

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 1, 2021

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 1, 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.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners reviewed the Domestic Water Supply section of the Capital Facilities Plan, which is now being drafted. The Capital Improvement Plan is mandated in RCW 36.70.520 which omits Cities and Towns, Capital Facilities Plan is not a mandated plan. In 2012 a previous Board of Commissioners adopted a Capital Improvement Plan to identify projects it would spend its Capital Improvement funds on. The Plan updated now being worked on as a combined Capital Facilities/Capital Improvement Plan to coordinate county wide plans to include cities and town urban expansion projects. Commissioner Branch made a growth management connection of why goals and objectives in the act would be used in the Capital Facilities Plan for urban expansion and explained the relationship between interlocal agreements for planning that would incorporate certain things into a plan everyone acknowledged and working towards. Commissioner Hover said a Capital Facilities plan that incorporates coordination of cities projects and plans should be part of the Comprehensive Plan for growth.

Commissioner DeTro asked that a letter be included in the meeting minutes. Commissioner Branch thought a press release would be appropriate as well. However, the county doesn't have a specific Public Relations person assigned to draft and submit releases. Commissioners discussed they should've asked the courts for more time to work on the details that satisfy what they needed. Part of the decision was inappropriate of the court. The letter to the editor asked for the commissioners to respond and now people are grabbing on to it as making it a social justice issue.

Commissioners amended their agenda to cancel Planning Per the director's request and insert Assessor at 1:30 and insert Executive Session per Auditor's request at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded all were in favor motion carried.

Briefing Among Commissioners

Commissioner Branch stated a discussion today at noon regarding COVID funding that included \$8 million for Okanogan County and it was thought to be a direct payment. He will learn more at the meeting. Commissioners discussed what they could use the funds for such as bolstering the county. The American Rescue Plan Act.

Commissioners discussed land use issues that go before the Planning Commission and they provide a recommendation the County Commissioners wanted to determine if they then hold a public hearing afterward or hold a closed hearing and who would take in all the comments. Commissioners looked at the RCW involved.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the COB to put the L&I letter on county letterhead for commissioners' approval. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners discussed additional Planning Staff and what the current work load is and to cover legal issues to provide staffing per agreement for subdivisions. Commissioner DeTro said planners are the buffer between Ecology and the customer and he hoped Planners are not intimidated by Ecology. Commissioner Branch said he hoped to facilitate those barriers within the law and then clarify them between staff and those involved. Documentation of what is discussed in those interactions provides a history and makes a difference on what is going on.

Motion Letter to L & I

Commissioner Hover moved to approve a letter to Joel Sacks, Director Washington State Department of Labor and Industries regarding COVID-19 change in protocols in all sectors of business within our state and directed the Clerk of the Board to send it. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the COB to send the letter to the Director ensuring he received it prior to sending it to all news media as a news release. Motion was seconded, all were in favor motion carried.

Presentation-Methow Valley Broadband Study- Don Linnertz

Mr. Linnertz is the Executive Director for the Twisp Works which was hired as the PDA to conduct the Broad Band feasibility Study in the Methow Valley. He presented the Methow Valley Broadband Planning Report to the board. (attached) Fred Feit with Tilson Tech was the Broadband Consultant who TwispWorks worked with for the plan. Mr. Linnertz thanked the commissioners for their support and matching the grant and providing the funds to help this project move forward. Mr. Linnertz gave some background that led to where we are today which will lead to the needed future funding of the project.

Mr. Linnertz stated phase II funding work with Economic Alliance Roni Holder Diefenbach and EDD on an application for 2-year CARES ACT funding which they did not get but the application was moved over to another program but that would need to be completed 1-year and is in the EA program. Funding opportunities were discussed and the challenges involved.

Mr. Linnertz asked what is next. Commissioner Hover said break county in pieces that are attainable and prioritized based on kids in school, however that can be done to get it to where it is affordable. Commissioners discussed prioritization of the areas and what broadband services through out the county would look like and provide overall to Okanogan County communities.

Commissioner Branch adjourned the meeting until 1:30 p.m.

CANCELLED Update Planning -Pete Palmer

Discussion- Assessor Vehicle Purchase Guidance - Assessor Larry Gilman

Assessor provided quotes for several vehicles for his office. (attached) They would like to have one full size pick up in his fleet. It will provide the needed room and longevity with a 10-year replacement schedule.

2021 Ford Ranger 31,658
2021 Ford F-150 37,383
2021 Dodge Tradesman \$42,678
Chevy Colorado \$31,983

Expense were provided from ER&R manager. A date would need to be established. \$30,000 is already budgeted, \$7383 difference for the Ford-150. ER&R would provide repairs and maintenance and replacement after 10-years. One of the current Assessor's vehicles would be surplussed. Commissioner Hover asked if ER&R amounts would come out of each department budget, yes, that is how it is set up to track each vehicle said Assessor Gilman.

Treasurer McCormack asked if the Assessor wait until June. Yes, he said they could because it is local, but cannot afford to be down one vehicle. A supplemental appropriation would be needed for the purchase. If it is done in June \$12,000 if done in April around \$13,000, said Commissioner Hover. Because the quotes are for different vehicles the commissioners discussed comparison of quotes of like vehicles with like vehicles. Commissioners would like another a price for another pick up like a 1500 half ton with the proper cab size and bring it back the board can consider and determine the lowest and determine what the budget will be. May is just fine.

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the assessor to go through the initial process to supplement the proper budget for the purchase. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

On another matter, Treasurer explained she doesn't really like squeezing current expense for things another fund can be used to pay for. There are several quotes for scanning & digitizing the Assessor's office files and maps the cost is around \$22,3000 and Treasurer scanning costs is about \$26,000 and she feels REET fund 144 can be used. Costs do not include archiving or storage.

Motion Capital Asset List #2

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Capitalized Asset list #2 to be filed with the county Auditor today. motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 2:00 p.m. for 15 minutes inviting Auditor Cari Hall and HR Director Tanya Craig under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment of review the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners exited executive session at 2:10 p.m.

Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation- Title III- Fire Wise

Craig Nelson, Mindy Untalan, Kirsten Smith, Ruth Hall

Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to staff. The Clerk of the Board explained when the county budget was approved it was under the guise that Conservation District was going to submit for the remaining contract award in 2020, but they didn't. The supplemental is for some budget to pay current invoices of the district. She stated another supplemental appropriation would be necessary as this one doesn't include the entire remaining amount of the contract due to an error. The actual amount should have been for \$6485 but is for \$3884.

Commissioner Branch asked for public testimony. No public testimony.

Motion Resolution 22-2021 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Title III Fund 137

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 22-2021 appropriating budget to the Title III fund 137 for remaining FireWise Program funds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch closed the public hearing

Commissioner Hover discussed Title III fund receipts and the Secure Rural Schools and

Self Determination act and asked if the board about allocating a certain amount of revenue to entities on an annual basis and if allocation isn't spent by the end of the year than the remaining funds be reallocated in the next process.

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 \$807,672.57 and Payroll vouchers in the amount of \$1,131,311.53. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Public Health Voucher

Commissioner moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in the amount of \$73,587.90 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$49,896.73. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion – Special 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 \$1,184.15. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Review Meeting Minutes

The board adjourned at 4:10 p.m.