

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****OCTOBER 20, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on October 20, 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 not captured via AV Capture video and is not available to the public on the county's website due to the file being corrupt.

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Director of Planning Pete Palmer provided a brief staff report. She discussed the need to replace the office printer/copier for an additional cost of \$3.00 per month. She clarified previous leave requests for next Thursday. She will be absent every third Friday for personal business. Commissioners were alright with that.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Planning Departments Xerox copier lease agreement with Office Tech and authorized the chairman to sign the agreement. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried. (attached)

Director Palmer provided that the North Cascades Trailhead vaulted toilet project agreement was previously approved by the board but the chairman missed the agreement page with the total award amount. Commissioner DeTro signed it today. (attached) Director Palmer assured the commissioners that Methow Trails has agreed to reimburse the county for the total cost of the toilet expense.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Emergency Management grant application pre-approval form for a Homeland Security Grant Program SHSP E20-098 in the amount of \$44,373 and authorized the chairman to sign the Agreement between Okanogan County Emergency Management and Washington State Military Department and all commissioners signed the Signature Authorization Form which authorizes Maurice Goodall to sign requests for reimbursement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Maurice Goodall provided his update on Emergency Management. He stated he is looking for additional storage for COVID related supplies including generators and thought purchasing two storage containers with CARES ACT funds would be appropriate. Use would be needed for around five years. He isn't looking for something temporary. Commissioners asked if there was budget for the costs. Commissioner Branch asked if the Hancock building storage would then be cleared out. Commissioners thought another building space would be best but approved the purchase.

Motion

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the purchase of two storage containers for Emergency Management in the amount of \$4,000 each including tax. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Goodall discussed his request to purchase four Quonset Hut type temporary emergency shelter type buildings to assist Hospitals for COVID related events. He thought CARES money could be used because the hospitals say it could help them with their need for outside buildings. Commissioners discussed the request.

Commissioners would like to know how much the next CARES ACT A19 request is before committing to another large expenditure. The Clerk of the Board is currently gathering invoices from Departments for the next A19 request. Once those are gathered and entered she will know what is left of the funding allocation.

Commissioner Hover thanked Mr. Goodall for coming in on Tuesday's to update the board.

Fairgrounds Coordinator Naomie Peasley provided her fairgrounds update. She said she worked over 300 hours beyond her normal work hours attending to the fire volunteer work. Winter storage items are being accepted.

Ms. Peasley discussed a proposition from Pape regarding an exchange for 40 round and 40 rectangle tables and 300 chairs from their rental business, valued at \$9900. The exchange for those would be for a 20-year advertising banner one on the side of the Agriplex and one on the arena. The chairs and tables are in good shape. This arrangement would begin next year. Currently, there is room for eight 4x10 banners that get printed at Walmart and clipped and put into a permanent border on the side wall. They would have one spot. Commissioners thought that was a good exchange. Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Peasley to calculate the value.

Ms. Peasley stated Dan Newhouse's Office asked her to be part of a round table discussion about the county's fire relief work for the ranchers next week on October 26 at the Elks Lodge at 2:30. Commissioner Hover reminded her that she is representing the County in whatever she talks about and what the county's role in the immediate relief effort was. Commissioner Hover wants to ensure things talked about are things the county agrees with. She understood. Mr. Goodall will be there too.

Commissioner Branch thought it more appropriate for Mr. Goodall to talk about the Title III funding and reauthorization of the Act. Title III funding is funding that is used for Fire Wise activities, County Wildfire Protection Plans and Search and Rescue on Forest Service land.

Ms. Peasley stated the Long-Term Recovery Group, Carlene Andrews, is beginning to move onto the fairgrounds. The Okadogs have taken over the hay relief efforts and the Cold Springs relief group with Kathy Powers, is only working clean up of fire.

Ms. Peasley explained that Propane is used to heat the Agriplex for Court purposes and that cost was not in the original contract. It is a separate charge on the fee schedule which say the lease will be charged \$164 dollars per day for propane costs. The county keeps the Agriplex at around 50 degrees in the winter to prevent the water pipes from freezing. Previous winter costs for leased events was around \$800 to \$1500. The courts wish to keep the room at 65 when it is not in use and then they turn up the heat when they come in. Instant heat was suggested to supplement the floor heat. It may be more efficient. Commissioners would like an amendment to the Courts contract to charge the \$164 per day after comparing the difference between 50 degrees and 65 degrees. Once in place, the Clerk of the Board would provide Superior Court the Propane bill to pay when she receives it.

