

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday February 6th, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

John Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Andy Hover (AH), County Commissioner District 3
Shelley Keitzman (SK), Risk Management, Human Resources
Andre Tempio (AI), CGI Digital Government Relations

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:

- Human Resource director signing everyone up for Sexual Harassment Training, it's "auto-assigned" to all new employees; relays call from state Criminal Justice Training Commission to solicit legislative support to add six new classes to existing four, currently employment candidates seeking certification must wait up to 24 months
- Repairs for recently-bought tractor, damaged by fairgrounds employee, quoted at around \$20,000, FG budget must cover it; discussion about what price purchases require how much competitive bidding
- Board examines case of person wishing to acquire county land adjacent to his to facilitate access, land must first be assessed
- Video Tour of county on website to be renewed at no extra cost, sponsorship and sharing the video with businesses' websites discussed
- Access to Hearing Examiner's website discussed
- Comm'r Branch not convinced by photos that Mission timber cut constitutes any irregularity, talks about subjectivity on part of Wilderness Society-paid monitor he accompanied to a cut; says lot of home development made possible by forest roads

2:30:08 - SK: Invitations will be sent out for Sexual Harassment Training. I'm signing everyone up this year, then it will be every other year, but auto-assigned to all the new employees. Also I received some information about the CJTC (state Criminal Justice Training Commission) and their request for additional corrections academies, and

that they're asking that we reach out to our legislators to support CJTC COA's budget request for six additional classes. They're in a position now where it's taking 12 to 24 months to get someone in the academy, as they're only having four classes with about 36 students per year and there's over 200 on the wait list right now so if we find people to hire we can't them certified and technically they have six months. So anything the Board can do...

CB: It would be really good to know, to save time, ...if they're already weighing in on it.

SK: It's something we just got today and as it sits now, the governor is not funding any more classes. *CB will look up who was on the last committee. SK says 237 on the wait list as of February 2nd. SK leaves.*

2:35:02 - LJ: Did you want to discuss this fairgrounds equipment?

JN: We probably should. It's a fairly substantial bill. I looked at the quote. 26 hours to do the breaks. I question that. It's an internal break. You've got to split the block apart. *LJ shows CB the quote for the tractor repair.*

CB: Is that the new one?

JN: Sounds like they've been driving it all along with the break on. *CB reads on, remarks that folks don't charge for labor because they can do a 120% mark-up for parts. Says the crew member who damaged the tractor was known to be careless.*

CB: A little education tells you you don't gain anything by trying to go as fast as you can. I don't know what other discussion you can have. It needs to be fixed. *JN wonders what the FG's repair budget is. LJ will try to find out. CB wonders what the adjustment is like. ...Emergency break, drive line disc, if you flip it on before it fully stops—LJ talks on the phone at the same time. She hangs up.*

CB: I wouldn't have it fixed down the street. Those folks have not been very popular with their repair jobs at Okanogan tractor. Sits there a long time, just not getting done.

LJ: There's \$10,000 and there's a maintenance line.

JN: That pays for half of it.

CB: When they fix that it comes with a warning.

LJ: Unless the board increased the goods line from 25 to 35. We wouldn't necessarily pay for that, there's probably plans for it but there's no chance of going over the budget at this point.

CB: It's awful early to deplete that much of the budget but got to get done.

LJ: There's also \$45,000 in professional services. This and repairs and maintenance are appropriate lines. I believe department heads can use up to \$10,000 without asking for approval. *CB asks her to check "that policy", about professional services finances. She reads, "Purchases above \$50,000 require a bid*

process, between \$10,000 and \$50,000 an informal competition process, under \$10,000 a minimal competition process. Special services like architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, serving services, those are *(inaudible)* and signed by the Commissioners. Personal services: comprehensive plan, legal services, analyses... (no) thresholds or processes... Purchases above \$10,000 must be approved by the Board... *CB takes a look. Sees requirement for three quotes if available for purchases over \$2,500. He says he thinks that policy can be refined a little.*

CB: ...A lot of things can fall under personal services but when it comes to ...legal services ie, you're qualification based, and what's the cost of it. Engineering and Architect, *(It's not a question of being)* qualified, it's can you work together. *He talks to JN about PDC files, being able to do them on public computers.*

LJ: In November *(County Engineer) Josh (Thomsen)* had talked to the board about a gentleman who wanted the county to consider access agreement for it to go through the county's property to his adjacent property owner, to give him access. The Board had talked about the different options... I had emailed the gentleman that the Board needed some time to think about what they wanted to do and to get back to us again this year. So he's contacted me.

