

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, April 10, 2023 AM & PM

JN—Jon Neal, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Vice-Chair, District 1--Absent
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Chair, District 2
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
CHa—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management
NP—Naomie Peasley—Fairgrounds Manager
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning
JP—Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor
LS—Lisa Schreckengost, Okanogan County Finance Manager
SK—Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources and Risk Management
DL—Don Linnertz, Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
Jen—Marketing Contractor for Okanogan County Tourism Council

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Summary of significant discussions:

- Commissioner Branch proposes that the BOCC create a list of issues that need to be discussed. These issues could be added to the agenda when there's an opening on Monday, Tuesday or even Wednesday.
- Pete Palmer, Planning Director, says she's met with 62 of the 77 licensed cannabis growers in the county over the last year. She's now sent out a bill for the annual registration fee but only 52 growers have responded. She would like to send one more warning letter and then begin pulling licenses if she receives no response. BOCC approves the plan.
- The commissioners will check with the County Auditor to make sure they can offer a 50% rental fee reduction for schools in the county interested in renting facilities at the Fairgrounds.
- BOCC goes into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)—ongoing litigation. 30 minutes, inviting Pete Palmer and Tadas Kisielius, appointed by the Prosecutor's Office, from Van Ness Feldman Law Firm.
- Commissioners, LTAC (Lodging Tax Advisory Committee) and OCTC (Okanogan County Tourism Council) discuss if the LTAC can make a proposal to spend \$25,000 for soft wear to help gather useful data even though the deadline for proposals passed months ago. They decide that it would be better to wait until this summer when proposals will again be considered.
- Commissioners review the list of expenditures for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) expenditures made in 2022. Commissioner Branch must report these expenditures by the end of April.
- Adjourn at 3:30.

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05:20—Pledge of Allegiance

12:35—CB joins the meeting via zoom. He’s had trouble getting into the meeting.

AH—At 11:30 the agenda says we’ll have a briefing among commissioners. I’d like to use the time for an Executive Session to consider ongoing litigation. Esther (Milner, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor) won’t be here, but she’s OK with Tadas sitting in instead. For the whole 30 minutes.

CB—At 3:30, we’ve got the discussion about developmental disabilities.

JN—I saw the email. They want us to administer the program.

CB—Seems like the county would already have something like this. Maybe in OBHC (Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare). It looks complicated in the email. Maybe get them (?) to have the discussion with us. Probably lots of counties don’t have the capacity to administer this and maybe have a contract situation to do it. I’ll try to get someone from that department to be in our meeting this afternoon.

17:50—No public comments.

AH—Change the agenda to show that by 1:30 on Tuesday we’ll decide if we’ll have a Wednesday meeting. I’ve got meetings on Wednesday.

CB—We need to have a discussion of our (*inaudible*) issues. That takes a lot of time.

AH—We’ve got that on the April 17 agenda.

CB—Maybe it’d be good to have a list of issues we could discuss but don’t have the time on Monday and Tuesday. I just remembered one—The state’s Liquor Control Board shutting the marijuana grows in the county because of DDT in the soils. Growers in property that may not be included are concerned. Plus the affected areas are near some fruit growers. Don’t know why it’s just this one area. Soils in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties all have soils where pesticides were used. There was a commission a while ago to look at effect of DDT/DDE and also lead and arsenic in agricultural soils. Keith Goehner was on the commission, I think. It’d be interesting to look at what they found.

JN—Baffling to me if it’s in the soil, it’s not in the water, too.

CB—So, I think it’s important for us to discuss, no matter what product is being grown. And anything in the soil will eventually get into the water. Talks about concentrations in the soil.

AH—We got an email from Bridget Lockling (Director of Finance and Administration for the Washington State Association of Counties). Will we get a presentation of this “voluntary assessment”? What was your assessment about your meeting with Chelan County about the National Center for Public Lands Counties.

CB—They talked about the distribution of funds was fair. Discusses pluses and minuses of the assessment. Public lands draw people here who spend money, but the formula they use doesn’t let us know if the assessment will cost more than we’ll receive back.

