those rules provide accountability. Commissioners discussed the need for Ms. Peasley to relay to the commissioners in a timely manner any concerns.

An amendment to the contract between Superior Court & the Fairgrounds was discussed. The amendment lays out that Superior Court would pay for the propane costs of the Agriplex heating effective October 1 until they are done using the space. Commissioners asked that David Gecas review the amendment before it is approved.

Ms. Peasley stated Superior Court requested an upgrade of the surveillance system of the Agriplex due to several issues such as doors being left unlocked and other concerns. according to Dennis Rabadou, AOC funds would pay for this cost. Ms. Peasley would like to move forward with the purchase. Three quotes were received, but not provided. She is meeting with the Jail team for an additional fourth quote. An estimate was around \$20,000. The Sheriff and the Fairgrounds coordinator would have access to the video files.

Ms. Craig stated there were some requests by detectives in order for the system to be effective that should be considered. Camera placement is important and the Sheriff is involved with proposing camera locations.

Ms. Peasley relayed that she is reviewing the fire relief efforts of the county. She explained she will be picking up all the loose hay bales herself instead of having those wanting the hay to pick up what they need. For the big bales, it was thought the fair tractor could be used to pick those up. Mr. Poulin said he would try.

Ms. Peasley indicated that weekly meetings were not happening between herself and the maintenance team to coordinate work to be accomplished. She asked why she is doing the paperwork for the public water system testing when she believes maintenance staff should be doing it. The Clerk of the Board thought Ms. Peasley should be the administrative keeper of the files and she should be involved with collecting the necessary paperwork for the water tests should the paperwork be needed at a later time. Commissioners asked the maintenance staff and Fairgrounds Coordinator to coordinate with each other to ensure tasks are coordinated for events and which tasks take precedence.

Mr. Goodall provided his staff report. The Multi Hazard mitigation meeting being coordinated. He asked the board if they have considered his request to purchase the four temporary shelters. Commissioner Hover stated this has nothing to do with trailers or the rumor that is going around. These are tents to be used in case the hospitals need them for COVID-19 testing or to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 measures. The tents come with air conditioning and heating but do need generators which would cost about \$19,000 apiece. Total costs to be considered is \$153,252 plus generators \$80,000. Commissioner Hover stated he cannot see the need for four especially with the Agriplex designated for emergencies.

Commissioners wish to hear all requests for CARES ACT funds before authorizing the purchase.

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

Ms. Craig provided her brief staff update. An Increase to the medical insurance cap rate for non-bargaining employees went up \$12.09 per month it would cost the county an additional \$14,508 for 2021. Costs also went up for the 8 employees in the Sheriff's group.

Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Craig to draft a resolution for both groups for commissioner consideration.

Ms. Craig state the Noxious Weed Coordinator has voiced that she will retire December 31, 2020. The RCW is clear that the Noxious Weed Board appoints and employees the coordinator. However, currently there is in place an employment contract between the county commissioners and the coordinator and is not pursuant to the RCW. Commissioner DeTro asked that this situation be provided to David Gecas to review.

Commissioner Hover discussed exploring further the notion that certain non-union employees may participate in the union medical provisions as it is actually less then PEBB. Commissioner DeTro stated he was in favor if there was no impact on current expense and it is fair to the employees. Ms. Craig said this would be for Public Works employees.

### **Discussion-Fire District #15 Coronavirus Funds Request-Tanya Valance**

Tonya Vallance and William Vallance via zoom

Ms. Vallance explained the history of the Douglas/Okanogan County Fire District #15. Only a small portion of the district is in within Douglas County. Most of the district is within Okanogan County.

The district is requested a portion of the County's CARES ACT funding to help offset payroll expenses of employees dedicated to COVID-19. They have volunteers and employees. They shut down the volunteer portion of the district in order to protect them and their families and they were not covered. There are five staff members and they have been doing a lot of the COVID front line in the Brewster area and have transported those infected. They are also doing a lot of testing. Talked to Bond Counsel but couldn't do that, tried to get in on the PPE pay check protection plan but unable to get any of that. HHS Human and Health Services were the only funds they were able to get at \$5515. Fire Districts fell through the cracks. Talking with Commerce on latest information and one is 100% reimbursement for Public Safety employees through the CARES ACT funds the county receives. The two cities Pateros and Brewster expended their funds already and were under \$100,000 between them. Talked to Public Health about any of their funding being available. Talked with the Clerk of the Board on the county's requirements. Public employees responding to COVID-19 can be 100% reimbursable without providing the same level of back up financial documentation. She is asking for funds for the EMS portion of the district. It is one of the few districts that provides both fire response and ems transports. She is asking for payroll and supply costs of \$262,666.95. The Clerk of the Board sent an email to EMS Districts asking for their requests for CARES ACT funds for commissioners' consideration.

Commissioner Hover was absent attending an online water code conference.

### **Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

Kent Kovalenko

Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and items listed discussed. (attached)

Kent Kovalenko explained Douglas County fire debris situation what is being said with regards to Okanogan County Solid Waste. Okanogan County is not accepting any Douglas County fire debris. There is a lot of mis-information with no facts. Mr. Kovalenko said he reviewed the Solid Waste CUP and we only accept through the Bridgeport transfer station. It is not definitive with gray language. He recommended Okanogan County not accept the Douglas County fire debris as it would help keep our books clean and uncomplicated.

