

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday November 10th, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
John Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Cari Hall (CH), Auditor
Pam Johnson (PJ), Treasurer
Lisa Shreckengost, Finance Manager
Dennis Rabidou, Juvenile Services
Robert Grimm, Superior Court judge
A sheriff's officer
Dan Higbee (DH), county employee

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. 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:

- Juvenile Services budget reviewed, CASA (court-appointed special advocates) grants, U of W homelessness project grant received; services headed for deficit in 2025 at current expenditures
- Sheriff to receive new vehicle for \$45,800
- Office closures starting noon the Friday before Christmas to allow for county employees' party
- Computer services paid \$143,479 for warranties this year, exceeding budget by \$40,000
- New cameras partially funded through ARPA to equip hearing room
- Sheriff's budget: search and rescue post approved, animal control post possibly to be jointly financed with cities
- City of Okanogan to decide on an annexation hearing to prepare for new juvenile correctional facility on Justice Center site
- Meeting adjourned at 3:10

1:35 - Juvenile Services Budget Discussion - *(The budget pages which the discussion refers to are not shown close up on the AV capture screen.) AH asks how much they have from their CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) grant. PJ: Right now at the end of December it's \$46,589. DR says something about revenue sharing, a family therapy position they might not be able to fill. This or another position was just vacated but he says they may have found someone. They have some \$39,000 in U of W funding to YMCA and*

to the county which started as a homelessness program. LS talks about a YMCA OHYHC grant for \$63,333 which DR says pays for two stipends (about \$18,000 each), associated charges and various supplies. Since the grant sum includes a \$13,000 raise they adjust the budget lines. 1:52 - AH mentions "huge overtime" payments. DR says something about balancing the budget with the auditor thanks to the vacant positions. There is a \$15,000 chunk of Community Development Block Grant that pays for a "sex offender dispositional" something which must be paid for by a grant. (DR is often inaudible.) He says it is expensive because they regularly have to get a counselor and get polygraphs.

AH says there being only \$9,000 left in reserve, and projected revenues not reaching levels of projected expenditures there will be a deficit going into 2025. The county's current expenses budget will then probably have to pay half the cost of one juvenile position (parole officer?). AH: The sheriff's department needs more police officers, the jail needs two RNs and something else. In 2025 be prepared that we're going to be prioritizing employees.

2:02 - Public Hearing - CB: Appropriation within the current expense fund and vehicle reserve fund in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of a sheriff's vehicle. An unidentified officer explains that they have received three bids on the desired vehicle and chosen the least expensive and gone ahead with the purchase agreement to pay \$45,800. The budget supplemental is approved. LS gives instructions for transferring the amount.

They resume the Juvenile Court discussion. AH talks to Judge Grimm about an \$80,000 contract: She (?) deals 90% with indigent customers. Grimm's comments are inaudible. DR says they're asking for \$23,000 for an outside professional to do training. They also need \$9,000 to add software.

DR: At the residential campus of course the food expenses have skyrocketed. AH asks DR if they are involved in the bookmobile program. DR is not familiar with this but will ask. JN explains that the program is being ended here. AH asks him to write a letter asking to keep the service. DR agrees, asks JN if he can come over and "pick his brain sometime".

LS asks about the resolution to change a salary grade, AH goes to ask the HR chief. DR asks LS about the law library and she says the budget is squared away, and next year he'll ask for more.

2:22 - Interest revenue from bond - PJ says that as of end of November the bond has earned them \$306,124 for the second half of the year. Cash in the bond fund \$12,217,643. AH says fund the microfiche project. It seems to concern the (court?)_clerk. Microfiche reminds CB of fishing.

2:28 - AH says they still need to see about Therapeutic Court. And opiate settlement funds, adds PJ. AH will meet with DR Friday about this. (The previous Wednesday's meeting covered the need to find funding for the parole officer's salary by increasing Therapeutic Court's share of the burden, now 13%, and/or showing that the scope of the parole officer's work includes addiction prevention so as to qualify for settlement dollars.) They talk about a certain "cook fund". A time of reflection. AH: It's one of those funds that doesn't pay for itself... Only \$87,000 in the red.