AH—I don’t know if we need a \$635,000 support center to make a case for these things. Seems like we could do it easily.

CB—They’re not there to make the case. They’re there to provide the data to make the case.

36:10—JN—It’s 9:34 and Pete and Joe are in the audience.

CB—These are the discussions that we have to put off. We should make a list of topics to discuss to help us make policy.

CB—JP has a brief update, so he can go first.

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JP—Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor. Here’s information about the three portable heat pumps at the Justice Center. Cost per month last year and purchase prices. Rental price is \$2981 per month per unit. Used them from June through October.

AH—Basically, we’re spending \$15,000/year in rental fees when we can buy them for \$19,000?

JP—Yes.

AH—It’s a no-brainer.

JP—If we bought them, they’d be new units, not the ones we’ve been renting. They’re 1.5 ton, about 4 feet tall, inside the building. Don’t own any that big right now. We own cooling units (AH calls them swamp coolers.) These do heating and cooling. If we don’t need them at the Justice Center later on, we could use them at the Fairgrounds, etc.

Discussion of buying vs. renting.

CB—What if they sit without running for a while? Will they work at well?

JP—I think so. And we have the unit that went out at the Child Development Center, we can rent a unit for them.

CB—We’ll be juggling things around for the next few years and if we bought, we’d have these to juggle.

AH discusses budget issue. County Assessor’s Fund.

AH—As for jail, we’re waiting for us to get the engineer contract done, correct?

JP—Yes. Then the engineer can engineer a fix.

AH—Maybe not into construction for this year.

JP—While we wait, we hired someone for part-time grounds’ maintenance.

JP—We also got an estimate from Otis Elevators to replace the controls in this building, but maybe it’s really for the courthouse. Trying to get a clarification. Courthouse was \$30,000 and \$19,800 for this building. When LJ first talked to the elevator guy, he said the elevators were all about the same vintage, so could need repairs at the same time.

AH—reads numbers in the Assessors’ Fund. If we bought these, we’d still have \$80,000 in interest we’ll earn. Can you get quotes?

JP—Yes. And that’s all from me.

52:40—PP—I’m Pete Palmer, Planning Director.

PP—We’ve talked to all of the marijuana grow operations in the county. Did our first trial run of fees. Here’s my report.

PP—We met with everybody willing to meet with us. Out of 77 cannabis operations in the county, 62 came to the mandatory meetings. Eight didn’t attend and seven just flat-out didn’t comply with anything. So we notified the 77 of our annual registration fee, we had 53 paid the fee. The 24 that didn’t pay, 17 were at the mandatory meeting last fall.

PP—Now I’d like to get permission to give them one more opportunity—send another letter inviting them to a meeting and opportunity to pay. If they don’t, then we’d like to start pulling the licenses and work with the state on this.

JN—Sounds good.

PP—My second thing—I was asked to review the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) handbook and WAC (Washington Administrative Code) to see if SEPA would be required on code changes EM is working on. Also asked the SEPA help desk. We all agreed –if the change doesn’t affect the environment, then it doesn’t require SEPA.

AH—Good. Also, thanks for calling the Help Desk.

PP—I’ll be back at 11:30 for the Executive Session.

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55:55—MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management. I'm going to a pre-fire meeting this afternoon in Ellensburg with power companies to talk about how they'll operate. I'll be on a panel. Be gone two days. Then I go to Yakima with Laurie (?) to hear about sending emergency notices to people with limited English capabilities.

AH—Limited English capability —other than Spanish?

MG—Mostly Spanish. The Federal Government has criteria about how to send out the messages. You need to know who needs messages in a language other than Spanish.

AH—Can you just send out a message in Spanish and if they reply then you'll know.

MG—They can chose a language when they sign up. But when we send a message in English, then it's later that we'll send in Spanish. If they receive their message, they could translate or the phone translates. We want to make sure they know that sometimes we might not be put out in Spanish. Make them take the initiative.

