

Tuesday March 5th, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), County Commissioner District 3
Jon Neil (JN), County Commissioner District 2
Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director
Esther Milner (EM), Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor
Shelley Keitzman (SK), Risk Manager/Human Resources

Time stamps refer to Tuesday's AV Capture video. *An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:*

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions:

- *Executive sessions held to discuss union negotiations, mediation proceedings, ongoing litigation*
- *Motion of understanding addresses fairgrounds crew moving garden program equipment*
- *Contract discussions needed with Fair events company Romeo.*
- *Consensus on Hearings Examiner candidate*
- *Board Clerk enthusiastic about coming homeless housing presentation: Discussion on "Catch 22" of needing to use grant money to develop plan necessary to be awarded more grant money*
- *HVAC in jail price tag: \$96,000, plans revised*
- *Brief discussion on emergency medical services' regional association*

2:42:33 - AH explains to LJ that they're going into executive session under RCW (Revised Code of Washington) 4230-40-B, union negotiations. This will be followed by another session under RCW 32-144-B with SK for mediation proceedings and another for ongoing litigation with EM and PP.

3:25:29 - AH wonders if Matt Marsh is not coming for the update because they've gone quarterly. LJ says the last update was January 7th, originally scheduled for December 7th, so now would be the beginning of the second quarter. He had replied to her invitation in the affirmative. They discuss previous meeting minutes. A spay and neuter clinic will take place in the Agriplex May 5th through 10th and AH requested they finish the 9th, Thursday but JN says the rental agreement allows setting up from noon the day prior and vacating by noon the day after the engagement.

AH: If we're going to give it to them for free, Friday afternoon let's try and make as

much money as we can. CB wants to alter the wording describing his agreement with about an MOU (memorandum of understanding) in reaction to fairgrounds maintenance crew's inadvertantly moving Master Gardner Program material. JN wants to clarify the deal he offered Sunrise RV for changing their fairgrounds reservation: \$1,500 off a rental price of \$4,200 for the three days. The minutes said the price had been reduced **to** \$1,500

They pour over something they're not sure is correct that Raven Aea said the week before about what she called the WSP (presumably the state patrol) having accredited training programs (which could help prevent the problems she has had with local law enforcement). But that's what she said, says CB.

A request for quotes gets put up on the screen, not clear what for. CB wants "complies with regular regulatory standards" added. LJ and her deputy wonder if this would be advertised the next week or not. CB says yes. LJ reads her advertisement that they're requesting "statements of qualifications for civil engineering". Does CB want more time to think about the awards? He doubts this will get much attention: This is a small project. I have a few in mind. Someone in Wenatchee? Aspect? They mention the irrigation district.

3:54:19 - Discussion needed, says LJ, to contract with Fair events contractor, Romeo. They have to talk with Brock Hires, head of the Fair Advisory Committee. JN was fine with attorney Esther Milner's suggested revisions. They'll send them to Hires. CB finds a message from the Tonasket District ranger who hadn't put the update on his calendar.

LJ: About the equipment in the conference room (they're preparing a video capture system in the adjacent room), Teams won't work unless you have Zoom out here and Teams in there, especially if you're using them at the same time.

CB: Teams is good for that kind of thing (e.g. Hearings Examiner sessions). CB reads the text from Marsh asking to set another date for the ranger district update. JN says he won't be there. Leaving the state? asks CB. Leaving the country, answers JN. Minutes from Feb. 20th, 26th and 27th approved. CB talks about his signature verification training, says hes seen some signatures he'd like to ask the voter to redo.

LJ (presents motions on items they have discussed and should give final approval to): the 2025 county guardrail safety project the engineer talked about, allocation of federal funds to Community Action, a construction funding project between the City of Tonasket and Okanogan County for Perfect Passage - Phase 1, the Emerging Opportunity Infrastructure Funding contract between Okanogan County and the City of Brewster for their Anderson Airport runway project, Team Okanogan Animal Rescue for their spay-neuter clinic, a letter to the Caribou Trail Rodeo Junior Rodeo Association regarding their fairgrounds waiver (*inaudible*) reduction request to request more information, a letter to parents and grandparents regarding their reduction request, Res. 35-2024 regarding Idleweis Sewer System's rates and charges, and finally the EMS district voucher. They approve the motions as a block excepting the EMS district vouchers for which they must adjourn and reconvene as each district.

4:20:51 - LJ: I have a meeting with the Dept. of Commerce to go over their homeless

housing presentation. It's part of the technical assistance they offer agencies that collect the recording surcharge. I've invited Riva Shawver (*Community Action*), *the civil attorney* and whoever else wants to attend so they have a better understanding of Commerce, how they see that program working with counties and their community action councils. (*The person presenting this*) put me in touch with other contacts for their housing programs, and I think this may result into a more informed situation for us, and a way to get some questions answered... I did ask about the use of the funds at the creation of our homeless housing plan. *She talks about an RCW and how they weren't willing to interpret it for her. Were funds intended for the creation of the plan? It's up to the county then.*

CB: And then they could say « We have a statute for that »-

LJ: We have a resolution saying you're going to be using it for that.

CB: If they took exception to that, I think that would be a minor correction... It's like this opioid thing. All these priorities.

LJ: They won't give us any money from the Housing For All fund unless we have the plan, and we've been reporting on the plan performance. I think it is the prerogative of the board to decide.

4:26:37 - CB: I used to say, "they'll give you enough rope to hang yourself too, in housing programs. *He remembers when someone, possibly at Okanogan Community Action, where he was working, resigned over an issue with misuse of funds. JN asks if they know which way they want to go with the hearings examiner and have the attorney look at a contract. CB says he's decided on Mr. Kottkamp. The others feel the same. He moves to move forward with the hiring, says having the capacity for virtual hearings will be a plus. Motion carried.*

4:34:17 - LJ: I also received an engineering task order from T,B&H engineering on the jail heating and cooling system design but we're having them rework it because they needed clarification on the cooling towers. We're waiting to hear from the agency to see what they revise, then we'll have the commissioners look at them. The estimate for the renovation, \$96,916, won't change, though. *AH says there's \$125,000 in the budget.* LJ: Also, OCTC (*Okanogan County Tourism Council*) can meet with the Board on April 1st to go over the three contracts.

CB talks asks about the Northcentral Region Q.I. Committee, thinks it must be the regional umbrella group overseeing the EMS districts, including "pre-hospital EMS", hospitals and fire departments. "Questionable Intelligence?" quips JN. CB says JN should be on it. CB might make their next meeting. At the last one they discussed additional services EMS could propose. The regional group discusses protocols and boundaries. CB has a retreat with MRSC (Municipal Services and Research Center) at SeaTac. (JN has found that CB's Q.I. group is in fact the Quality Improvement Committee.)

4:43:57 - Meeting adjourned.