2:30 - Office Closure Policy - (Building director) DH: Since Friday the 22nd is not Christmas Eve, for the policy, what do I need to do to possibly close early?

PJ: My understanding, we weren't going to.

DH: We wanted to plan a Christmas party. *PJ hasn't thought that far. AH moves to authorize the county offices to close at ...three? Noon? CB says noon, at their discretion. Motion approved.* CB: People are going to travel. LJ will inform the department heads. CB: On condition that we get invited to all the parties. *Laughter. They return to the screen and talk about budget lines without naming them.* PJ: Here it is, commissioners' cameras, hearing room, video conference capability. *Computer services was supposed to give them an estimate. They're discussing the computer services budget.* PJ: She has, in warranties this year \$143,479. AH: That would be \$40,000 over budget. ... *PJ and AH toss figures back and forth. They correct "this one" and "that one". Get bottom totals to match. AH says have Karen (Beatty, computer services) come in. They phone her to ask what she's paying out.*

AH and CB seem to have switched back to the Therapeutic Court problem.

AH: ..That's...Alcohol and drug abuse and developmental disability CB: OBHC (Okanogan Behavioral Health Care). AH: There's some revenue, a tax that comes in...

LS finds out that Central Services won't spend any more this year and they'll get on the cameras question. Some ARPA (American Rescue Fund) money will help with the cameras.

2:51 - CB: Resolution and consent agenda for a roof. AH: I think we're done now. ...*He discussed the sheriff's car purchase with PJ, says Commissioners won't ask for a maintenance vehicle, unless—AH will see. PJ and LS leave.*

AH and CB talk about the interest funds. Consent agenda approved minus items 8 and 9.

CB: What additional tasks do we have to do to approve the sheriff's post for search and rescue? AH: A discussion point, we could discuss it now, or Monday.

CB: It's a short discussion for me. I approve.

AH: It's 20k out of current expenses and 15k out of Title 3... I'm good with 20,000 bucks. *He talks about another post requested by the Sheriff: Animal Control, should discuss it with the cities, (do something) jointly. LJ mentions a task force.*

3:00 - *AH moves to approve motion 193-2023 changing Field Deputy position to Task Force Sergeant. AH explains this was a question of pay, the "sergeant differential" which wasn't picking up some of the benefits; this would only affect the budget minimally. Motion carried.*

CB: Tonight the hearing for the annexation (south of town, at the site of the future Justice Center). *If city's motion is approved, commissioners will go to a hearing.*

CB: In essence, they'll accept the annexation, at the same rate. The zone will be commercial 3. The (juvenile) correctional facility is a conditional use. It will be a hearing process. They won't allow any domestic wells to be drilled, it's a moratorium... *CB won't go to the meeting.*

LJ: Concerning the emails I'm sending you from the utilities architect it said several (streams?) between the utilities architect, the city and the contractors.

AH: Chuck actually asked for some unpaid leave to fill out a contract with a previous— *He moves to grant the leave to fulfill prior obligations. Approved. CB talks about consolidating lots (Justice Center?). AH asks to put off the minutes*

3:06 - I've had a little bit of guidance from the prosecutor's office about cooperation with OBHC. I've got some ideas too. *They will meet the next day, Wednesday. CB might miss a little because he has a Zoom meeting.*

AH: What hurts my feelings is if I open up the thing and you walk in two minutes late and I feel like a heel 'cause I didn't wait.

CB: Oh, you can't feel that bad.

AH: I do! I have a soul!

JN: I was going to go a different direction there. *CB says he doesn't want to miss code revisions.*

JN: Especially when I'm the vice chairman!

CB: I don't see any big issues (with permitting the correctional facility). ...I think we mostly agree. There's something about the Home Occupation Alliance, we really do agree.

There's the part of it where you have specified conditions already... I had an ordinance that did one part of it... but you can go beyond that conditional use permit but (basically) you sign this thing where you say you meet the conditions.

AH: You're not supposed to even be able to tell what's going on. *CB says the planning director told him there was a place like that three doors down from his house; he told her he'd noticed, talks about how in his Omak neighborhood rules seem to be overlooked a little more.*

3:10 - Meeting adjourned until 1:30 Wednesday.