CB—Maybe AH was referring to—we used to do this often. You would have a statement in English, there's one section in Spanish that says you should get someone to help you read this or call this number. So there's one short section in Spanish.

MG—The issue is that the people who can't read the English may not be good at reading Spanish, either. And lots of notifications, we don't put out in voice, only text. A majority of the time, there's a family member who can help.

MG—On Friday, we'll have the first of our Fire Advisory Committee.

CB—Maybe JN will attend, or maybe me. Notify both of us.

JN—I'll do it.

MG—Next, we're having a flood meeting next week. Trying to get someone from Canada, too.

MG—Any questions?

JN—You know OTID's (Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District) management changed.

MG—Yes.

JN—I think it'll be a positive change. The manager had to step down because of health reasons. I think then new guy will take a more active role.

MG—Our local change—Jeremy Patrick now works for Omak. Brad Armstrong is now Fire Chief in Okanogan. In Chesaw, Brad Scott has taken over for Phil.

MG—That's all.

1:03:50—JN—Naomie Peasley is zooming in today.

NP—Do I need to pick up any paperwork from the FAC (Fair Advisory Committee) meeting?

AH—I don't think so. Showed them the Royalty contract, sent it to the queen, too. They are considering it. They also looked at the contract for the singer and the addendums he wanted.

AH—As for electrical stuff—it only needs to be 200 amp/240 volt service. That can be done. Won't be hard.

NP—Brock wanted three phase...

AH—That's a different discussion. If we're going to keep having these, maybe look at the cost of the rental generator. But renting is a lot less money. We know when the fair is going to be so we can reserve it right now.

NP—There's paperwork about a payment...

AH—I'll send you the receipt via email.

CB—You have some fundraisers coming up? They're all contracted?

NP—Do you have the resolution about school functions discount? I'm getting a lot of interest in school functions.

JN—Someone asked about all schools or just public schools.

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AH—We should talk to the Auditor about that. I think if we set the rate that a school pays 50% less than the regular rate. That should satisfy the State Auditor. But we should still ask. Would apply to all schools in the county. Not based on family income at all. If the Auditor says we have to justify the rate cut, then we'll have to gather the data re: free lunches. I'll ask the Auditor to come in.

NP—OK. I'll wait to finalize the events until I hear back.

AH—Re: horse stalls. We're going to need about \$20,000 plus ground prep and construction?
Guestimate for the prep and construction?

NP—Total is \$170,000.

AH—We've got \$126,000 from the Lumbering Employees Trust, and \$30,000 from Boots and Saddles. So it's only \$16,000 that we need.

NP—Trees are planted. We have 18 events this month and 21 next month. I've been out helping them outside.

NP—The floor polisher is on its last legs.

NP—The grass is growing and it looks great. Anything else?

JN—Did they get the additional coat on the floor?

NP—Yes. It looks great and it's much easier to clean. That's all I've got.

1:27:20—AH—to CB—We finally got a resolution for the adoption of the amendment to the Public Health District Charter. AH reads the resolution. It was put together by the District's attorney. I move to approve Resolution 47-2023.

CB—I haven't looked at the changes yet. I don't know what changes were made.

AH—We talked about it in the Public Health meeting. (Looks for the information and can't find it.)
Resolution doesn't pass.

AH—We need to make sure that the Administrative Team isn't included in the charter.

AH—I just sent you the version that Jill sent me on April 3. It's the correct one. It appoints a District Administrative Officer. I'll have LJ print this out and that should be Attachment A.

1:36:00—AH—Lisa (Schrenckengost) is here.

LS—I'm Lisa Schrenckengost, Finance Manager for Okanogan County. Carrie (Hall, County Auditor) is gone today. NP is looking for money for the horse stalls. Carrie and I looked at the Lumbering Employees Trust Fund, \$126,371 in it. Boots and Saddles were donating \$30,000. We could take some money out of the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. Also, Investment Interest and Current Expense. It's earning more than we estimated, so we could take some money from there. I'll go with whatever you suggest.