Engineer Thomson discussed Kermel Grade repairs. Commissioner Branch had a conversation with the Carikers who live at the base of Kermel slope. It was determined at different points over the years that repair work on the road by the county was not the cause of the water problem. It has always been a very wet slope.

Sinlahekin Road creek guard is still waiting for one more approval.

Peter Dan Road crews are working on a dig out on the slop.

10% decrease on grooming budget and an increase on snow plow budget. Would like to move forward with the budget discussed yesterday as there is a balance in the fund to make up for this decrease. Some funds might need to be shifted from grooming to plowing if needed.

Statler Bridge had one last item to accomplish before closeout and that was the seeding which will move forward this week.

### **Public Comment Period**

Isabelle Spohn commented on the county commissioners and staff wearing masks.

### **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 \$533,574.88 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,127,399.46. 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 \$44,816.13 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$53,192.90. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Public Health Voucher**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including a payroll voucher in the amount of \$31.75. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Budget Work Session -Pest Control-Dan McCarty, Pest Agent**

Leah McCormack, Lisa Schreckengost

Pest Control Agent Dan McCarthy provided the Pest Control Board budget.

He stated the assessment is based on a \$2.25 per commercial acre assessment. 20 years ago the assessment was raised from \$1.75 to what it is now. The Pest Board has some savings that was \$141,000 two or three years ago but now it is \$118,000 and will continue to go down due to a shortfall in revenue. His wages are going up due to state rules for exempt workers and it will eat away the funds in the investment. The investment funds are to be used for orchard removal or the lien program for expenses.

In other counties it is a combination of per parcel and a flat rate. A query was done on parcels within a mile of orchards as that is the area impacted by pest. 2082 parcels within a mile of commercial orchards. He recommended an additional dollar per parcel which would make up the deficit we have now. Only parcels within a mile of commercial orchards would be assessed. If you are in town you would pay \$1.00 per parcel.

For collections in 2021, the Pest Board agreed one-dollar assessment on these parcels would be best. Half Dan's time is spent on other tasks not on commercial orchards.

Commissioner DeTro would like to come up with a strategy for addressing the short fall.

Commissioner Branch discussed taxes and assessment public hearing and having the certification and resolution in to the assessor by November 30. Assessment of orchard acres should happen every year instead of every four. Commissioner DeTro stated perhaps they stay in commercial orchard even after the orchard is pulled because usually the land is replanted the following year.

Mr. McCarthy explained he has contacted many commercial orchardists to come up with a plan to get the fruit certified. The largest markets are in Mexico, Canada and China and fruit going there would have to be certified. Knowing how many inspectors would be needed in order to certify the fruit is huge and could be very costly.

### **Budget Work Session-Coroner – Dave Rodriquez**

Leah McCormack, Lisa Schreckengost

The Coroner's Budget revenue and expenses were reviewed.

The Sheriff's office has bequeathed one of their trucks to the Coroner as a transport vehicle so repairs and maintenance line item was increased by \$1000. Basically that covers a new set of tires. Commissioner Hover joined the meeting via Zoom.

### **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Planning & Emergency Management**

Commissioner DeTro opened up the public hearing to staff. Maurice Goodall stated the supplemental is to help the budget due to generators purchased. The expense will be reimbursed by CARES ACT funds. The supplemental would ensure the budget bottom line is not exceeded.

Pete Palmer explained the supplemental is to provide funds for a department vehicle.

Commissioner DeTro closed the hearing to staff and opened up to public, seeing no public he closed the hearing to public and opened up to commissioners.

### **Motion Resolution 145-2020 Supplemental Appropriation**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 145-2020 a budget supplemental appropriation within the Emergency Management fund 121 and current expense planning. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Jail**

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff. Aaron Culp undersheriff stated this covers the cost of the body cameras purchased and will move the money as the costs were not previously budgeted for.

Commissioner DeTro closed the hearing to staff and opened up to public, seeing no public he closed the hearing to public and opened up to commissioners.

Commissioner Branch asked if Aaron would provide a scenario on when the body cameras would be used. Interactions at a residence or in a group that are captured on the video would be used instead of the officer going back to physically ask needed questions for clarification they can instead review the video interaction rather than going back to a residence.

### **Motion Resolution 146-2020 Budget Supplemental Appropriation**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 146-2020

### **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Current Expense Sheriff & CARES ACT**

Commissioner DeTro opened up the hearing to staff. Aaron Culp undersheriff stated this covers the cost of the body scanners purchased and will move the money as the costs were not previously budgeted for.



Commissioner DeTro closed the hearing to staff and opened up to public, seeing no public he closed the hearing to public and opened up to commissioners.

Stone Garden grant provided additional funds that must be expended before August 2021 but the Sheriff would like to use a portion in this year's budget with the rest in the 2021 budget.

#### **Motion Resolution 147-2020**

Commissioner Hover moved approve resolution 147-2020 a budget supplemental within Current Expense Sheriff and Current expense Jail in the amount of \$. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Approve Commissioners Proceedings October 19, & October 26 & 27 2020**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the October 19 meeting minutes as amended. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

#### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-2. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Resolution 144-2020 Annual Road Construction Program for 2021
2. Agreement-Property Maintenance Winter Snow Services- 24/7 Property Maintenance

#### **Motion Contract Molson Museum LTAC 20-012**

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the amendment to the contract between Molson Museum and the county for 2020 LTAC Funds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.