

## **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**MARCH 9, 2021**

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

### **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

Naomie Peasley

Ms. Peasley provided her fairgrounds update. The FAC met and a draft newspaper article was provided that will be published in April. (attached) She will be taking over the press releases. Preregistration for certain livestock is coming up June 10th. Facebook is being used to get the word out and that is working well. Bids will be gathered to address the electrical safety issues on the south camping ground. The irrigation project is priority, but a scope of work needs to be created for it and the electrical, said Commissioner Hover. Commissioner DeTro stated a commercial electrician will have to do the work such as Kruse or Schmidt as they are the only two commercial electricians in the area. Joe Poulin said the scope of work and RFQ publication will include the 23 pedestals. The work must begin on these two projects ASAP to accomplish before fair. Ms. Peasley said she will be meeting with Commissioner Hover every Friday and meeting with Maintenance every Monday. She has put a lot on their plate this year with an additional 21 events scheduled in areas that have not been used before which means more work. The department is overwhelmed. Another permanent full-time maintenance worker employee is recommended. Commissioner Hover asked how much more revenue would be generated due to the additional events. Ms. Peasley did not know. With Superior Court's use of the Agriplex we are not generating its full rental fee of \$1100 so that is a loss and many of the other buildings proposed to be rented only generate around \$200-\$400 per building. Ms. Peasley discussed holding a free compost day for people to haul away the animal stall saw dust by-product. Commissioners did not have a problem with that.

The Arts and Craft building updates will be done by contractors, Joe Poulin is working on a bid to accomplish by April 10.

Ms. Peasley provided an Article about Jean Berney that was published in a National Magazine called "Hay There!". (attached)

Joe Poulin provided the costs to provide another full-time fairgrounds maintenance employee for the Fairgrounds. (Attached) There are currently two part time seasonal positions that start one month apart. He would like to take one position and change it to a full time position and then the other position would start in May. Many of the preventative maintenance tasks cannot be accomplished by one person, let alone projects. Commissioner Branch said more activities generate more income and we cannot have more activities unless we have staff to do the work. Joe Poulin said he would look for someone with experience at running the tractor, and fixing things. Commissioner Branch said hopefully the results will justify adding the position. The commissioners would like to see the position funded up to a step three for experience. The board would like to see the success of events on a metrics at the end of the season. Ms. Peasley acknowledged their request.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Maintenance to go through the steps with HR to authorize the Maintenance Tech position up to step three for the fairgrounds, update job description, and define the duties. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Joe Poulin requested funds to purchase a more efficient used water truck for the track at a cost around \$25,000. He suggested keeping the old one for a portable water station. Commissioner Hover would like to see some quotes and prices to consider for the request.

Maurice Goodall updated the board on the weekly COVID vaccine events happening on fairgrounds. Tents will be set up for the event use. Everything is going as planned.

Planning Director Pete Palmer updated the board on last night's Planning Commission Public Hearing. AV Capture server was full so the hearing was not able to be published last night. There were 116 comments submitted and will reviewed and documented on a spreadsheet. Most were from the Methow Valley. There was concern from the Planning Commission that there were not many comments from Okanogan Valley citizens. The hearing was not continued it was closed to written and public comment. Some issues brought up were developments in critical areas, ordinance adopted, water quality and quantity, and the want for advisory groups to meet again. Planning Commission will go over the comments at their next regular meeting with a plan to form a recommendation to the BOCC.

Director Palmer explained how people take discussion out of context and then made suggestions on how to clear that up in the future.

David Gecas asked for a quick executive session on new litigation that may happen.

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

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 9:40 a.m. for 10 minutes inviting Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas to discuss agency matters relating to potential litigation. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 9:50 a.m. for another 10 minutes. Executive Session ended at 10:00 a.m. no decisions were made.

### **Update Human Resources/Risk Management Tanya Craig**

Shelley Keitzman provided information from the Veterans Service Officer, Pamela Stevens who is resigning her position as VSO. The Veterans Board recommended that Thomas Evens be promoted to the position once it is vacated March 31, 2021. He would be affective April 1, 2021. (attached) The promotion would include performing all duties of the VSO. He has been in training and has his Veterans accreditation.

### **Motion Resolution 28-2021 Promotion Tom Even**

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 28-2021 promoting Tom Evens to Veterans Service Officer beginning April 1, 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Resolution 29-2021 Signing Authority Tom Evens**

Commissioner DeTro moved to approve resolution 29-2021 granting signing authority to Tom Evens for the Veterans Office. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion was carried.

Risk Manager Tanya Craig provided her staff update. She helped Noxious Weed, Planning, and Public Works draft employee related resolutions.