Discussion with AH of various funds and reconfirming how much money each contains.

AH—To use the Lumbering Trust, BOCC should write a resolution about all the discovery we've done to say how we know we're using the money appropriately. (To CB)—I can write this resolution.

AH—Right now we've got \$40,000 more in interest than we expected. So we could take some out and put it into contingency reserve. I'd like to decide that and then see where to take the \$20,000 we'll need for the horse stalls.

LS—And you'll get back to me when you decide that?

AH—Yes. And I'll write the resolution to use the Lumbering Fund.

LS—OK.

NP—You were going to ask about the school discount, too.

AH—Can we write on the fee schedule that all schools in Okanogan County will pay just 50% of the regular fee on the schedule?

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LS—I'll find out.

CB—Can we make a standard decision without using the data from the school lunch program?

AH—Outside of the “poor and infirm” written into the county code, can we waive part of the fee for another reason?

LS—OK. I'll get you the answer for this one, too. LS leaves.

1:51:15—AH—I move to approve Resolution 47-2023, to amend the Public Health Charter adopted by Resolution 100-2022.

JN—I second it.

CB—I see the gist of the change—the leadership in the Charter.

AH—And a little bit about finance stuff. And it's got the attachment.

Motion passes.

1:59:10—SK—Hello, CB. Working on my city jail billing, so my head's about ready to explode.

SK—I'm Shelley Keitzman, HR and Risk Management, here to talk about the Bilingual Stipend.

SK—We have an employee in District Court, Mr. Ramos, who obtained his certification. He's a probation counselor, and has lots of reasons to have his bilingual certification. When we went to authorize the stipend, we learned that for District Court Resolution 72-2001, established the stipend for court employees. However, Resolution 44-2021 rescinded 72-2001. So the resolution covers non-bargaining employees, an MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) for the Teamsters, but District Court is not covered. They're AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees). AFSCME slipped through the cracks. Can I do an MOA so they can have the same situation as the other employees. I have a resolution for Mr. Ramos. He was just certified in March, 2023.

AH—Ask Tom about writing the MOA and get it backdated to when we signed with the Teamsters.

CB—Does the resolution authorize the MOA?

SK—No I'll have to do another one for the MOA but not a separate one for the employee.

SK—I'll be back when I've got the MOA and the resolution.

2:07:45—CB—I've got a question that came up from a constituent. Does the Virginia Granger building fall in AH's district.

AH—Not sure. I think it's the road by the school.

CB—A guy asked about the add-on sales tax we've added via ballot—Juvenile Administration and communications. This person thought we were using funds ear-marked for those things for the Justice Center. I don't think it's true.

AH—Whoever it is could have been listening to a discussion of how the Juvenile Administration goes into the Justice Center, that's what it meant to pay for. They're correct that we can use the money from the tax increase. But we haven't done that yet.

2:16:40—CB—When is the next WATV discussion scheduled?

AH—I think the Planning Department is working on the zone code so this can be put off until we get that done.

CB—Most of the work was being done by Public Works.

AH—They hadn't heard about including the West Chewuch Rd. to Gunn Ranch Road then.

CB—I guess the question is: are we going to reconsider this?

AH—To be fair, we should reconsider. We need to go through the process of looking at it, but we know there are a lot of people protesting it. The process doesn't need to be done right now.

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CB—But Gunn Ranch and those kinds of roads, they're ours to do. Because of the emails we're getting, it would be worthwhile to set a date for when we're going to consider it, or have a hearing.

AH—When you said a public hearing you mean to initiate the process?

CB—Well, if we're going to have a process, we should identify what it is. What do we do with all the comments we're getting? We could establish a process to respond to the comments.

AH—That's good. But because we have comments prior to scoping or SEPA, do we just say we don't want to consider them? Not fair. There are some valid places in the county where there could be some good travel loops created. (Describes a loop using Cub Creek, West Chewuch, Boulder Creek.)

