

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OKANOGAN COUNTY

MARCH 8, 2021

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on March 8, 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 discussed moving the 3:00 p.m. discussion to an earlier time slot.

Briefing Among Commissioners

Commissioners Hover discussed a Fairgrounds/Maintenance meeting on Friday between the Clerk of the Board, Maintenance and Fairground Event Coordinator in order to create a better communication of maintenance work and projects. He explained concerns of Maintenance with not having enough help to maintain the grounds or enough expense budget for projects. Fairgrounds maintenance and coordinator will now meet on Monday's to improve communication on what can be accomplished in the ensuing week.

Chuck Brushwood, Greg Knott and Mike Fort contacted Commissioner on county utilizing funding to make sure the county is doing its due diligence on water quality.

Commissioner Hover explained he spoke to George Thornton about Infrastructure funds being used for the TV District #1 improvements and repairs. To use the Infrastructure funds consistent with prior practices Economic Alliance would need to be brought into the discussion as an Emerging Opportunity application would be needed to start the process. As Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee Commissioner Branch stated it has become more of an emergency of the TV District to keep its piece of infrastructure in place when funds are short. TV District #1 is meeting later today with the BOCC.

Commissioner Branch stated the application for Emerging Opportunity should be presented to the Executive Board then finally to the commissioners.

Legislative Update- Potts & Associates

Lobbyist Zac Kennedy provided his legislative update about bills before the legislators. He discussed several points of interest and concern from bills listed on his email. (attached)

Commissioner Branch noted that some rural counties in the western and southwestern parts of the state are at the same table as we are on these rural issues. Many don't realize that a majority of the King County is rural, stated Zac Kenney.

Discussion Review Resolution & Tri-County Interlocal Agreement-Commissioners

Commissioner Branch started to discuss the Tri-County interlocal agreement for Horticulture Pest and Disease Control and the resolution drafted by Chelan County for pest control within a tri county area.

Update TV District #1 George Thornton

Leah McCormack

George Thornton provided an update on the progress of restoring TV District #1 services to the Okanogan Valley. Some air service has already been restored. TV service repairs will have to wait until the mud season is over on Omak Mt. During the previous meeting the Board had discussed in kind assistance to the District as well as about \$50,000 in funding. The next stage is to determine equipment needs and costs, arrange cooperation of contractors, technicians and logistics.

George Thornton stated the District was limited to restoring only four stations on the first trip up the mountain. He has been conversing with KSPS, KHQ, KXLY and others to help support the effort. The tribe has gone out of their way to help and support the efforts. He thanked Chief Mike Worden with his use of the sno-cat that made it possible for the district and AT&T to get to the Mt. Evaluation of the site was able to happen.

Other sites are being considered for upgrades to current compatibility and electronics renewed such as on Fox Mt., Olive Mt, and Pickens Mt. The biggest worry is the signal leaking over into Canada, as their version of FCC would have to approve. A new tower would allow the district to lease out to others which is about 40% of the budget. Full service should be restored by mid-summer.

George Thornton provided that the Safe Start Program is encouraged to expand our vision and because they are interested in creating more jobs and technology training at Wenatchee Valley College. With that coordination and collaboration a proposal can be created for a Safe Start Program grant. The plan is to bring back local news coverage. A partner for the production side is being explored and things are being set up for that and for folks to sign on. There is a short window of opportunity. It is all in the envisioning stage right now.

Commissioner Branch asked if Northwest Area Foundation has been contacted for grants?

George Thornton asked what the best process would be to access the county's

Infrastructure Fund to help restore full service and show Okanogan County fully supports the effort.

Treasurer McCormack had questions about the status of the \$50,000 commitment from the county. Commissioner Branch stated there is a process to approve the funds that must be done first. George Thornton stated the \$50,000 would be used for the needed repairs of the tower, it's a defined project. To her knowledge there are only three TV Districts in the state, one in Kittitas and two in Okanogan. When there are only three TV Districts in the state there is very little clout at the state to fund projects. Employees of the district are not sustainable, explained Treasurer McCormack. Thornton stated there were no plans for any additional employees. Treasurer wants to ensure the District is sustainable on its own if or in case KSPS and others no longer want to be involved. We cannot ask the user base to fully support the district unless the services provided are the best they can be.

Commissioner Branch said when the Infrastructure bond goes away we should involve the cities in a new process. The District might consider the provision of Broadband services.