Ms. Craig discussed the Law Enforcement Services agreement regarding the city of Tonasket vehicle transfer. She said there is no depreciation schedule for the vehicle as depreciation is determined by the USA Rural Housing Service Director for the Community Facility Grant program. A depreciation schedule should be created for the vehicle by Okanogan County Sheriff for 150,000 miles, which is a common number used for depreciation of law enforcement vehicles. The Board would like a schedule to be agreed upon.

Commissioner DeTro asked the Clerk of the Board to send information from the Engineer regarding the recent bid for the Old 97 Driskell to Verestar Rd project to Senator Short, Rep. Kretz and Rep Maycumber.

### **Update County Auditor- Cari Hall Jamie Groomes**

Auditor Hall explained she is working on the annual report now. The grant accountability worksheets are coming in. Financial notes about COVID are being created and it is a

big section this year. The report will be reviewed by the State Auditor for determining whether we are sustainable or not. Commissioner Hover asked what the state auditor was going to be looking for. They are interested in the county's mitigation and plan to sustain from impacts of COVID.

Auditor Hall said she received a tentative retirement from an employee who fills a vital position in Accounts Payable. She asked if someone could be brought in for two months to train before the retirement in October. A resolution is needed to allow payment from the same BARS code.

The Planning Director requested a budget supplemental appropriation to fund a planner to a senior position. The funds may come from contingency reserve and/or beginning fund balance with the difference from the two salary lines currently budgeted. The supplemental will require a reduction of revenue.

Commissioner Branch mentioned \$8 million of the stimulus funds has been dedicated to Okanogan County. Auditor Hall said the county's accounting program EDEN isn't going to last much longer and will need to be replaced very soon.

Auditor Hall explained a senate bill regarding Recording that was just passed yesterday. The county auditors are pushing for the bill to create some uniformity in recording documents that had racial covenants. Historically Racial covenants were placed on documents about who could own land etc..... In 1982 the courts said no new records could have those covenants on them, but due to a lawsuit requiring destruction of these old historical documents there is a bill that instead requires Auditors to interpret documents and redact the ones with the racial covenants. However, it is still a historical document. Since Okanogan County has digitized its documents it will take years to redact and rescan to avoid destroying the original document. It could cost a lot of money.

Another law passed last year regarding elections voter's pamphlets. This year counties are scrambling to learn how to print them. Quotes for different companies have gone out. We need about 26,000 for the primary election and even more for the general. An opinion will be requested from the chief civil deputy regarding the prohibitive cost and it could be waived by the county commissioners. We have to come up with the work and the state pays their share. Only two companies have been identified that can do the printing and mailing both. Auditor Hall is reaching out to all the newspapers in the county as well. All quotes will be brought to the commissioners for selection.

Another requirement is all elections computer systems must be updated to Windows 10 at a cost around \$1300 per unit. A budget supplemental may include these costs as well as for the pamphlets.

Another thing is the auditor's office must stay open on election nights even when there is not an election for Okanogan County. The costs are being absorbed by the department as it is an unfunded mandate.

### **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)**

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:50 for 10 minutes inviting Auditor Hall to discuss the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Executive session ended at 11:00 a.m. no decisions were made.

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

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

#### *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

Engineer Thompson stated many road restrictions were taken off of the lower elevations. Many higher elevations have been extended and some waivers can be issued for roads taking longer to thaw out.

#### *Old 97 Driskell to Verestar Project*

The email was forwarded to Senator Short, Rep Kretz and Rep Maycumber explained Commissioner DeTro because they may be able to expedite the resolve of the impact.

#### *Projects for State and Federal Funding*

Projects NCW has not put the list together yet for Senator Murray. Senator Hawkins has a similar request but Engineer Thomson has not seen that list request. The only project for State list is Kartar Valley.

Commissioner Branch discussed some major projects in Okanogan County for infrastructure funds that could be listed on the Senator's surveys. There are things we know and are prioritized that should be sent to DOT for federal funding. Pay attention to cities prioritizations. A similar list at OCOG would be beneficial for lobbying for funds, said Engineer Thomson, and there isn't one. Commissioners would like the list of cities prioritizations from Economic Alliance. Commissioner Branch said he would contact Roni Holder Diefenbach.

#### *Surplus Auction & County Employees*

Engineer Thomson explained County employees have asked if they can bid on items at the county public surplus auction. The county does not have an approved policy allowing county employees to purchase items at a public surplus auction. RCW 42.23.030 and the Municipal Research Services Center (MRSC) provides guidance and recommendation to prohibit county employees from bidding on county surplus as public auction. The sale to county employees could be viewed as a direct sale even if

purchased at a public surplus auction. Engineer Thomson thought a policy to address this would be beneficial. Commissioner Hover said county employees should not be allowed to directly bid on county surplus. Commissioner Branch proposed a resolution to address this as a policy of the county. Another aspect is if an employee bids on something and it ups the sales amount it could look unfair to others bidding on the same item.

