

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday August 13th, 2024, 2:50 p.m.

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Present:

John Neil (JN), County Commissioner District 2
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Andy Hover (AH), County Commissioner District 3
Chris Branch (CB), County Commissioner District 1
Shelley Keitzman (SK), Human Resources, Risk Manager
Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director

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:

- Sheriff's office to purchase three vehicles from Juvenile that weren't being used. The price is advantageous; with \$36,000 needed to up-fit these as police vehicles the total request is for \$84,060.
- Tonasket's EMS levy is expiring in December and can only go back on the ballot next February.
- Sheriff's storage building budget increased to allow for asbestos removal
- MJ Neal's contract amended to allow for hourly billing in courthouse single-entry project
- Engineer certification needed for flood damage levy
- Executive session involving Chief Civil Deputy Milner, Planning Director Palmer, and a certain Jenna.

AH won't arrive until 3:30. CB and JN have a conversation on various informal subjects.

3:04 - *Dave Yarnell from the sheriff's office convey's Sheriff Budrow's request for permission to proceed with a plan to purchase three surplus juvenile detention vehicles. Juvenile has three police-type Ford Interceptors they have no more use for and would like to off-load them on the sheriff's office. Yarnell has the estimated values: a total of \$54,442, which he considers a good deal for all three; they could*

serve them for at least three or four years. JN says that's about the cost of one. Yarnell priced new vehicles at between \$54,000 and \$74,000 apiece. He will come back with a detailed request. It will cost them \$12,000 each for the "up-fit" (with police equipment). With taxes that brings his request to \$84,060.

CB: And that's a request for funding too?

DY: Yes. CB and AH say it makes sense and they will do a budget exploration. CB asks about mileage, says he prefers buying from within the county rather than surplus these vehicles, which DY says were the result of an "over-purchase". DY leaves.

The video capture has a hole between 3:10 and 3:21. It picks up again mid-sentence with a man who is announcing a bid opening September 17. Bids are due by noon. LJ suggests opening on bids at 1:45. (These could be for the new sheriff's building and morgue or for courthouse remodeling, or something else.)

3:33 - The board has approved consent agenda, vouchers and payroll and EMS vouchers. CB would like to approve previous meeting minutes at another time. CB asks how their budget's doing, since they're paying bills. AH wants to set a meeting to discuss EMS districts' financials with the to go over what next year's budget is going to be, and they need a budget from the Lake Management District (in Oroville). LJ talks about a public hearing for levy certification. She says one's been done this year; this is for next year. LJ says one ends this year. AH says it ends at the end of 2025. CB says they'll talk about it on Monday. AH says it would have been on the ballot if it was up this year.

LJ: I had asked the board if they wanted it to be on the ballot. ...One of the levies failed, I think that was the Oroville one, and the board provided the public with information, and I think it was the Tonasket one that was ending this year. I can't find it. The commissioners approve the county's portion of the Methow EMS district charges. There is a discussion on the cities' payments to that district. Vouchers are approved. JN reads that Tonasket's EMS levy expires end 2024. This was a ten-year levy voted in June 2014 and collected in 2015.

3:44 - AH: That's forty cents and we can go up to fifty. They look at the election schedule. They can get it on a special February ballot. Consternation. LJ has just talked to the Treasurer's office. The discussion will be at 1:30 on Monday the 26th. They will invite Wayne. JN asks if anyone has an issue with the PUD contract. (Not clear what documents they are looking at.) LJ has some other business.

3:52 - LJ: There's a request for a liquor license by the Tonasket Comancheros who are hosting at the fairgrounds September 7th and 8th. (County Fair.) LJ says it can be expedited. LJ: There's a change order for the sheriff's storage building, increasing the total amount by \$3,220. I believe that was... to remove the asbestos tank insulation. Motion approved. LJ brings up amendment number 4, courthouse remodel and single point access, amending master service contract agreement to allow them to continue to bill hourly for the tasks involved in redesigning some of the courthouse floor. They approve the amendment to MJ Neal's architectural contract. AH wonders about taking this money out of the bond, figures they can because it is associated with the Forest Service building project.

3:57 - JN wants to “flag” levy expirations to avoid the present situation in Tonasket. AH says when he knows they’ve missed something he has LJ put it on their agenda. CB says it’s an “absolute drop-dead deadline” that they’re over. He makes a sarcastic comment about it being a good year for Tonasket tax-payers.

AH: This is a good question for (the assessor): If we were to certify a levy, let’s say fifty cents, he’s always said certify high... if it passes, can we collect it at that?... Then if it doesn’t pass your levy is zero. Wait, what happened when Oroville’s didn’t pass? Didn’t we run it right away? *No, they have to wait a year. Oroville had a budget reserve.* LJ asks about an executive session and the presence of Jenna. CB looks at a flood damage levy document he just received. LJ says they need an engineer to certify these levies. AH says better have some consultation on that one. With Omak. Oroville too, says JN. There’s a 90-day time frame, says LJ. JN will get a hold of Oroville’s public works.

4:03 - AH moves to go into executive session for ongoing litigation for half an hour with Esther Milner, Pete Palmer and Jenna. De facto adjournment of meeting.