

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on September 15, 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 is available on the county's website via AV Capture.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

Judge Henry Rawson, Dennis Rabidou, Joe Poulin, David Gecas, Pete Palmer

Mr. Rabidou discussed the law library budget as a supplemental appropriation is needed to pay the remaining cost for the most needed West Law editions which is \$1500 per month and includes office supplies. The loss of fees being collected in the Clerk's office are impacting the budget, said Mr. Rabidou. The fund number is Fund 108. The collection of fees for the courts is declining and have been over the years. Judge Rawson said it was due to legislation as many fees are no longer mandatory such as for indigent's where the sheriff fees and various filing fees were being charged before but are no longer, resulting in reduced collections of the Clerks office. Crime Victim fees are still mandatory. Funds are also dependent on other civil litigation fees and state wide there is a down turn in terms of fee collections. District Court is the main generator of those fees. The court has the discretion to determine the level of fee charged.

Commissioner Hover discussed using the Contingency Reserve fund for the supplemental appropriation. Mr. Rabidou will work with the Auditor for submittal of the supplemental.

The New contract for the lease of the Agriplex for Superior Court due to COVID has been updated with correct charges for each building. Commissioner Hover requested the charge be paid for out of the Superior Court Budget as it is not going to go into the negative then submit for reimbursement from Courts COVID funds. The \$75 fee does not cover the cost of staff needed to clean the buildings it covers only the use of each separate space Agriplex, kitchen, annex and Jones Hall. Mr. Rabidou said conversations are still needed to address what happens after December 31.

David Gecas updated the board as special attorney Mark Johnson is no longer taking new cases so there is a need to discuss how to address how any new cases are to be handled.

**Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 1 (i)(iii)**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(iii) at 9:22 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting Civil Deputy David Gecas to discuss litigation or potential litigation to which the agency may be a part or become a part when public knowledge of the discussion could result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 9:32 a.m. no decisions were made.

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

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) at 9:32 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting Civil Deputy David Gecas to consider the selection of a site of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased cost. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 9:42 a.m. no decisions were made.

Maintenance Supervisor Joe Poulin gave his maintenance updated. The Agriplex baffle installation is complete. Most sound issues now seem to be due to microphone etiquette.

Mr. Poulin discussed the issue with Agriplex floor heat. A quote from Divco is in hand, he is hoping for two more for other vendors. He recommended installation of fans in the Agriplex to move the heat down and provide air flow as it will reduce the cost of the propane. He suggested eight, two fans every other section with rheostats. He will look into reversable fans for winter and summer use. Commissioners asked to review prices prior to purchase.

The new HVAC systems are installed and serving the courthouse annex. Offices have control of their individual spaces. Another application for custodian has been received. A 120-gallon hot water tank is needed for the Juvenile Detention. Quotes are being obtained for the tank and for an HVAC unit that went out that serves the Admin building. A crane will be needed for the HVAC replacement.

The fairgrounds maintenance coordinator will be gone for two weeks so courthouse maintenance will provide support. The fairgrounds irrigation water will be turned off at the fairgrounds this Friday. Commissioner Hover discussed a design build for the irrigation system and upgrading the system in phases which will save staff time. Mr. Poulin said he liked that idea of having a system installed that is designed with timers and with schematics.

Planning Director Palmer updated the board on last night's Planning Commission special meeting. She is fostering a relationship with Yakama Nations. They liked the program format and goals and objectives. Commissioner Hover reminded her the Shorelines goals and objectives were not updated and he noticed the reference to public access to the shorelines was different than what was gone over by the board previously. The commissioners would like consistency between the documents. Commissioner Hover discussed the need to address the consistency issues now rather than down the road.

### **Finance Committee Meeting**

Treasurer McCormack cancelled this meeting.

Commissioners would like the Clerk of the Board to prepare a support letter for the Okanogan County Public Utility District's grant application for broadband infrastructure to the Washington State Department of Commerce for signature.

Commissioners discussed the COVID case data for Okanogan County and our reduced numbers. Commissioners discussed what the data means and how it will affect the schools. Commissioners feel they should help.

Commissioners were provided the board's proceedings for review.

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

Kent Kovalenko

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

#### *Solid Waste*

#### *Fire Debris*

Mr. Kovalenko provided his update on a request for land fill fee waiver and asked whether a resolution would be considered for fire debris. Commissioners stated yes, due to the amount of debris a resolution would outline the requirements for verification from land owners and groups.