Update Planning- Director Pete Palmer

Director Palmer addressed Isabel Spohn's concerns regarding the 1976 Methow Valley Plan vs the New 2014 Completely Planned Area ordinance. She explained her research to compare the two plans and found reformatting changes that changed page numbers and the additional wording in the advisory committee section. There was a blank spot under a study area in school area 350. A boundary map was made of the school district and is an irregular shape and not very well depicted. She suggested the maps be updated instead of carried over from older plans. The new updated version did not include the Sandy Butte ski resort. Certain things in the 1976 plan did not belong in the new updated 2014 version. Meeting speakers and topics covered in 1976 were discussed. As inquiries happen Director Palmer is looking into the concerns and it does take a lot of her time. Commissioner Hover asked that this not be discussed again until the county gets to that point in the comp plan. Commissioner Branch agreed, but the letter that went to the planning commission relied on input taken from people in the region from that time. It can come up in the hearing and can easily be fixed by the Planning Commission when they get to that place. Adjustments can be made to clarify things.

Craig Nelson Contract extension is forth coming.

District Use Chart ordinance draft was provided for consideration. It is the interim amendment to OCC 17.A.40.060, 17A.50.060, 17A.220 District Use Chart that had expired. The draft adopts the interim amendments and sets a public hearing. Commissioner Hover discussed legal notice requirements that must be followed. In

addition, he would like the commissioners' agenda to list upcoming public hearings before the commissioners. He stated there needs to be better coordination with the the Clerk of the Board by the Planning department. Director Palmer stated some staff have reminders to provide the needed information to the clerk to help with the scheduling. Commissioner Hover stated the issue is that the upcoming hearings be posted on the Commissioners Agenda. The county's new website should have an obvious place for this.

Discussion Infrastructure Priority Funding- Mike Worden

Sheriff Tony Hawley, Aaron Culp, Josh Thomson

Chief Worden provided an Infrastructure Priority Solicitation Form from Senator Murray's office to help her office track and collect information on priorities across Washington State. The survey is not limited as to how many projects we list.

Communications efforts is a current item. Commissioner Hover said the tax collected is one way the county is able to fund communications project. Chief Worden said at some point a communications building is going to be needed for Communications, EOC, and Central Services and how those fit into the county plan. Commissioner Hover stated the plan to use the Forest Service building by Public Works for the Juvenile and Superior Court functions. Would the current Juvenile Detention building work to house the communications center. It depends on the retro fit it would require. On the EOC side it might not work due to size.

All Bridges on Hwy 153, repairs to Hwy 20 as it is coming apart, and Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board wants to push for more money to remove the sea lions, but it depends on certain things whether he would sign his name or not. Commissioner Branch stated some projects have not been vetted and are not shovel ready projects yet. Communications has been a priority and is already partially funded. We have not prioritized our infrastructure projects and he would like to do that. Commissioner Hover stated he would be willing to identify a list.

Internet infrastructure throughout Okanogan County is another priority. Commissioners discussed various projects that are important to Okanogan County.

Engineer Thomson thought the priority list the Senator was asking for would include state projects within our county much bigger than the county projects being discussed here today.

Chief Worden will provide the commissioners with their project lists for submittal. Engineer Thomson will get back to the board with the DOT infrastructure list.

Commissioners discussed the District Use Chart Amendment Ordinance 2021-4.

Commissioner Hover discussed Legally available water and physically available water and limitations of each was discussed. In Okanogan valley there are areas without water such as Tunk and Silver Spur.

Motion Ordinance 2021-4 Interim District Use Chart Amendments

Commissioner Hover moved to approve Ordinance 2021-4 adopting interim amendments to OCC 17.A.40.060, OCC 17A.50.060, OCC 17A.60.060, and OCC 17A.220 District Use Chart and setting a public hearing as required by RCW 36.70.795. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Setting a Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-4

Commissioner Hover moved to set the public hearing May 10 at 1:30 p.m. and publish the hearing notice for two consecutive weeks. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners discussed their draft resolution for the Tri-County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board. The commissioners sorted out the history of Pest Control in Okanogan county and to ensure the recitals in the resolution describe good history of what happened here.

Will Carpenter is the agent for each of the Tri-County pest control boards and is appointed by each board to provide services for the control of horticultural pests within each county.

Payment is done quarterly to Chelan County for one third of the costs.

Review Meeting Minutes

The board adjourned at 4:00 p.m.