

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 29, 2021

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 29, 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.

Commissioner Branch was not present for this morning's meetings due to attending a different meeting.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

Briefing Among Commissioners- Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule

The Clerk of the Board explained duties of hers that could be delegated to an additional part time clerk and the Deputy Clerk, that would allow her to take on additional grant workload. Commissioners requested a cost comparison of a part time Clerk funded at .75 FTE versus a Grant Manager. Commissioner Hover asked the Clerk of the Board to work with HR for the wage information.

Update- Veterans Relief Board- Pam Y Perez

Tom Evans

Pam Stevens provided the veterans office quarter one update and discussed the items noted there. She's working to get Mr. Evans up to speed on the office work so he can take over by March 31. He responded that he will be challenged. Outreach to Methow will begin soon as Room One has sufficient space. There is a plan to do outreach in the Coulee Dam area as well.

Additional software is being installed in the Veterans office for better computer system security.

Veterans Administration is setting Veterans up for their COVID vaccinations. The rural communities are looking after Veterans and one another.

Update Public Works- Josh Thomson

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

Old 97 Driskell to Verestar project award

Motion Bid Award Old 97 Driskell to Verestar Project

Commissioner DeTro moved to award the Driskell to Verestar project Bid to Granite Construction. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Maintenance & Road Conditions

Not a lot of damage reported due to the severe wind storm although a lot of dust was stirred up.

Engineer Thomson stated he would like to chip seal parts of Rendezvous. It would require amendment the annual construction project to add it. Use the airport runway tailings could be used. More details will be gathered if the board wishes to pursue the project. Chiliwist chip seal will have to wait.

Area 3 & 5 Shops

Engineer Thomson provided a fee proposal for architectural services for the two shops. The architect recommended the buildings be made of steel rather than wood. Commissioners proposed to use Road Funds for the architectural services and Capital Improvement fund for construction. The foundation must be included in the construction plans. The septic system is not included for a pressurized mounted design.

Commissioners would like to see the \$102,366 for architectural fees paid from the Road Fund. A budget supplemental will be prepared for the costs.

Snowmobile Grooming

Snowmobile grooming will occur up higher to clear areas near Harts pass where the snow is deeper.

Would like to look into applying for grant funds to replace the truck the groomer is hauled with.

Employee travel

Engineer Thomson explained some employees are traveling out of country. CDC recommends quarantine after traveling. He conferred with Public Health officer and Lauri Jones said going out of country or attending a large tourist event such as Disney Land warrants a need to quarantine.

Consent Agenda

Engineer Thomson went over the consent agenda items.

Miller pit is operating now. In four weeks, we will be done, so it is very low impact.

Engineer Thomson said rock will be placed on the road to address the dust complaint.

Motion USDA RBDG Grant Applications

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve two letters of support for Economic Alliance's application for two USDA Rural Business Development Grants: One for Technology Business Center and the other one for continued Broad Band technology access. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch joined this afternoons meeting.

Update- Planning- Director Pete Palmer

Director Palmer provided her staff report and discussed the items listed there.

Methow Advisory Committee

Director Palmer stated input is needed to reestablish several committees in the Methow. She would like the committees to move forward with adoption of their updates to the Comprehensive plan. That is the Mazama sub area A and Methow sub area A. Commissioner Hover said Mazama Sub Area A is a group that functions right now. John Sunderlund was going to try and gather everyone on the committee to visit with the Commissioners, but hasn't yet. Commissioner Hover is looking for uniformity. Director Palmer said she is aware of only two sub areas. The boundaries of Methow Sub Area A encompass school district 350. It is unclear what the boundaries are for the Mazama Sub Area A, so staff is gathering data to determine.

Commissioners discussed options and ideas for sub area committees.

Commissioner Hover asked if the committees would be interested in meeting with the board to consider the option of combining the sub area's and then delineating between the different sections in the area with representation from a nine-person board. Three representatives from south, three from mid and three from north for the whole Methow area. Commissioner Branch commented that a study was done of the differences in how differences in fire areas and expectations of fire resiliency and how findings of that study may play into sub area planning. Commissioner Hover thought if the county was broken up into chunks based on the diversity of the people living in those areas, the county may consider a new way of doing things. Commissioner Branch noted there is an educational element for recommending to the BOCC and it fits into a framework provided by the state for reaching consensus, then relay to authorities who adopt the plan. He would like to hear from the groups, too. Director Palmer said the sub area committees would be advising the Planning Commission who would then bring those recommendations to the BOCC. In the past, positions were advertised and resumes collected for appointment consideration. Commissioner Branch expressed his concern when lack of understanding of the whole planning issue is happening. Director Palmer noted Oroville regional planning commission provision in our code doesn't help because

it is not a committee that is implemented.

Going back to that, she thought what would work better is to have the advisory committees who bring things to the Planning Commission. That way we could have more ownership with the county residents.

Is there a final consensus on the draft alternative, but there were things done that were confusing? Run that section by David Gecas before formalizing it. The Planning Commission may need to hold a special meeting to formally clarify.