AH—I don't know that I'm currently considering the request. I'm still in favor of the ones that we suggested. I don't think it's valid to open a road so someone could ride from his home. But I don't want to initiate this with Planning, because they'd have to get together with all of the different agencies they talk to. Sent the map to the agencies for comments.

CB—That's the SEPA process. I'm asking are we going to set a date in the future to see if our discussion would be subject to SEPA. I see your arguments, but are we going to have a process—period?

AH & JN agree we'll have a process at some point.

AH—I don't want to overburden the Planning Department.

CB—We need the discussion to see what Planning will do in the future.

AH—Maybe take the end of a Monday or Tuesday.

CB—Or maybe a Wednesday.

AH—I get lots of comments saying—I'm opposed to your proposal, when we don't even have a proposal. I could tell them—Thanks for your comment. If we move forward with a proposal, you should be sure to submit your comment in the appropriate fashion.

2:33:50—AH—I move to go into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)—ongoing litigation. 30 minutes, inviting PP and Tadas Kisielius, specially appointed by the Prosecutor's Office, from Van Ness Feldman Law Firm.

Recess for lunch.

2:39:25—Discussion on Policy/Special Funding LTAC Committee & Okanogan County Tourism Council

AH—I can lead the discussion and then CB can follow up with questions.

AH—We have four members of the LTAC, including me: Don Linnertz via zoom.

DL—Did you get the agenda I sent? I was hoping to update the committee membership. I think it's been advertised.

AH—I propose we talk about the \$25,000. When we met in October, the VICs' (Visitor Information Center) presentations giving the LTAC were "all over the board" re: amounts they're asking for, how good the presentation is, etc.?

DL—I toured the VICs. We're funding their work. We need to be sure they credit us and they're not.

DL—Also not all good at advertising unincorporated Okanogan lodging facilities.

DL—The data they collect is poor or non-existence. Is there a way to improve the data collection?

AH—There was never a presentation to use the \$25,000 for a computer system. Here's the relevant "*RCW 67.28.1816 Lodging tax—Tourism promotion. (1) Lodging tax revenues under this chapter may be used, directly by any municipality or indirectly through a convention and visitors bureau or destination marketing organization for: (a) Tourism marketing*" The thought was have the DMO (Direct Marketing Organization) get with the VICs and put together a soft wear system that will let all the VICs communicate with each other. To have QR codes on kiosks. Keep collecting data even if the kiosk isn't open. CB brought up the point—can the LTAC have the DMOs do that?

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CB—To be clear, the idea isn't to challenge the authority of the LTAC to do something. Also think about procedures so something that seems innocent now doesn't turn into something much different later on.

CB—Are the VICs prepared to implement this? This seems pretty top down. I agree with the observations Don shared. Are they sharing information about what else is available in the county?

AH—OTCT is here. Maybe they could talk about if they've met with VICs and learned their thoughts about it.

Jen—Hi. I'm the marketing contractor. OCTC was approached with this idea. Asked to do this application. We've been meeting the VICs but we don't know if it'll happen yet.

Jen—The kiosk software isn't intended to be used by the VIC staff. The user touches it. It's a survey. Andy Floyd or another contractor would maintain it annually. Won't add a tech burden to the VIC staff.

Jen—We've received requests for the web content of this. Brewster, Pateros, Winthrop, Omak all on board. Oroville and Tonasket are the only ones we don't know about. Mazama is also interested.

AH—LTAC doesn't have a procedure for mid-year applications. The applications take so much to get through them. But, if we go to RCW 67.28.1817, it talks in part about *"Any municipality that proposes...a change in the use of revenue received under this chapter shall submit the proposal to the lodging tax advisory committee for review and comment. The submission shall occur at least forty-five days before final action on or passage of the proposal by the municipality. The advisory committee shall submit comments on the proposal in a timely manner through generally applicable public comment procedures. The comments shall include an analysis of the extent to which the proposal will accommodate activities for tourists or increase tourism, and the extent to which the proposal will affect the long-term stability of the fund created under RCW 67.28.1815. Failure of the advisory committee to submit comments before final action on or passage of the proposal shall not prevent the municipality from acting on the proposal. A municipality is not required to submit an amended proposal to an advisory committee under this section. [1998 c 35 § 3; 1997 c 452 § 5.]"*

AH—LTAC can't propose a change in use, but a municipality can change using the rules above. The municipality, being the county, can submit this proposal to the LTAC.