A system for tracking burned properties located on the Colville Reservation will be needed since some properties that are not deeded don't have parcel numbers. Mr. Kovalenko stated the land fill will document details of those dropping debris off at the landfill. Acceptable verification data was discussed for the purpose of dropping off debris without a fee.

#### *Apple Maggot catches in North County*

Mr. Kovalenko discussed the North County being identified with Apple Maggot. If quarantined by Dept. of Agriculture a variance will be arranged for those waste materials to be taken by the county. Commissioners discussed the impacts to the growers in terms of shipping overseas. Dept of Ag will need to certify unaffected products from the quarantine areas before shipments are made. Okanogan County Pest Control Agent is scheduled Sept 28 to update the Board on the details of the Apple Maggot issue.

The commissioners discussed quarantine violations due to the Governor recently bringing a box of his personal crop of apples from the west side into a quarantine area that were infested with coddling moth. The Douglas County Pest Board will issue the Governor a violation notice. Commissioner DeTro said the Governor also visited an acquaintance at a nursing home in Okanogan County when others are not allowed to.

Commissioners discussed the Biochar presentation they heard yesterday with regards to the outfit taking all green waste and the products created after it is processed. They discussed the benefits of Biochar as the bio product it is carbon neutral and addresses so many biological issues.

#### *Maintenance and Road Conditions*

Engineer Thomson explained Public Works is working with DNR crews in the burn areas as DNR has equipment to help grade the roads most in need. DNR is also helping address the tree issues and damages on Soap Lake road. He said the county will not be charged.

#### *Cold Springs Fire*

Commissioners thanked Engineer Thomson for addressing the county road needs during the fire. Bridge Deck Preservation

Engineer Thomson explained the process for sealing the bridges and the time frame involved for completion.

Mr. Kovalenko discussed the need to address debris of the Okanogan PUD and will ask whether the county can repurpose those materials once accepted by the landfill. He will reach out to the PUD and discuss. There is a lot of concern by SWAC if those disposed materials cannot be repurposed.

Between the two affected utilities, Commissioner Hover said the estimated cost is around \$28 million dollars or more. The \$12 million sited earlier by Commissioner Branch was just for county communications, and did not include PUD.

Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

#### **Special Board of Health-1234 2nd Ave Okanogan**

Commissioners attended the Special Board of Health meeting. Commissioner DeTro and Commissioners Hover returned around 2:30 p.m. Commissioner Branch was to host a WSAC meeting and was not present.

Commissioner Hover suggested that Engineer Thomson put together the information for solicitation for the on-call architectural services based on the responses from the SOQ.

#### **Update Risk Manager/Human Resources Director Tanya Craig**

Ms. Craig noted PEBB medical rates did not increase as much as expected but asked the board to consider increasing their portion of Employee cap by \$12 so the cap would be \$769 for non-bargaining

employees.

Ms. Craig asked the board to clear up some confusion when employees were allowed by resolution to go home due to recent power outages caused by the fire. Employees could not work in the office and operate normally. The intention was explained, but during evacuations employees went home to take care of their family personal property too.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to allow employees to use administrative leave who had to evacuate due to the Cold Springs fire. Motion was seconded, Commissioner DeTro opened up for commissioner discussion, Ms. Craig noted employees were also affected by the Pearl Hill fire near Bridgeport. Commissioner Hover amended his previous motion to include employees affected by the Pearl Hill fire. All were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings August 31, 2020 and September 1, 2020  
Commissioner Hover moved to approve commissioners' proceedings of August 31, 2020 and September 1, 2020. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch joined the meeting via zoom because he could not use the zoom to host the WSAC meeting too.

### **Motion Coronavirus Relief Funds Contract Amendment**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the Dept. of Commerce Coronavirus Relief Funds Contract No. 20-6541C-024 Amendment A with amended amount of \$854,600 for a total of \$3,204,750. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Letter of Support Public Works Board Grant Application**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the support letter to the Public Works Board in support of the utility districts grant application for broadband infrastructure in the Methow Valley. 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 \$850,791.69 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$980,677.84. 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 \$783.58 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$50,224.02. 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 Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

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

**Motion Tonasket EMS District**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Tonasket EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$21,700 to Life Line for August Services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

**Motion Oroville Rural EMS District**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$9,680 for August. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

The board adjourned at 3:30 p.m.