Ms. Peasley is working on updating the Fair Advisory Committee by-laws. The Fair Advisory Committee met and voted in their officers. There is one position member whose appointment has expired that has missed three meetings in a row. Right now, the Fairgrounds Manager is the recording secretary by resolution. The Clerk of the Board stated the previous board approved the resolution like that so there was some connection between the FAC and the grounds and the commissioners. Carol Sivak was performing the work of the recording secretary prior to Ms. Peasley being hired. Commissioner Hover stated a commissioner should attend the FAC meetings. Ms. Peasley felt she should not be taking the meeting minutes because they elected their own recording secretary. Commissioner Branch stated you always have different memberships there and if the staff member of the legislative body is there then you get the information you need. Sometimes the meeting minutes

reflect what happens in case things go sideways. For example, SWAC has a staff person doing their meeting minutes. He would prefer that Ms. Peasley take the meeting minutes as she is there anyway.

The commissioners discussed the Watershed Plan Addendum. Commissioner DeTro did not see the need to give up 2200-acre feet when only 223 is required. Commissioner Hover stated many of the projects need to happen to get the water to the main stem. Commissioner Branch cleared up a misstatement that he wrote the resolution as he did insert language to ensure there was history in the recitals.

Commissioners discussed a letter of transmittal that would accompany the resolution approving the Watershed plan addendum. Commissioner Branch read the draft transmittal letter out loud and discussed what it should say.

Motion Resolution 130-2020

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 130-2020 approving the Okanogan County Watershed Plan (WRIA 49) Addendum that transmits directly to the Department Ecology. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Letter of Transmittal

Commissioner Hover moved to sign the letter of transmittal to the Department of Ecology Director Sage Park as written by Commissioner Branch. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

CANCELLED Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer McCormack

The Treasurer Cancelled the meeting.

Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson

Pete Palmer

Engineer Thomson discussed items listed on his agenda.

In terms of the question about asbestos, it is still up in the air and who has jurisdiction for the fire waste disposal. The onerous is put on EPA on whether testing is required. He will keep following that.

Maintenance & Road Conditions

Grading roads. Cut a few trees down due to call outs. Winter hours will begin November 9.

Office Lease Agreement

These need to be updated for Board of Health and Extension.

Bio Char Project

Commissioners discussed the lease use of a generator on the grounds. The county commissioners were not in favor of the noisy generator going 24/7/ The permit would need to cover the liability. The Forest Collaborative will discuss the project at their next meeting. The commissioners did not believe the county could consider a fee waiver because the Hearing Examiner is now hearing the project and now there will be the use of the generator to consider and it isn't as simple as waiving the fee anymore. Director Palmer thought it would be a Light industrial use with caveat of forest production and is a new type of lease. A small saw mill would also be another use to consider.

Annual Construction Program

First draft of the annual construction program was submitted and discussed which are on the list and need an initiating resolution. It must be adopted before the 2021 budget.

Another piece planned equipment purchases are being compiled and will be ready next week for the

first of November adoption.

Consent Agenda

Items listed were relayed and discussed.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 11:30 a.m. for 15 minutes inviting David Gecas to discuss RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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

Public Comment Period

Commissioner DeTro asked if anyone wished to provide a public comment.

Isabelle Spohn provided her public comment as she had a question about masks because the commissioners have stopped wearing masks and clarify why they stopped wearing them. Commissioner Branch explained the commissioners wear masks when people come close and do not wear them when it is just the board and the clerk because their voices are muffled. Masks get worn when there are people in the room. No one is here but us and we maintain our distance. Isabelle Spohn stated she couldn't hear very well yesterday through the AV Capture. Commissioner Branch stated everyone was wearing masks yesterday that were speaking. The variable seems to be when people speak at the mic or not. The commissioners have been more diligent asking people to speak closer to the mic. Commissioner Hover asked what kind of clarification she was looking for. When in a physical public meeting the public will see the board's smiling faces.

Gina McCoy and Tom McCoy commented on behalf of C6. Ms. McCoy asked if the commissioners had a chance to look at the email she sent to the commissioners on a TUP and SEPA analysis in order to operate the BIO Char processor. The fee is \$1020 and they ask the commissioners to waive the fees due to the benefits to the community to improve air quality, low noise. It is a nonprofit, no one is getting paid to do it. Commissioner Hover stated it is a good project and asked if a power generator would be necessary. Ms. McCoy said it is a propane natural gas operated generator and is generally quiet. Grinding and chipping is when noise would be created. Commissioner Hover stated at this time planning takes hours for the research and it takes staff a lot of time to process what the board is trying to do right now. The permit fees are meant to cover the hearings examiner and to cover the county's staff cost. They know it is a good project, but the costs need to be covered. Commissioner Branch said they just heard about it this morning, whether or not we have an option to waive it or not for the zoning is the difficult part. Other locations with industrial locations would need to be reviewed except for the cities. Waiving fees has more to do with poverty. Ms. McCoy stated it would be a temporary use permit and they are pleading poverty. It is one of those things that would cost them too much money. The SEPA checklist doesn't ask if the project is better for the environment stated Commissioner Branch. There is a lot of material in the pile that won't burn cleanly. Commissioner Hover asked if the McCoy's have talked with the Conservancy or not? They have ag programs in the conservancy and they do get private donations in for projects and studies. He suggested she discuss with Jason and ask if there is anything they can brainstorm on that could help with the TUP. Commissioner DeTro agrees this is a really good project, and suggested reaching out to the Horticulture group about their fire blight trees that they usually burn. Commissioner Branch discussed some deficiencies and onerous pieces in our code for these types of projects. The big projects pay the same fee as the small projects. We seem to just add stuff to the code.