Don and Jan discuss previous ad campaigns done mid-year—example: after the Carleton Complex fire.

AH—Can we use this money or do we wait until this fall to apply?

CB—This discussion helps us make the right decision.

?—Is there a way to do it like infrastructure .09 money.

AH—Maybe we should consult the MRSC (Municipal Services and Research Center) a little. Get some legal insight.

CB—Whoever is involved will be reading the words in the statutes.

DL—Talking about the cart before the horse. Application close on Sept. 1 and are discussed Sept. 29. We invested a lot of money for the destination marketing plan and we need good data to implement. We won't know what people want.

CB—The statute itself puts people in the LTAC and the Commissioners can't do things willy-nilly.

DL—Is there a way to get some of the \$25,000 we allocated freed up right now.

AH—I'm looking at MSRC. Their interpretation of what's allowed is different than what I was thinking.

DL—We're not changing funding amount.

AH—But we never got a funding request.

AH—Maybe it's better to apply through the DMO for next year.

Jen—Our mission is to market the county. Having to do a lot of coaching for the DMOs would be new for us. But given the goal from Don and AH, we did our best to create a plan to do what you wanted to do.

\$25,000 isn't going to do it. The program would be advantageous. The data would be very helpful. It'll also tell us how many visitors are going into the VICs instead of looking on line or using the QR code.

AH—Reading the MSRC, I don't think we can do it this year.

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Don—Is this one complete package, or can it be phased in?

Jen—If you did the data-fi data package and used only 2 or 3 VICs, it could be phased in. The VICs want the comprehensive website, but that won't get you the data you want.

Jen—The data-fi data has the information from most leased or owned cars. Not rentals.

DL—Getting back to the funding, there's still a route to use the \$25,000 legally.

AH—There wasn't an application for that money, but the LTAC approved the use of the money.

CB—We better start pumping the breaks.

DL—Can it get approved retroactively.

AH—Our process doesn't allow for that.

CB—If we fudge it, that gets us in trouble with the auditor.

CB—We could create a process for mid-term requests for money, but do we have to amend the DMO contract?

AH—Amend the process for items that fall inside the DMO marketing plan.

DL—How does this project compare to other items at OCTC? Could we move money from one project to another?

AH—I'm not going to ask them to do that?

AH—Maybe table this and get the information to the VICs. Tell them to ask for money to fund this.

Jen—I don't know if that would work.

AH—I think it's important to get the information out there. One VIC applies for lots of money and another applies for very little.

CB—I look on the internet when I travel, but the VIC kiosk is real good, too.

AH—I see value in the VICs.

DL—I think the important stuff is the QR codes and data-fi.

Jen—Conversations like this are really good. If we'd have this conversation at this time last year, we'd have it implemented. Also, it'd be good to have a procedure in case of actual emergencies.

AH—How do we utilize the marketing plan to spread people out across the county as well as we can.

Jen—That will create a lot of LTAC money, too.

CB—But you don't want to point people to an area that lacks any facilities. Not much product development in the north part of the county.

Jen—We also do affinity marketing—draw people who want to go to what's already there.

?—So we can't take action now, but we can develop a process for mid-season funding.

Jen—And if this proposal needs to be changed, let us know ASAP.

Jen—We have VIC training coming up. Do you want me to talk to them about this, that it's probably coming next year? (Everyone says OK.)

Jen—Most of this is one-time spending. Operating cost won't be as much.

CB—Have we discussed this enough today?