### **Motion Draft Policy Prohibiting County Employees from Bidding on County Surplus**

Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to develop a resolution policy prohibiting county employees from bidding on county surplus. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

Engineer Thomson summarized the items listed on the consent agenda having to do with Public Works functions.

### **Motion Teamsters Local Union Public Works Solid Waste**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the agreement between Okanogan County and Teamsters Local Union for Public Works Solid Waste Division collective bargaining unit. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Teamster Local Union Public Works Road Division**

Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the agreement between Okanogan County Teamsters Local Union for Public Works Road Division collective bargaining unit. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners discussed holding specific public meetings to discuss items that the public may be interested in commenting on. The commissioners discussed application for 2022 LTAC funds to address safety issues on county owned trails. Commissioner Branch discussed areas near Reman and Reload in Oroville that he is interested in addressing. He provided some history of the area and city project.

### **Motion Resolution 26-2021 Approving Tri-County Pest Control Board**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 26-2021 approving a Tri-County Horticulture Pest & Disease Control Board to include Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Tri County Horticulture Interlocal Agreement**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Tri-County Agreement for Horticultural Pest and Disease Control between Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties. 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 Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$58,867.75. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the Oroville 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 to Life Line in the amount of \$9,680 for February services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene as the Tonasket EMS District. 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 \$16,200 to Life Line for February Services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

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

### **Motion CDBG Grant Oroville Housing Authority Sewer Project Request #2**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the CDBG Grant Oroville Housing Authority Sewer Project Request 2 in the amount of \$1886 and authorize the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried. Commissioner Branch noticed the cost was associated with administration DOE loan funding for the sewer connection costs and thought it may not be allowed under the CDBG grant. The Clerk of the Board will reach out to the subrecipient for clarification.

### **Motion Resolution 27-2021 Noxious Weed Dept. Technicians**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 27-2021 creating one new Lead Field Technician Position, reclassifying one current Field Technician to Lead Field Technician, and defunding the Assistant Manager Position. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Branch adjourned at 12:00 p.m. for lunch

### **Board of Health Meeting-1234 2nd Ave S**

Commissioners attended the Board of Health Meeting.

### **Approve Commissioner Proceedings March 1, 2021 and March 2, 2021**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve commissioners' proceedings of March 1 and March 2, 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-15 removing item #5. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Appointment Letter-Veterans Advisory Board-Eric Fritts
2. Acknowledgement Facility Use Rental Contract North Valley Mechanical
3. Work Request- Public Works Reimbursable Work Town of Twisp
4. Bid Award Od 97 Driskell to Verestar Rd Granite Construction Company
5. Bid Award 2021 Liquid Asphalt Ergon Asphalt & Emulsions, Inc
6. Bid Award 2021 Soil Stabilizer- GMCO Roadwise Inc
7. Supplemental Agreement #2-OCOG Primitive Road Strategy-Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc
8. Cattle Guard Franchise Relinquishment-CCF #N-204-Cameron Lk Rd OCR#9309
9. First Addendum Law Enforcement Services Agreement-City of Tonasket
10. Agreement Architect Services Forest Service Building Juvenile Dept & Courts Feasibility Study
11. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #4 Feb-No. 20-62210-011
12. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #20 Feb-No. 19-62210-011
13. CDBG Public Services Grant CV-1 Request #2 No 20-6221C-119
14. Resolution 24-2021 Homeless Housing Allocation Oroville Housing Authority Emergency Shelter
15. Resolution 25-2021 Authorize 2-Temporary Flagger Positions-Public Works

Commissioners discussed Infrastructure priorities for Senator Murray's survey. Commissioner Hover proposed for the county and then discussed other agency priorities.

- emergency communications-#1
- Internet Infrastructure-broken into phases-#2
- Methow Bridges & Omak Bridge
- Perfect Passage in Tonasket
- Old 97 intersection-Brewster
- Omak Bridge

Is the DOT going to fill out the survey for state hways in our region? An email to confirm priorities would be good.



Commissioner Branch will meet with Paul Parker on projects of the state transportation commission. Commissioner Hover will attend a meeting with Jason Paulsen later this week.

**Motion Resolution 30-2021 Authorizing a Temp Position Auditor's Office**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 30-2021 allowing a temporary position to be funded out of the same BARS code as the Accounting Clerk III for training purposes. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover discussed sustainable agriculture meant people can get a loan in the spring and in December they are able to pay it off. Commissioner Hover discussed a long-time county resident who has a piece of property in agriculture they wanted to subdivide and sell off to be able to retire, but due to the county's moratorium they cannot. They would never be able to lease or sell the water and the land would not be worth what they thought it would be worth.

Commissioners discussed the need to draft a letter in response to the Crown Columbia Water Transfer.

Commissioners discussed subjective water laws and codes in order to hash out a better understanding of the water situation and permitting issues as it pertains to Okanogan County and the citizens who live here.

The board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.