

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

JANUARY 4, 2021

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on January 4, 2021. Commissioner Jim DeTro Commissioner Chris Branch; Commissioner Andy Hover; and Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

Organize the Board

The Clerk of the Board opened the meeting and called for 2021 nominations of Chairman and Vice Chairman.

The Clerk of the Board called for nominations of chairman three times.

Commissioner Hover nominated Commissioner Branch for chairman.

Commissioner DeTro nominated Commissioner Branch as chairman. Commissioner Branch accepted the nomination. All were in favor of Commissioner Branch as Chairman.

Commissioner Branch called for nominations for vice chairman.

Commissioner DeTro nominated Commissioner Hover for vice Chairman and cast a unanimous vote for his nomination. Commissioner Hover accepted the position for vice Chairman.

Commissioner Hover moved to accept the nomination of Commissioner DeTro for Vice-chairman. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

The Clerk of the Board stated Naomie Peasley cancelled the 3:00 discussion scheduled today and updated the commissioners' online agenda.

Briefing Among Commissioners

Commissioners discussed the Prosecutor Candidate interview questionnaire. The interviews are scheduled January 11. Commissioners discussed their individual preferences for eliminating certain questions and noted that some were based on candidate political standing on certain issues that they felt may not be appropriate.

Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h)

Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:10 a.m. for 10 minutes under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioners extended executive session at 10:20 a.m. another 15 minutes.

Executive session ended at 10:35 a.m. no decisions were made.

Meet & Greet-OBHC New CEO, David McClay, Dennis Rabidou

Dennis Rabidou introduced David McClay who is the new CEO of Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare who was selected by the recruitment committee.

Mr. McClay is from Cowlitz County on the west side of the state. He went to college in Pullman.

Cowlitz is a pretty rural county as is Okanogan County. He has been involved in behavior health for 11 years and moved up in positions along the way. He is looking forward to moving to this area and his preference is the Lake Chelan area. He feels this position is a really good opportunity for his family.

Commissioner Branch asked about Mr. McClay's financial background experience in dealing with the different funding sources Mental Health services requires. Mr. McClay said he used to work on the audit team for a CPA firm and he was hired from there. Mr. Rabidou said Mr. McClay has a unique passion and provides experience from the bottom up which seems a really good fit here. Commissioner Hover is thankful Mr. McClay is involved with the nuts and bolts portion of the job as well as being versed in the mental health aspect. There have been queries by past CEO's about the county's budgeting process and OBHC contracts with the county to provide community mental health services for use of the county funds. Commissioner Branch said is like an investigation on the county's part of how its funds get distributed to OBHC and how OBHC is to meet the requirements of the rules involved with both the sales tax funds and millage funds. Commissioners depend on OBHC to be involved and to discuss with them regularly what services are provided for the funds OBHC receives.

Mr. McClay explained how Cowlitz County participated in the early adopter meetings but then Cowlitz County adopted later. He said mental health is challenging when put into the health care system. We are in an era where we need the facts and figures to adopt better outcomes.

Commissioners explained the county must provide funds for mental health services pursuant to RCW and OBHC is the contractor to provide certain Therapeutic Court Services to those involved and for which the county collects sales tax revenue. As the contractor OBHC is expected to provide regular updates to the Board about those services because it is public funding.

Crisis response in Okanogan County is difficult due the number of deputies able to respond to situations and public safety is a big thing which does need to be addressed by first responders and mental health professionals alike. Mr. Rabidou stated Mr. McClay has experience in responding to crisis. Mr. McClay likes the idea of integrating police into response services to help flip the paradigm. He wants to work collaboratively together to leverage the funding that is out there. He is good on that and looks forward to connecting the pieces in order to help. Commissioner Branch looks forward to working more with OBHC since he is connected to ACH.

Update-Planning & Development-Director Pete Palmer

The Planning update was cancelled today.

Commissioners discussed tomorrow's attendance by zoom until COVID-19 calms down. It was suggested by the Public Health official that they not attend their meetings in person all at once.

Discussion/Presentation-Fairgrounds Fee Schedule-Naomie Peasley

This discussion was rescheduled to January 26.

Review Meeting Minutes

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

The board adjourned at 1:45 p.m.