

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on November 9, 2020, with; 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.

Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro was absent today.

Budget Work Session – Maintenance Dept-Lanie Johns & Joe Poulin

Leah McCormack, Lisa Schreckengost

Joe Poulin provided information about Maintenance Department 2021 budget. The minimum wage goes up to \$13.69 starting January 1, 2021. Tanya Craig explained which positions will need to go up to meet the minimum wage pay scale. Adjustments will need to be made to salary and wages across the board for those employees that it affects for the non-bargaining employee. Treasurer McCormack explained some confusion between non-bargaining and bargaining employees that have the same position name such as Clerk III. The increase is based on CPI. Between the steps there are some differences that need to be worked out.

Commissioner Hover discussed the custodian position as that position was to cover COVID measures of the courts and should be reimbursed by CARES ACT funds. The position would likely go away if things were brought back to normal as the position was created to address facilitation of COVID measures.

Fairgrounds wish list was discussed. Commissioner Hover discussed upgrade of the outside of the race track rails and upgrade of the grandstands. WSDA fair safety grant funds for this will be sought.

When determining a purchase from a private vendor, commissioners would like a conversation first with Mr. Poulin about the item along with photos etc.....

Requests will be considered.

Budget Work Session-Fairgrounds/Fair-Naomie Peasley & Joe Poulin

Ms. Peasley went over the Fairgrounds administration budget.

Discussion-CARES Funds Requests-EMS Service Providers

Commissioners discussed the requests from Fire District #15, Lifeline, and Aero Methow for CARES ACT funds. Commissioners wish to discuss further with Life Line and Aero Methow and asked the Clerk to request a meeting.

\$196,811 from Life Line For Tonasket and Oroville EMS District uses.

\$281,861 Fire District #15

\$35,193 Aero Methow

Budget Work Session-Veterans Relief Board-Pam Stevens

Mike Stewart

Ms. Stevens discussed the Veterans' Relief Board budget for 2021. Expenses were reviewed and adjustments made. Two new laptops were purchased because the two others died.

Briefing Among Commissioners Review Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners discussed mask wearing during meetings of the board. Commissioner Branch stated employees are not wearing masks during discussions and it is being referenced by the public that shows a position of the county when they do not wear a mask.

Planning Update-Director of Planning Pete Palmer

Director Palmer provided her agenda and discussed the items listed there.

Clarification on continued work with DOD grant submittal.

Conconully Cabin's Agreement

The commissioners reviewed and discussed the draft Memorandum of Understanding between Okanogan County and US Dept. of Interior Bureau of Reclamation regarding 78 cabins lots located within the Okanogan Project in Conconully. (attached)

Commissioners clarified their views about the situation about enforcing county code on state lands. We never had the authority to enforce before, but now they want to give us the authority to do enforcements of county codes. It was thought people wish to upgrade. There is burden the county would have to take on. Commissioner Hover does not believe the county should take on this jurisdictional responsibility. He would like someone from Reclamation here to discuss these enforcement concerns. What level of service is being requested for the lots? Commissioner Hover does not see the whole picture within the MOU. Director would like a legal review of the documentation and provide advise on the liability it implies to the county.

Date for Public Hearing Lake Management 2021 Roll List

Commissioners asked that the Planning Dept continue to administer the district for the Board of County Commissioners who are the actual board of directors for the district. RCW 36.61.120 was reviewed.

FEMA Rescindment of Policy on Fish Enhancement Structures in the Floodway

FEMA is rescinding their policy on Fish Enhancement Structures in the Floodway. A letter was received regarding this change. (attached) Director Palmer explained the permit application pre planning that was necessary before people get their letter.

Public Hearing Process

Director Palmer explained the research she did to understand the Public Hearing Processes for land use processes and approvals to reconcile legislative controls and applications. A flow chart was provided of her findings to look at as a tool to help decide the level of process to hold public hearings. Permit review committee will be meeting again.

Commissioners discussed resolution 91-2019 regarding the fairgrounds purchase of a surplus dump truck from ER&R. Commissioners will further discuss with Public Works.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft the resolution to transfer the dump truck payment from the maintenance budget 001.009 to the fairgrounds budget 001.028 and process the appropriate payment therefrom. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Human Resources to draft a resolution to add wage lines in 124 as needed for over time budget lines. Motion was second, all were in favor, motion carried

Cont. Budget Work Session-Sheriff Funds 124, 143, 145, 106, 132

The Sheriff and staff reviewed the above budgets and adjusted.

Discussion TV District #1 Update- George Thornton

Treasurer Leah McCormack

George Thornton updated the board about the district. Developing a long-range plan for improvement of the district offerings. A consortium to help guide the district including KREM, but its difficult because KREM is not an offering. Purchasing a 100 Watt translator for \$9,000 but it is highly capable. It would allow the district to open up additional channels and would happen in the next month or two. Adding an emergency broadcast channel and Emergency Management would be in control of that channel. The local control could make an announcement over the system. The problem is from the district is the county would need to find a way to get the signal from here to there to make broadcast changes. The improvement being done now include the capability. It won't solve the problems of communication to the public but will help. Commissioner Hover asked if George has been in contact with TV#2 for continuity of service. He said yeah that would be great and will see about that. Merging the two together into one county was not viable because one district had a lot of money and the other didn't. Treasurer McCormack explained some of the monetary shortfalls over the years. The other side is the administrative side of the district and keeping it straight. Thornton stated the staff needed to administer will still need to be figured out. The roles need to be certified by January 15th, said Treasurer McCormack. Commissioner Hover will get George Thornton into contact with Methow Valley Communications district secretary.

There are still things to be upgraded as the first step for a consistent signal then hopefully we will see the improvement.

Commissioners Reviewed their Proceedings of November 2, 3, & 4 2020.

The board adjourned at 4:55 p.m.