CB There's been some discussion about it. It's. I've addressed to you some RCWs (Revised Code of Washington) that address sale of county property without going to a public sale auction, and I believe it allows under certain circumstances "...a surplus hearing... the assessor would have to provide a value for the property and for less than \$2,500 you could do away with the public hearing, ...use direct negotiation...

if property is improper for building or has legal restrictions, if it has a value of less than \$500, can be sold to an adjoining land owner." *JN thinks there was maybe some stipulation on how we'd acquired it. A tax title?asks LJ. CB wonders if they should adopt a standard.*

2:56:44 - Update, County Website Video Tour - AT, from the media company CGI, appears on the screen to propose an update of the video tour they made for the County's new website a few summers ago when the sky was smoky from wildfires.

AT: You'll get more blue skies, we can include the new commissioner, Jon Neil, we can give the video better placement on the county's website. We'd be filming in 5K. There would be no charge for the renewal.

CB: We might be able to help businesses link it to their websites. *Central Services director Karen Beatty is on line. She'd prefer to keep the video in its current place, in a row of large icons at the top of the website. AT will send examples and suggestions.*

CB: It does get mixed in with the department buttons.

AT: you can add a play icon. Ones with a larger display get more hits. *CB jokes about having a video explaining the property tax formula. The take a look at the site.*

3:19:45 - LJ: Each clip has the frame so they can sponsor different parts of the whole tour. These are advertising spots. You get charged (between) \$4,000 and \$6,000. I imagine they would keep these on already and add to them. *CB remarks that it's an*

interesting way to pay for production. LJ: This has longevity. It could appeal to businesses.

3:24:08 - CB moves to approve the interlocal agreement between the Conservation District and Okanogan Panning Dept. for the VSP Local Agreement Program. Motion carried. Moves to approve vouchers. In signing the payroll vouchers he wonders how many employees work for the county, probably around 300, a “moving target” since some approved positions are unfilled. LJ concurs. Sheriff’s dept. used to have about 90, says JN. CB: The population I answer the same way. Around 42,000. JN: Give or take. They will work on corrections to the minutes at a later time; the deputy clerk is making his debut as a taker of minutes and needs to learn some standard terms.

3:33:45 - CB: Planning does not have access the the Hearing Examiner’s site. There’s a lot of stuff to keep up. LJ talks about contacting Central Services. CB: They should be able to go there. LJ agrees. Says the Hearing Examiner is going to contact Central Services.

LJ: The only page you can’t go to is the front page. Central Services does that. But the individual pages we get access to.

CB talks about having to take some comments to the forest collaborative about the photos of timber cuts. CB: They have criteria, not just marking log and size and tree size that’s left. It’s hard to see by the pictures. I was there in the fall. It’s different depending on the season and when they do the prescribed burn. I don’t know what’s going on with the break—up part of it. Roads are muddy and wet, but they can’t keep moving in and out. (3:43:50) Another piece, into Libby Creek. Some places wouldn’t be there if not for the forest road. Lots to take into account. If they have that road open all the way to Black Pine Lake... He talks about how it’s a good place to go woodcutting with a permit. The Wilderness Society paid for a forester to do monitoring, pick random sites. We looked at them. He was a little subjective. I went out with him. Said the Forest Collective backed this thing. I talked about it, made a stir.

JN: Are they doing 18 trees an acre?

CB: No, it’s condition-based. ...These are not clear cuts. *He talks about pine being less likely to blow over, and how on the west side when they take out the canopy, there’s blow-over because of winds and shallow roots.* ...Omak Mountain, when it grew back after the fire, we called it a “pencil forest”. You couldn’t pass. In the ’70s a lot of (*big trees*) were taken out. Didn’t have digital cameras then... I wish we could have done some monitoring. Take the pines ten years (*later*). Districts are different in what they burned down and what they didn’t. *He talks about hearing from a woman in Paradise CA that they had been doing wildfire work. They talk for the rest of the meeting about their experiences as firefighters, the teams of young people who weren’t always serious. CB talks about running the tanker. JN talks about watching burning tumbleweeds, “fireballs across the river” during the Carlton fire.*

4:07:00 - Meeting Adjourned

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