

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS****OKANOGAN COUNTY****JANUARY 5, 2021**

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

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover attended via zoom.

**Commissioners Staff Meeting**

Planning Director Pete Palmer, Emergency Management Maurice Goodall

Director Palmer explained reimbursements came in on WRIA grants. The funds are up to date on both portions of those with \$88,000 left in the grant. The department is caught up on the reimbursements.

The Planning Dept. Vehicle has been delivered and paid for. Commissioner Hover asked if the vehicle could have door id's applied so it looks more official. Director Palmer will look into it.

Director Palmer provided an update on critical areas. She and staff are going through the historical documents. The county may have already issued the determination so she will move forward from there. The Addendum to the draft EIS on Comprehensive Plan will be sent in mid-January for a public comment period. Both documents have already been submitted to the Dept of Commerce which triggers the 60-day review. Commissioner Hover asked about the alternatives were there three or four? There were four considered and those are going through to see if any changes are needed. Numbers of lots in certain areas will likely change. But alternatives themselves won't change much. Commissioner Hover asked how certain alternatives are chosen one over another. Pete Said the fourth one was chosen by MVCC and the no action alternative and the second and third are in between those. In the end one alternative will be chosen and that will be determined by the BOCC decision and based a recommendation from the Planning Commission and the public comments will play into that final decision.

Emergency Management Maurice Goodall explained the Loomis situation was figured out and their FMAG was submitted to the state. It looks like they could be included and waiting for an answer for the mitigation grants. The office is working on getting staff up to speed. Will be holding a meeting on the All Hazards mitigation plan. Commissioner Branch asked if he would check with the Dept of Health status of the water system as he thinks they will still need to go through the county. Mr. Goodall will reach out to them again.

Commissioners discussed moving the time up on their consent agenda for meetings listed. The Clerk and Risk Management departments contacted the board to cancel their meeting today.

**Update Clerk's Office -Charleen Groomes**

Cancelled

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

Cancelled

**Update Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

Kent Kovalenko, Solid Waste Manager

Mr. Kovalenko stated the fire debris from Cold Springs fire ended in December. Does the board wish to extend the waiver or wait to see what is needed? Commissioner Hover thought it should be extended to ensure everything gets cleaned up that needs to be. Mr. Kovalenko stated no debris has been delivered for the last six weeks. A resolution will be submitted to extend the waiver for commissioner consideration.

Josh Thomson provided his agenda and updated the board on the items listed there.

#### *Maintenance and Road Conditions.*

Josh Thomson explained there was a debris flow near Appleway by the Quality Inn that came through the culvert due to the fire. It isn't apparent where the water came from and it hasn't been an issue anywhere else. The road was closed and it was washed out a bit. So far, with the rain on snow no other issues have cropped up.

Policy for those under quarantine to continue working while in quarantine for those without symptoms. Some can quarantine to a certain pillow truck that won't put anyone at risk. The policy was created along with Public Health and is put into place now.

#### *Road Crew Shops*

Information is being looked at for an estimate of the shops. Estimates were gathered two years ago and materials costs increased since then. More info will be pulled to gather, work with the architect to ensure a good packet.

The Public Works had made a recommendation to use a certain architect based on bids received. A resolution will be needed to memorialize the service provider selected for the time allowed. Commissioner Branch asked that the county go back out to bid for on call architectural services every other year or to extend it rather. Commissioner Hover asked that Josh Thomson create a resolution to memorialize the selection. The service could be used for any of the county's architectural service needs.

Engineer Thomson asked if that would be a Capital Improvement cost or a road fund cost. Shop improvements would be a capital improvement project and those costs would likely be bonded and paid from Capital Improvement funds. The shop near North40 was paid for from the Road Fund, stated Engineer Thomson. Commissioners discussed double checking to ensure the proper funds pays for the project costs.

Engineer Thomson stated a Biochar project on county property as a TUP application and a land owner consent form for commissioners' consideration and signature was provided. Does the chair wish to sign or authorize the Engineer to sign it. Commissioners felt the Chairman should sign to be consistent.

#### **Motion Temporary Use Permit NC-6 Forest To Farm**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the temporary use permit for N C-6 Forest to Farm application use of the property. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Evans Road Irrigation District ROW. The district is currently using the property there is no fence line, and asked if property owners to the south have been contacted and they do not know of this issue. The district is currently working with them on another issue which they would like to complete before bringing up this new issue with the gap. No private person appears to have been paying taxes on the property. Barkley needs an easement across this property. The situation will continue to develop with the Irrigation district being made aware of what the county is concerned about

Commissioners discussed a truck that jack knifed in the intersection of Hwy 153 and Hwy20 with the trailer hanging off the bank. Engineer Thomson said DOT closed the road and coordinated a detour with Public Works. The road was reopened around 10:30 a.m.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn until 1:30 p.m. this afternoon. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Motion Approve Commissioners Proceedings December 28 & 29, 2020**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 28 and 29, 2020. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-6 as presented. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Appointment Letter Noxious Weed Board #2-Michael Rayton
2. Appointment Letter Noxious Weed Board #4-Kevin Cunningham
3. Subrecipient Agreement-CDBG CV-1 Public Services-Community Action Council
4. Contract-Homeless Housing Funds Oroville Housing Authority Sewer Project Gap Funding
5. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #17 Contract No. 19-62210-011 – \$5,342.87
6. Resolution 1-2021 Amending Res. 87-91 Veterans Advisory Board Membership Eligibility

### **Public Comment Period**

No public comment was given.