David Gecas arrived at 2:00 p.m.

Stennes Appeal of 911 Addressing

An appeal for Stennes 911 addressing was submitted to the board several weeks ago. The appeal is to be scheduled for a decision that is based on the record transmitted. Commissioners would like this placed on their agenda. Should there be a hearing? David Gecas said it is not clear in the code. Both parties were alright with waiving the hearing if everything was submitted to the board for consideration. Commissioner Branch asked if a closed record hearing would be appropriate? David Gecas stated an executive session to discuss this would be appropriate as both sides have threatened litigation. It was thought that no public testimony would be needed.

Commissioners discussed whether or not to advertise for Planning Commission member appointments that have expired. Commissioners discussed providing opportunity to others to sit on the commission. Commissioners thought if the appointments were extended one year that would be good.

David Gecas received the final agreement to be approved for Professional Services by Tadas Kisielius with Van Ness Feldman LLP for Okanogan County regarding Land Use Cases.

Motion Land Use Agreement Van Ness Feldman LLP

Commissioner Hover moved to approve and sign the Professional Services for Land Use Agreement between Okanogan County and Van Ness Feldman LLP. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 2:25 for 15 minutes inviting David Gecas to discuss RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session was extended at 2:40 p.m. for 5 minutes.

Executive session was extended at 2:45 p.m. for another 5 minutes.

Executive session ended at 2:50 p.m.

Update- OBHC Quarterly Meeting- Dave McClay and Dennis Rabidou

Mr. McClay introduced himself and explained who the new executive officers are. His hope is to provide stability to the services and be able to improve. Chief Officer Quin is meeting with community hospitals and providers to reach out and form relationships with them. Increase access outside Omak a cost-effective way is to use existing foot buildings where existing providers are. Allowing clients to drive the process on efforts of telemedicine provisions. He is looking at the numbers data. Received a grant for certified behavioral access which allows hiring staff to form the act team designed to go into the community to serve people with an interdisciplinary team to ensure goals are met. The grant includes funds for purchasing a van. The grant will help increase access to the community. There are all kinds of bills out there such as for supervision, 988, and OBHC is monitoring them. Currently OBHC has six openings.

Going forward OBHC is getting ready for increase in services especially when the kids get back into school. Additional Child providers are going to be needed. OBHC is really driving quality on the clinical aspect of things. Trying to update and upgrade forms as they haven't been updated since 2008. Looking at the financials and taking steps to adjust and make it better. Getting stakeholder and clients involved in how services are set up and the flow integrated into the organization.

Crisis services are seeing this split change. When the insurance contracts were created there was a 30/70 split but Okanogan County is more like 49/51 split. There are many underinsured so there isn't one blanket answer to cover the additional costs.

Mr. Rabidou explained some cases must be in person. Juvenile did purchase a tablet that could help with remote processes and cases.

Discussion- CDBG CV2 Grant Application- Lael Duncan

Roni Holder Diefenbach

Lael Duncan explained the annual funding report addendum. The funds have really helped tide people over. The food pantries were able to purchase meat for the food banks by providing funds where people could purchase the meat from the local grocers. Distribution of food was done with the funds as well by delivering 2.1 million pounds of food to the pantries. There is always a need for food. One key thing experienced is the health of the national guard that has been a real blessing. The guard helps with deliveries, packages, and also came up with efficient distributions such as drive through pick up.

Roni Holder Diefenbach discussed these funds with colleagues for micro enterprises. It costs the ADO more money to process the grants because it requires low or moderate income applicants. It takes a lot of time and effort to find eligible business that qualify. It is hard to find businesses who met the eligibility requirements. Any funds that come in that do not have these restrictions then Economic Alliance could administer those funds.

Ms. Duncan expressed that OCCAC is set up to administer to low income individuals. OCCAC said they turned down emergency rental assistance funding at \$2.8 million with a short time line to apply, but looking at the funding again and looking at other funds expiring this would really help with the rush from people needing rental assistance which would preserve some of the CDBG money to another function.

Commissioner Hover asked if the \$2.8 million could be used for rent and utilities. He heard there is a large amount of unpaid utilities because of COVID. OCCAC is able to allocate irrigation utility funds for seniors and residential residents. They will also pay more like a lighting bill plus an additional amount.

Are there funds available to pay low income people to work in the food bank. Ms. Duncan has not heard of that. They are applying for \$150,000 WSCA grant to purchase equipment used in food bank distribution centers. Food banks need help with transportation but most do not have supportive funds for maintaining a vehicle. A trailer might be more useful and does not incur costs.

CDBG CV2 funds would be used for mortgage payments, because we do not have funds dedicated to those costs, but would like flexibility. Ms. Diefenbach asked if there were funds available to landlords because there are many who have not been paid their rental and will lose those homes. Ms. Duncan stated their T-RAP funds allow direct coordination with the land lords, but they must participate. The mom and pops are using their homes as rental because of the loss of affordable housing. She will dig into what mortgage help can be provided with the funds.

Review Meeting Minutes

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.