

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday June 6, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) - BOCC Vice Chair, District 2
Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via Zoom. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Court Staff suggest Reclassification and/or Retention bonus for court interpreters- comparing with other Counties – state average is \$69 per hour, also need to recruit for bailiff position. More conversation on EMS Districts and possible bond/levy. Discussion about increasing one Staffmember in the Sheriffs Office to Chief deputy, with commensurate pay and how that might be funded. Also discussion of Commissioner vs Certified staff in the Sheriffs' Office, Will write up a Resolution to upgrade employee. Discussion with Finance committee regarding asset policy and inventory of departments. Sheriffs Office Communications Officer in to update BOCC; Courthouse generator maintenance vendor recommendation (Legacy)

This is a facility cost. Officer to bring contract to BOCC to purchase equipment for the Early Adopter Project, also working on the Tunk Mountain upgrade. Sheriff is working on a video for recruitment purposes. Communication with the public will be helpful. Large scale financing expected to be needed next year. BOCC needing to sign contract for the single point-entry of the Courthouse. Will need to meet with vendors. Adjourned for lunch at 11:33.

8:15 *AH not in attendance yet*

Dennis Rabidou (DR), Court Administrator and Hank Rawson (HR) Superior Court Judge in to talk with BOCC. DR states they have come to discuss the Court Interpreters' pay scale. There is currently a possible retention bonus, but DR has been comparing with other counties and would like to be more on par with other counties. \$69 an hour is the statewide average as of May 23rd. They are suggesting a re-classification rather than the retention bonus. They had brought this up previously to the BOCC. Currently, there is a vacant position that needs to be filled by July. They are currently in transition. CB notes that if there is ever an opportunity to watch the translation in action, he would like to do that. Dr notes there are different types of translation and the Court prefers simultaneous translation so it doesn't take up as much court time. HR also noted the different dialects even within the Spanish

language. In order to keep current interpreters, HR wonders if there are any other programs out there that might help. DR also notes that we are lucky to only need Spanish on a regular basis. When he was a visiting Judge in Tukwila, they have about 160 different languages to cover for interpretive services. Those costs could add up pretty quick. DR has done comparisons with Chelan and Douglas. It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve a Resolution in favor of reclassifying the Court Interpreters.

8:29

DR also reports that the Bailiff position needs to be filled and will be difficult to fill Mary Horner's shoes.

8:32

AH arrived

8:38

AH states that he has the 1st of three proposals. When he gets them all, we will go into closed session to discuss them.

CB wants to talk wages and salaries. CB wants to know the hourly wage break down.

CB discusses EMS Districts. *AH and CB on different conversations*

8:44

CB states that when we go to the Legislature, we need to make sure to discuss medicaid reimbursement for ambulance fees.

LJ states that is something for the BOCC to think about. CB would like to communicate with the Public regarding what the EMS District costs are. In this resolution, it will show why the Clerk needs to get paid extra for this separate work.

JN states, "therein lies another discussion. Should we (BOCC) be open in the EMS District when discussing?"

CB states we need to identify that as separate work.

AH states that he thinks it is important for the State Auditor.

8:50

Staff from the Sheriffs Office arrives

Paul Budrow (PB), County Sheriff, along with 2 other Sheriffs Deputies and Beth (assistant to the Sheriff, whom they are discussing increasing her wages – commensurate with her responsibilities)

PB states we are here to talk about wages – how we can give "Beth" another hat to wear. This should increase her wages. She needs to have her wage level equivalent to a "Chief".

AH asks the Sheriff PB as a commissioned officer, can a person make arrests or do they need the state certification? PB states yes, but that puts us in a different situation with the State. You have to be certified. Chief Criminal Deputy needs to be certified.

PB – Everything is commissioned. Most Chiefs are commissioned, certified Peace Officer. As Sheriff, I can't give my powers to anyone else. Sheriff doesn't need to be certified but everyone else should.

CB brings up the risk of not being certified.

PB states that his #1 job is to protect his staff, protect the County from liability, and protect the Community.

PB – I don't know why Beth's job was pulled out of the other "Chiefs", but we know a way to supplement the wage without disrupting the budget by using the allocated Sex Offender funds that she would be in charge of the data as we have not been in compliance with the expectations on the Sex

Offender monies. There is \$85,000 in the fund right now. We've been receiving this money since 2008.

9:05

AH notes that in the final budget, there is no line for Sex Offender Funds.

9:06

Beth explains the history.

