

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024 AM

JN—Jon Neal, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Vice-Chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Chair, District 2
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
PJ—Pam Johnson County Treasurer
LS—Lisa Schreckengost, Finance Manger
CH—Cari Hall, County Auditor
JT—Josh Thomson, County Engineer

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Summary of significant discussions:

- The Finance Committee (BOCC, County Treasurer and County Auditor) holds its first meeting of the year. Cari Hall, County Auditor, updates the commissioners about the results of the state’s annual audit of the county.
- Josh Thomson, County Engineer, and the commissioners discuss how to deal with the fact that under the county re-zone only 15 of the county’s 19 gravel pits will be allowed.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:50.

00:00—PJ—This is the first meeting of the Finance Committee in 2024. I’m Pam Johnson, County Treasurer.

LS—I’m Lisa Schreckengost, Finance Manager.

CH—I’m Cari Hall, County Auditor.

PJ—I emailed some of the reports. Anything you’d like to go over?

AH—Cash on hand. The ending balance of cash on hand is short.

CH—The amount carried over from 2023 was lower than what we’d expected. But it’s come up slightly when I revised it. We did 5.4 (million?) in our budget and what we carried over was 5.2

AH—OK. Right now we’re running at about a \$0 extra contingency reserve that wasn’t actually allocated to something unknown. Anything we take out of contingency reserve is going to have to be transferred back in Current Expense Reserve (budget 198) because we have no extra money. I don’t want to figure we’ll make it up later. We just need to be really conscious of what we’re doing.

Discussion of budgets that were adjusted since the budget passed at the end of 2023.

AH— Crime Victims (129). Lower by about \$9,000. Money went into that budget when it should have gone into current expenses.

AH—Current Expense off by \$198,000. Veterans relief \$2,200 off. Road Fund \$364,000 over. Mental health almost \$12,000 shy of what we figured for carry-over. Commissary was over by \$20,000.

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PJ—We aren't taking wages out of there.

AH—We'll look at that at our next meeting.

AH—Treasurer's O&M—we're over.

AH—Probation--\$20,000 over. Good. We split the wages and that'll help next year, but we need to look at it at the next meeting.

AH—Law Library was \$2,000 over.

AH—911 Communications was \$34,000 over.

AH—Solid Waste Closure was \$100,000 over.

AH—Okanogan County Parks and Rec. \$155,000 over. Payments probably didn't come out of that in December. Payments for that bridge. We need to look at it. If money is coming out of it in January, we'll have to do a budget supplemental.

CH—Josh has part of that budget, so you should talk to him.

AH—We can set him up for the next roundtable to discuss these things.

AH—Stadium Tourism was \$115,000. Great.

AH—Drug Task Force over by \$35,000.

AH—Capital improvement was over by \$78,000.

AH—Affordable Housing over by \$57,000. Also Homeless. Let's look at this to see if the overages were caused by not paying some bills at the end of December.

AH—Therapeutic Court over by \$134,000. We'll look at it.

AH—Emergency Communications (budget 161) was under by \$469,000. We'll look at it with Mike (Worden, Dispatch Center) to see if there was an unanticipated bill in December.

PJ—You want him at the roundtable?

AH—Yes.

AH—Capital Expense Bond was under by \$705,000. Maybe isn't surprising if the bills hit at the right time. Maybe Josh paid for the metal buildings. We should look at it.

AH—Solid Waste Enterprise was over by \$165,000.

CH—Maybe because we had issues with Solid Waste in Nov. and Dec. Tried to pay some bills but maybe they got held off until 2024.

AH—Yeah.

PJ—So we want Kent (Kovalenko, Solid Waste Management) at the round table, too?

AH—Yes. Kent, Mike and Josh.

PJ—Do we want to discuss the other financial reports?

AH reviews the Revenue Recap Report.

15:20—PJ—Are we ready to approve the Asset Policy?

LJ—I've got a resolution prepared. I can print it out and you can approve it, if that's what you want.

PJ—Have you all read the final draft of the Investment Policy?

CB—I haven't.

PJ—Do we want to table that?

JN—Probably. Until we've all had a chance to read it.

PJ—OK. And have you looked at the Debt Policy?

CB—Neither one, for me.

PJ—We'll table that one, too.

PJ—The only other thing I have is the PDC-T1 (Public Disclosure Commission-Treasurer's Annual Statement) form. It states that none of us on the Finance Committee sit on a Bank Board and can grant higher interest rates or anything like that.

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PJ—One part of this form is to use in case one of use is on a Bank Board.
AH checks with everyone to make sure that no one sits on a Bank Board. No one does.
AH—I move to authorize the chair to sign the PDC-T1 form. Motion passes 3-0.
PJ—Thanks. I'll get it turned in.
LJ—I'll need a copy.

No public comments.

CH—I'll let you know what's going on with the state audit. There's nothing new aside from what I've already told you. The corrective action plan has to go on County letterhead. When they get that, they'll work with you to plan the final exit interview.

LJ—I think they sent us an invitation.

CH—Because there was a lot of stuff about the Fairgrounds, Chuck (Ford, Fairgrounds Manager) would like to attend. It's a public meeting, so I said he could attend.

CH—We're gearing up for the annual report. There are new reporting requirements this year concerning software contracts we've got. I'll have all the departments send me their contracts.

JN—The exit conference is Jan.29 and 10:30.

PJ—Something to look forward to.

CH—That's all I've got.

Short discussion about investment policy and registered warrants.

LJ—Do you want all the elected officials and managers invited to the exit conference?

AH—What are the two programs to be discussed?

