

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OKANOGAN COUNTY

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on February 9, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best audio accessibility and public interaction.

Staff Meeting

David Gecas, Naomie Peasley, Pete Palmer, Dan Higbee, Maurice Goodall

The Clerk of the Board asked for commissioners to consider Okanogan County Community Coalition use of the hearing room for the DUI victim/survivor impact panel services.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Community Coalition to use the hearing room for their DUI Victim survivor impact panels Commissioner Branch asked that we ensure we are within the measures provided for COVID 19 and capacity requirements. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion was carried.

Maurice stated another clinic is happening for COVID testing on fairgrounds with one every Friday from now on. Logistics are being worked out with Fairgrounds Manager and hospitals. Commissioner Hover commended him and public health and hospitals for their work and job in getting the vaccines out. Maurice stated it is going well but realizes things can get better. Handling the phases and how that will happen is being worked out. The issues are the aftermath with hospitals inputting the data afterward so automation is being explored for efficiency. Coming in at the north end of the fairgrounds so neighbors will be contacted, north gate entrance if weather is alright, but rain could be an issue and other entrances are being explored. Ms. Peasley stated a contract will be generated for this use.

Employees will be notified and treated the same.

Ms. Peasley updated the board on the FAC meeting. 57 vendors were notified. Wild Horse races are being scheduled, Indian Relay races, premium book is about ready to publish but livestock portion is being worked out.

The ecology block placement was requested. The funds are not budgeted for this and the cost not specifically placed into the budget. \$9,000 including transportation and PW putting them down. By Memorial Day Commissioner Hover asked about the safety grant applied for and await until that grant comes out since it is for rider and equine safety. She would also like to do the outer rail of the race track and some ecology block around spectator area. She would like the decisions now since there some big things scheduled on the grounds and would like those in place in time of the event. The state Fair meeting is tomorrow and more will be known about the grant funds allocation by the state Dept. of Agriculture. Fairs have hired a lobbyist to SB 5362 Mike Burgess to help push the funding forward. Letters of support is being requested to support the funding.

The RV park would like to open April 1st if the ground allows. A goal this year is that people leave good reviews about the RV park so a lot of work is needed. She is working on the bathrooms and back flow valves, 50-amp hook ups for RV, fire pits to make it nicer. Commissioner Branch learned we are not allowed to have fire pits. Commissioner DeTro thought it was because people are using the gas fire pits more. Logistics can be discussed later.

A waiver was requested for Community COVID events. It was provided for approval. Usually the waiver is for infirm or poor, but it was thought the State Auditor would not ding the county for waiving. No buildings are proposed for this drive through use.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Community COVID events waiver for COVID Vaccine events on the Fairgrounds and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Peasley stated some cancellations from those who did not wish to move their event to the commercial building from the Agriplex.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:35 am for 20 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) inviting Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas, Planning Director Pete Palmer, and Building Official Dan Higbee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended at 9:55 a.m. for five minutes.

Executive session ended at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners discussed Okanogan County Pest Control Board becoming a tri county arrangement with Chelan and Douglas Counties. Commissioners from those counties have reached out to us to ask questions on the logistics of Tri County arrangement.

Once the full Okanogan County Pest Board is appointed the pest board will need to hold a public hearing to classify all lands within Okanogan County for assessment in accordance with RCW 15.09. Commissioners discussed their position and possibility of using reserves to come up with the minimum amount proposed of \$130,000 for 2021. Commissioners discussed classifications of land that would be benefited by an assessment and classifications not benefited. With the Apple Maggot quarantine possible for the whole county it will be imperative to have strong board and funds available to provide the necessary pest control measures to ensure economic prosperity to the agriculture. The pests are harbored by regular people and ornamentals as well as public lands, river systems etc..... Commissioners would like to move forward with the Tri County arrangement contingent on having a full Pest Board, holding the needed public hearing to classify, and having in place the mechanisms for assessment by August 1 for 2022. Commissioner Branch will continue the conversation with the other counties.

Commissioner DeTro explained the Stampede Office missed the deadline for applying for LTAC funds in 2021 because of COVID-19. Commissioner Hover stated the problem is we would step out of the process then more and more will apply late knowing they will get considered anyway. Commissioner Hover thought if it was something to consider then it would be put out to everyone to apply again.