AH states that he just doesn't see the \$\$ in the budget

Other Sheriff Staffmember (?) states there is no good way to track the spending of the Sex Offender fund.

9:11

AH states the revenue can't be attached to a deputy unless totally designated for the Sex Offender program. Otherwise, it is just another duty of the Sheriffs' Office.

PB would like to change the line item with a stipend for being the grant manager of the fund.

AH states that to make the budget whole, will you take a deputy out of another line – transfer money?

Let's make sure when we do a budget adjustment, you'll need to subtract from another line item.

AH goes on to say that he doesn't like stipends. Do you need to do that to show youChie are spending \$\$?

PB states this is just a stop gap.

Beth states that we don't know what we are allocated this year.

AH asks if these funds are a deliverable or reimbursable for services rendered?

PB explains that they are responsible to do face to face checks periodically and document movement of offenders. That's where we are out of compliance.

AH states that he would rather just increase the pay.

PB explains our money comes from amount of sex offenders living in the County. We seem to be getting more sex offenders all the time.

9:20

There was no Public Comment*

AH – if the BOCC decides to reclassify Beth's position, we will need a resolution. We'll have to repeal the old resolution and do a new one. This will be par with other 'Chiefs' (Chief of Corrections, Chief Criminal Deputy, Chief Communications Deputy, and Chief Civil Deputy)

CB asks if he sees that causing any discrepancy? AH states we don't set the wages, the Sheriff does. I feel they are on par.

CB states that he sees something different happening in the jail.

It's all relevant to demands.

PB states that he can't fathom having to replace Beth

AH – I know it was a long time ago that you asked for this wage increase. It takes me awhile to digest it all. I need a justification.

PB clarifies that we have come to an agreement that Beth needs to be raised to 'Chief' pay.

CB asks why is the Sex Offender attached to a detective? AH states that it hasn't been attached.

PB asks what is needed from him. AH states to write up the new resolution, repealing the old resolution. AH gives some tips for verbiage.

9:43

AH - back to conversation about Chief Deputies and Clerks.

10:03

Cari Hall (CH), Auditor
Pam Johnson (PM) Treasurer
Lisa Schreckengast (LS) – Finance Deputy

Finance Discussion;

CH – We want to look into finance policies. I have been researching in the MSRC manual for policies. One of the biggest changes we'd like to make are keeping track of capital assets and small & attractive assets by department.

10:09

AH notes some conflicting language in the MSRC re: property. Can employees bid on Surplus Property?

CH – Do you want to change the the policy? There are 306 County employees. Lots of discussion regarding whether County Employees should be able to bid on Surplus items.

CB proposes that we leave things as it is for now.

11:00

Mike Worden(MW), Communications/Dispatch Deputy
Reports the Courthouse generator was installed last summer. He has 2 quotes for continued, annual maintenance. Power Systems West offered to do annual maintenance for \$1600, Legacy gave a bid for \$1565. Legacy is already doing the maintenance on other county generators.
Moved, Seconded, and Carried to accept Legacy's bid and authorize the Chair to sign.
LJ states this will need to be added to the Courthouse budget.

11:09

MW states he'll have a contract to bring to the Board (BOCC) for the Early Adopter Project. Will need to purchase equipment, work out the kinks for Lifeline communication. Estimating around \$390,000.

11:11

MW reports on the equipment shed work – sent for permit. SEPA process – hopeful for early July. Anyway, it's moving.

11:12

MW reports on the Tunk Mountain Project; making it a fire durable building. Has received 1 bid for the electrical upgrades - \$91,700. This is more than MW had estimated. 5 electricians were contacted – only 1 gave a bid. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to accept the bid from Legacy.

MW also reports that Saturday, I met with local vendor to reduce trees from around the site. We should have a quote from that vendor. Maybe 35 trees need to be taken out.

MW reports that staffing-wise, 10 of the 13 positions are filled. We have been advertising at the movie theater.

Also, MW reports that the Sheriffs Office is working on a video for recruitment purposes.

CB asks MW, do you have any news releases at this time? CB suggesting he go on Open Line with him to explain the latest about the new communication system especially since we may be needing the funding.

MW – Not eager but it is probably a good thing to do. I will do that.

MW remarks that we are in the very detailed design stage right now. There are a lot of front end costs. MW asked the vendor what is the timeline for large scale financing, it looks like about a year from now.

LJ goes over some of the afternoon activities with contracts for the Justice Building and the Single . Point of Entry. Also the Exterior Preservation Project. Assessment costs are not included.

11:33

Meeting adjourned