Update-Building Dept-Dan Higbee

Building Official Higbee provided the building department application trends worksheet. He discussed the information stated there. (attached) We are slightly ahead of where we were last year. The numbers in the Methow are close to last year. Mr. Higbee commented that some cities were to hire their own building inspector, but some have not. Cost recovery spreadsheets were provided.

Taylor with city of Omak has requested a contract when he goes on vacation to cover his inspections. Commissioners discussed the recovery of the fees and not just do it for free. It is \$120 per inspection plus staff time. It would be good to know if that is really covering the costs. Mr. Higbee stated right now it appears the costs are covered. It also takes time away from the work of the county and that is a cost.

Mr. Higbee stated with two inspectors planning to retire, he would like the board's approval to start the hiring process now. He needs a minimum of two. The proposal would be to allow someone to be trained up to replace one that intends to retire. It is assumed there would not be three positions for ever.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the building official to hire a building inspector I for purposes of succession training and planning. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners asked that a resolution be prepared to authorize the details of the position and work with HR on the draft. Commissioner Branch stated workforce development could provide 50% of the pay needed to train someone with the expectation the person be hired in the end.

The new codes are the 18 codes and they are going to take effect in February. There aren't many major code changes on the building codes, but the energy codes are changing such as energy credits. Some requirements require things that aren't even on the market yet. Cycle stop valve on his well has helped save power costs.

Lost a motor in one of the old trucks so the surplus truck was put back into service that was previously surplus. A new truck had already been proposed in his budget but now it is even more important. Central Services will begin billing for their services. Would like to provide the public with a building program for online services. Commissioners were in favor of considering a proposal for that. Commissioner Hover would hope the Assessor, Health, Planning and Building would think about a program that integrates all four departments since they are the main components of land use planning. Adding another module to what we already have might be the way to go.

Update- Risk Management/Human Resources -Tanya Craig

Risk Manager Craig updated the board on several items.

Pebb increased our premium by \$20 per month for 2021. The PTC has no increase, Inland Empire PW and Juvenile and Courthouse has a \$20 increase as well. The PTC agreement had a word that the county did not agree with, Ms. Craig explained the word work would be replaced with compensated. The Union was in favor of the word change.

Motion

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the LOA between Teamsters Local Union No 760 and Okanogan County amending 20.2 Article 20 Health and Welfare section of the original agreement. Motion was seconded, all were in favor motion carried.

Union Negotiations commence next week.

There are some employees still taking annual leave due to some schools not taking kids every day of the week.

Commissioners let Ms. Craig know of the Building department succession training for one position.

A Rental agreement for communications and the building office was discussed.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings October 12 & 13, 2020

Commissioner Branch moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of October 12 & 13, 2020. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6, as presented. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Rental Contract-Ok Co Longer Term Recovery Group
2. Services Agreement- N Star Park City Bridge B-4 Replacement-Nicholls Kovich Engineering
3. 2020 Gravel Crushing & Supply Award-DeAtley Crushing Company
4. Resolution 138-2020 North Cascades Basecamp PD 2019-1 Development Agreement
5. Resolution 139-2020 Sinlahekin Road State Rd Log No 4015 -Creek Guard Project
6. Resolution 140-2020 Clerks Office Odyssey Account Over/Short

Motion Agreement Public Health & Okanogan County for CARES ACT Funds

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the agreement between Okanogan County and Okanogan County Public Health for CARES ACT funds in the amount of \$575,000. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Task Force Operational Agreement

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Taskforce Operational agreement between North Central Washington Task Force and Okanogan County for \$6300 and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Agreement DSHS Data Security Requirements

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Data Security agreement between DSHS and Okanogan County for the period of October 15, 202 and June 30, 2023 and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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 \$682,302.13 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$982,055.03. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$21,780.29. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion – Special 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 Special Payroll voucher in the amount of \$1,753.17. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Budget Work Session Noxious Weed

Anna Lyon, Larry Hudson, Lista Schreckengost

Commissioners reviewed the Noxious Weed budget revenue section and discussed it with the Office

managers. Vehicle replacement funds were discussed in the amount of \$10,000 per year or how ever much the department can afford.

Ms. Lyon discussed staff changes due to the Field Supervisor where the budget may be moved to field staff if the Field Supervisor retires.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the creation of a full-time position for succession planning and to work with the HR department to draft a resolution with the details of the position. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

The position is for the purpose of assuming some of the responsibilities that the current Field Supervisor has and will be a Field Supervisor Trainee.

The board adjourned at 3:50 p.m.