Update -County Treasurer-Leah McCormack
CANCELLED

Update County Treasurer-Cari Hall
Jamie Groomes

Universal registrations were discussed for voters. We would have to print another county's ballot. Whether to be open or not for another county's election is a question even if we do not have an election and whether we can charge the other county for printing their ballot for their people. Auditor Hall wanted to keep the commissioners informed that there are no laws to wrap around this law. Advised not to direct people to their own county for ballot. The County Auditor's will be discussing this because many counties do not have enough salaried certified staff to be in the office to provide the service if someone from another county wanted their county ballot printed. It is an unfunded mandate. Commissioner Branch thought the cost be addressed by the state.

Commissioners and Auditor discussed applying consistency of practices such as making or not making hotel reservations for jury, to avoid gifting of public funds they need to make their own.

SB5148 is before the legislators and would be a Class B felony to threaten any elected official.

Bid Opening-CRP No. 9155-19 Old 97, Driskell to Verestar -Public Works Shasta Stidman

Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson

Maintenance Road Conditions

Road restrictions due to warm weather were put into place but now it's really cold. They will be left on because people can haul early in the morning as it is expected to warm up again. Commissioner Hover explained Hwy 20 over the Loup Loup is very dangerous. The drop between the two layers is 1-2 inches and with so many people using the road it is dangerous. The state has digital signs on some state roads where the roadway is rough and this road doesn't.

Bridge funding was discussed. Bridges pretty much have to be falling down before funds are allocated.

System Recovery

Was going to replace files last week but on hold right now.

Greenacres Rd @ Johnson Creek-Culvert Replacement project by CCT & TU

This project is moving forward. The nearly finalized plans has a box culvert design. Where it is laid out there is a pond up stream so we won't have problems with sediment later on that would require frequent maintenance. Commissioners want to make sure this type of project is planned.

Commissioner Branch said if working with tribes on projects off reservation are referenced and in current project standards that are followed by WDFW. Engineer Thomson said yes, it is what he is seeing. It is important to know what the tribe's involvement is on these particular projects.

Mazama Planning

He brought up the idea of a transportation benefit area to address the intersection in Mazama and it would give them the authority to incorporate. It was thought to be a good idea by those in the advisory committee. Commissioner Hover would like the Mazama Advisory Committee to come in and talk about what is being planned and why, Engineer should be invited.

Liberty Woodlands Sewer System

Engineer Thomson said it is an onsite system with sand filter which is failing and needs to be redone. When it was built in 1990's second one was planned to be built, the best plan is to build a second one now. The sand filter got plugged and water is built up and is heading towards failure. We do need to act on it now so bid process is in place within about 90 days. Commissioner Hover asked how the county can get out from under these systems. When the HOA is involved they don't have to go through all the rules

like the county does, but there is the headache of billing and testing and most HOA's do not want to do that. They would have to agree to take it over.

Upper Beaver Creek Restoration

Engineer Thomson stated he did not believe it is a buildable parcel but the creek is trying to cut through it. The property owner is willing to sell it for the habitat project and Chris Johnson was wondering if the county would submit a letter of support. The creek is going to damage county infrastructure. Commissioner Hover stated the county would like to be involved with what they are trying to do near the county road. We need to be heavily involved to ensure those structures comply.

Motion Letter of Support for Upper Beaver Creek Restoration Project

Commissioner Hover moved to have Mr. Chris Johnson draft a letter of support for commissioners' consideration. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Bio-Char uses for pavement is being explored as only half the depth is required over regular materials. He would like to see it used on overlays to see how it holds up. Commissioner Hover asked how much product the county uses per year. Engineer Thomson explained the information he heard. It can be used for repairing pot holes as well as it bonds well. The commissioners like the idea and would like to be kept posted on any new uses of the materials as an offset to other costs.

Commissioners adjourned till 3:00 p.m.

Board of Health Meeting-1234 2nd Ave S, Okanogan

Commissioners attended the board health meeting.

Update Human Resources/Risk Management-Tanya Craig

Director Craig updated the board on requirements for accessing the Jail and Sheriff's office with unescorted access are required to be fingerprinted. She is gathering the data and information to create a policy that will help staff understand the process and reasons for the requirement. It will be understood by staff's acknowledgement of the consequences of disclosures.