### **Motion**

Commissioner Hover moved to sign the letter of support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Broadband Grant application by North Central Washington Economic Development District (NCWEDD). Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

### **Discussion-Chelan-Douglas Pest Control Board-Will Carpenter**

Mr. Carpenter provided a white paper on what Chelan-Douglas County can offer to Okanogan County as it considers its Pest Control program and reconstituting its Pest Board. (attached)

Mr. Carpenter explained the top issues he sees in Okanogan county. The Apple Maggot issue is a top priority for all the tree fruit industry. All three sites in Oroville Tonasket and Malott may be quarantined in the near future. Currently the Methow Valley is under apple maggot quarantine. Mr. Carpenter lives in Okanogan County and he knows the problem areas. Coddling Moth is also a big problem and the state is looking at an area wide revamp. It will be very important that it be addressed here.

Little Cherry disease is another big problem pest. Developing management strategies for that will be critical. Our program needs to be up and running within three months or sooner. Yakima County has had three agents in three years. Grant County had a part time position but just cannot get their program off the ground. When he was hired for Chelan Douglas County he rebuilt the whole program and it is working well now.

His program is up to date using digital tools to document issues and field work. Commissioner DeTro explained the three Okanogan County Pest Board members who resigned had been on the board for many years and served the county well. Mr. Carpenter has many good things to say about the work Dan McCarthy did for Okanogan County and his pest control program.

Commissioners would be open to hearing of board member prospects to consider filling the three open positions.

Mr. Carpenter investigating which other Pest Control Districts were structured using RCW 17.12 and he could find none they all operate under RCW 15.09 and 15.08. He provided some scenarios for assessment to meet \$130,000 using our current rate and adding a taxable parcel rate of \$1.52. He discussed combined pest control for the three counties as a partnership. He explained the restructuring of his budget to make it doable if each county paid in \$130,000 for an ideal program.

Mr. Carpenter explained the revenue make up of both Chelan and Douglas County. He is currently an exempt employee but his staff is not. He is employed by appointment by the Chelan Douglas County Pest Board and under Chelan County payroll and Chelan County is the administrator of the fund. Commissioner Hover asked about the exempt status and L&I required

Mr. Carpenter discussed scenarios to generate revenue in support of pest control. (attached) Commissioner Hover asked how the tax is levied for different people to make the root stock higher than other parcels as he did not believe RCW 15.09.131 allowed that. 15.08.260 does allow a horticulture tax. Commissioners read from RCW 15.09.135

Commissioner Hover asked if the addition of Okanogan County was discussed with the Chelan Douglas County Commissioners. Mr. Carpenter spoke to his pest boards and they think it is a good idea because we are all one growing district and make up over \$700,000,000 of the tree fruit industry. Okanogan County only has a few warehouses in county with the bulk going to Wenatchee.

Commissioners expressed willingness to consider a new arrangement for Okanogan County Pest control. There are some pieces to be worked out to ensure all counties are agreeable to a partnership. Commissioner Branch said Chelan and Douglas county collection would go down Okanogan county would need to come up and each county contributes \$130,000 but everything would be processed through Chelan County as it is. Set up like field men working out of their trucks and everything is streamlined.

He uses seasonal workers and would need another fulltime seasonal worker to accomplish an expansion to a tri county pest. He explained some work to find some grants.

Commissioners thought it would be good to discuss the situation with Chelan and Douglas county commissioners. Further a discussion with prior Okanogan County pest board members about how much the industry could bear. Commissioner Branch also discussed the hawthorn in the riparian areas and one of the host plants for apple maggot.

Commissioner DeTro expressed that the arrangement sounded agreeable.

Commissioner Branch brought up Planner Angela Hubbard's earlier promotion which brought her salary up to 5% more than what she had before, but it's lower than the other Senior Planner. She was promoted to step 3 and with the parody in the Planning Department he would like to find a way to make them the same. Ms. Hubbard is the only planner in the department with a degree, she stepped up to take on the interim director position and she has shown her capability. Commissioner Hover stated it would be good to go through this in other ways that are consistent with what we do wage wise, such as allowing a stipend for having a degree in planning or specialty. Commissioner DeTro stated there are other ways to provide consideration such as the stipend for carrying a specific degree in the field. She is very valuable to the department and has done a terrific job. Commissioner Hover thought some comparisons of other counties and what incentives they have could be put together to address the situation.

The board adjourned at 3:10 p.m.