CH—One under ARPA and the other in Public Works. They're for the same thing—having written proof of checking the (*inaudible*)

LJ—We checked them. We just didn't have the date we checked them.

CH—We need a policy to require people to do this. Unless we add a statement in the contract. SAM.gov is where most people go to check this, but I just date-stamp things. (SAM is System for Award Management.)

CH—The other issue is with Public Works. They said they have issues logging into SAM.gov, but I told the state that using SAM.gov isn't a requirement.

CH—Our Corrective Action Plan is—you told us about the problem. We've already fixed it.

AH—With ARPA funds, for example the water tower for Nespelem, you'll have contractors and sub-contractors within the sub-recipients.

CH—Whoever we're writing checks to have to be eligible for the federal money. I recommend you write the requirement into the contract.

AH—Like a certification of compliance.

CH—When we buy something, I attach the SAM.gov to it. But just because it's in the contract, we still have to assure it. Making sure they have the assurance in their billing.

CB—They need a reminder for any kind of purchase.

CH—I'd stress how important it is that we do this.

PJ—Making a checklist is good with the contract or MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). It'll be right in there.

CH—There are only a few counties that didn't get a finding about this issue.

LJ—It should be part of the payment process. We should check with EPLS (Excluded Parties List System) first thing when we have a new contract.

CB—And sub-recipients will have this requirement incorporated into the contract.

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CH—All and all, I think the audit went well. There were no big surprises. Maybe ask in the exit interview if they have preferred language. Then we can incorporate into our contracts.

CH—Just FYI—I’m going on vacation starting Friday. Freezing rain in Spokane may delay my trip. I’ve got my cell, if there are any important questions, but remember I’ll be three hours ahead of you.

JN—Have a nice trip.

CH—I’m going to Florida and it’ll be 82° there.

AH—I move to sign the acknowledgment of receipt of the Treasurer’s Report of the list of refund to taxpayers in 2023. It’s just a list of refunds the Treasurer made last year. Motion passes 3-0.

47:00—Larry Gilman, County Assessor enters the room. He says he has an agenda. LG gives JN a document which he signs and returns it to LG.

AH—to LG—Did you say a tracked ATV or 4-wheeler, are they legal to ride on a snowmobile trail if you have a snowmobile pass?

LG—You have to go to the Auditor’s Office and register it and retitle it as a snowmobile. My side-by-side is titled as an ORV, WATV and a snowmobile.

AH—You can title it as all three?

LG--\$69 for all three.

Discussion of riding on snow on various vehicles. LG talks about Search and Rescue using a snowmobile.

54:35—AH to LJ—Did you get that MOU done? It has to be done today.

LJ—Cameron and I were working on the highlighted areas. We have some questions about them. We needed some background information about other agencies.

AH—It’s how Okanogan County is situated within the plan they’re doing. Need to know the area of the counties with x amount of acres within the National Park. I’ll get the data and you can do it after lunch.

LJ—Below that is the three parties to the MOU. #3 is Okanogan County.

AH—I need to look at the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act to get the verbiage you need.

LJ—And for the key officials. Should I be the POC (Point of Contact) for Okanogan County?

AH—Yes, because you’re clerk of the Board. I’ll send this to Esther (Milner, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor)

59:40—I’m Josh Thomson, County Engineer. When I wrote the agenda yesterday, the road conditions were different than they are now.

JT—I’m going to the Tonasket Shop when I leave here to start doing preliminary (*inaudible*). They’re still waiting on a few things. We expect to get them by next week. The Twisp Shop is about three weeks behind. It’s got a roof, siding and doors. Most of the drywall. Twisp went faster than Tonasket.

JT—Re: the zone code we talked about last week. The county owns 15 gravel pits and leases 4 others. Of the 19 pits, 7 are in R-1s that becomes R-2s, 8 are in R-2s, 2 are R-21 minimum review, and 1 in the Methow Review District is Valley Floor 5. Of the 19, 15 will not be allowed. The R-2s and R-5s are mostly on the valley floor and anything served by a developed road. For efficiency, we need access to the roads.

CB—I don’t think there’s a question about whether they’re allowed. It’s a snafu obviously.

JN—There’s a meeting at 9:00.

CB—Pete (Palmer Director of Planning) said she’d let people come in and talk about it. It’s a trust issue. We’d like it resolved.

JT—We talked about strengthening our comment from Public Works.

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CB—Back in the early 1990s, they identified resource areas and pits were included. Maybe look at it and make sure it's acknowledged. At the same time they were looking at gold and silver mines. Gravel pits are the toughest because they're so site specific.

CB—Lots of places are zones for residences, but there's no development there, yet.

CB—It's unfortunate this happened, but I think we can adopt the code and then amend it right away.

JT—I'd be nervous about that. You give something away and you don't know you can get it back. It'd be dangerous in my opinion.

CB—We're under court order to get the rezone done. If the litigants understood the situation, that'd be great.

JT—If we had someone who fights it, we're stuck.

CB—We'd fight it and could win. I hope we don't lose, but we could.

JT—The State Patrol approached me about their shop just across the river. The office is on property they own. But south of there was the DOT impound yard and parking lot. In 2002, the DOT transferred it all to the county. There wasn't an agreement and it needs to get sorted out. They wonder if we can quit-claim the land to the DOT. I'd support it going back to the DOT. They've been using it for decades and we didn't pay anything for it. I told them I'd ask you guys.

Discussion of how to make the turn-back could happen.

CB—You can say the BOCC supports it.

JT—That's good. That's all I've got. I'm off to Tonasket.

Everyone trades stories about drifting snow and driving.

Meeting adjourns for lunch at 11:50.