Discussion Communications Project

Mr. Worden explained some documents for commissioner's consideration. Hazard Mitigation Grant to provide a shelter on Tunk. The application requires someone to be designated as the applicant's agent to engage with the military department for this purpose. Is this separate from the legislative ask for \$880,000. Mr. Worden said yes it is different. Legislature doesn't know how much money they will have to allocate to these types of projects. So commissioner Hover was asked if allocation attached to the letter of support recently sent to the legislators could be phased projects or reduced? The City of Omak has projects requesting funding, aircraft fuel safety storage, but not sure if

Hazard Mitigation funds approved. Mr. Worden said because we have another potential funding source for the Tunk project it could be removed from the ask related to the letter. The first six months is \$260,000 related to the ADCOMM contract.

Motion Resolution 16-2021 Washington Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application

Commissioner Hover moved to approve Resolution 16-2021 regarding Tunk Mountain Fire Hardening Project designating Mike Worden as the agent on behalf of Okanogan County Commissioners allowing submittal of the application, grant agreement, and payment requests. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Resolution 17-2021 WHM Grant Program Tunk Mt Project

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 17-2021 committing county funds for fire hardening of up to 25% and at least 12.5% of project costs. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

David Gecas did review the contract and some edits were incorporated, this is the clean version with those recommended edits made.

Motion Engineer Contract ADCOMM

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the professional services radio engineering contract between Okanogan County and ADCOM LLC. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Worden explained a Letter of commitment (resolution that says if we are awarded local commitment to complete the project we might have to commit to the 25% if the state doesn't kick in the 12.5%. Commissioners thanked Mr. Worden for providing the needed information.

Commissioners discussed the letter to legislators asking for communications funding support of \$800,000. A new letter stating our priorities for Okanogan County projects may need to follow. Mr. Worden stated the \$260,000 for ADCOM services would be the priority. The cost benefit analysis will determine our rating, but nothing is guaranteed. Commissioner Branch said if we did get funded the legislators would go down the list to prioritize. It is likely we won't hear the appropriations until late this year or early 2022.

Commissioner Hover would prefer the county to send a letter giving them the option to fulfill other competing interests/options that have been in the works longer than ours such as the City of Omak projects. The county wants to be respectful of those other agency projects. Commissioners would like a follow up letter drafted to the legislators.

Commissioners reviewed the summary paragraph Commissioner Hover came up with to describe a stakeholder group funding request regarding Methow Watershed (WRIA 48)

new challenges. Commissioner Branch offered some revisions.

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 \$713,583.93 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,122,989.48. 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 \$117,576.61 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$53,334.08. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion CDBG CV-1 Grant Agreement

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Grant Agreement between Okanogan County and Department of Commerce for CDBG CV-1 grant funding in the amount of \$227,285 and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Draft Resolution Affordable Housing Allocation

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft a resolution for the \$135,000 gap funding from the Affordable Housing fund for the Housing Authority of Okanogan County Meadowlark housing project. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Director Pete Palmer and Building Official Dan Higbee discussed two draft ordinances. She created two different drafts one stand-alone having to do with building permits and the other added them in. She discussed the changes recommended. She struggled on the stand alone draft to paint the complete picture to tie everything together and addressed the Dept of Ecology's opinion. Commissioner Branch provided some solutions for the stand alone to avoid confusion. Mapping errors are being addressed by GIS and she doesn't feel comfortable using it until those are worked out. Staff felt it would be best to funnel the calls to appropriate staff. Commissioner Hover likes the stand-alone version best and it would go to public hearing at a separate time and he believes they go down two separate roads to be addressed. Commissioner Branch expressed concern about not allowing the physical attendance of people wishing to attend a planning commission meeting. Director Palmer explained how concerned the planning commission was about meeting in person last night. Commissioners discussed meetings in person what was allowed and what isn't. The Clerk of the Board read from the Miscellaneous Venue guidance. (attached)

The board would like to meet tomorrow Wednesday, February 10 at 1:30 p.m. to consider the draft ordinances and any changes to be incorporated.

Motion Amendment Public Health Vouchers

Commissioner Hover moved to amend his previous motion to include the Public Health payroll vouchers amount of \$53,334.08. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Commissioners Proceedings February 2, 3, 2021

Commissioners delayed approving the meeting minutes.

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. Interlocal Agreement Building Inspection Services City of Oroville
2. JIS Link Access Agreement-Merfeld Law Office, PLLC
3. Confidential Agreement JIS Link Use-Noel Merfeld
4. Appointment Letter Housing Authority of Okanogan County-Becky Andrist
5. USDA Forest Service Cooperative Law Enforcement Agreement
6. Resolution 15-2021 Authorizing Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Position

The board adjourned at 4:50 p.m.