AH—I think so. Now we have a plan. Thanks everyone. Maybe we'll have to have another LTAC meeting before September.

They leave.

3:47:25—AH to CB—For this next discussion, LJ will come and assist us. We've got an excel spreadsheet that shows the green projects we've approved, and we'll go through it to see if there's a contract, etc. And also she'll email us all the ARPA expenditures for this year and last.

AH—For reporting requirements for ARPA, it's just what we've expended and what we've obligated?

CB—Yes.

AH—Does every report start from day 1?

CB—This report covers only 2022. There wasn't much of anything in the previous report.

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CB—I believe it was reported that we got the second tranche for LATCF.

AH—Lanie is sending us a non-detailed breakdown.

AH—to CB—How are you supposed to categorize the expenditures?

JN—What’s this \$4,500,000?

AH—It’s the amount put into the professional services line. That’s why I want to get to get non-detailed view. When we get this other one, it’s a lot easier to read when it’s not in detail. I think it’s a line item we put the money into it, but all the other line items are the actual BARS codes we have to use. The general appropriation is still at full balance.

CB—I won’t be able to do anything with the website right now. They’re having problems.

4:05:15—AH to CB—We just got the 2022 Expenditure Statue Report from Lanie. Our first section is the retention bonus section. Can you look at it?

AH reads off the numbers of various expenditures to CB. Retention Bonuses, Tunk Mountain small tools, Economic Development, District Court security cameras, Tunk Mountain capital improvements, Economic Development again. Year to date expenditures \$736,217.49. The numbers are all highlighted on the spread sheet LJ sent.

AH—If you put in the classification where you think they should go, then we can all go over it.

CB—Works for me.

AH—Now we have the spread sheet we work on, the money is what we’ve allocated altogether.

AH—The court building purchase, Public Health District, OCCAC, Economic Alliance, Public Works, nothing for broadband yet or the City of Okanogan, but we’ve allocated for the Mazama hydrant project, FD6, Town of Winthrop, Town of Twisp, Tunk Mountain hardening, Court House security cameras, mobile dispatch center, morgue and storage—technically not allocated yet because no contract, retention pay allocated, food crisis.

AH—If I email this to you, Lanie, can you go over it and double check the contracted amounts?

LJ—Sure.

CB—OK. That’s what I need. And I can contact LJ and check with her if I need to.

4:23:15—CB—Our next item of business is discussion of developmental disabilities. I forwarded emails and hope you received them.

JN—From Branda Mattson?

CB—Yes. (Branda Mattson, Manager, Employment and Day Programs, Washington DSHS).

CB—RCW 71.05 contains a section saying Washington contracts with counties for programs for the developmentally disabled. Careena Radford (?) works for Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare (OBHC). She’s in charge of a contract for people with developmental disabilities. Radford was checking to see if we’d received the email from Mattson.

AH—Does this have to do with the money we receive in the Developmentally Disabled Fund?

CH—It’s got to do with the contract we have with OBHC. Due to changes in the law, they have to offer the program to us—the county. Are we prepared to administer the program? That’s what it boils down to. Do we have the capacity and desire to create a program that requires us to have a new department?

AH—Can you find out for sure where the money is going?

CB—Probably OBHC.

AH—What’s your objective? If the state normally contracts with the county, did the county abrogate to OBHC? I’d like to see how the money’s being used and also make sure that OBHC is getting the money.

CB—Why not just ask us if we’re happy with the service we’re getting now?

AH—The problem. Here’s a lot of money, plus there’s a small amount of money that comes to us.

CB—Careen asks if we received the email from Branda and will we respond.

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AH—Yes, we received the email. Yes, we will respond. We want to know the deliverables of the contract, etc. and have OBHC in the conversation.

CB—Keeping in mind there's a new law, my question is if OBHC is doing the service? What's happening? What's the compliance level? How do they feel about implementing it? I talked to Dave McClay (CEO of OBHC). If the county wants to implement it, that's OK. That decision is up to the county. I'd ask what is the state of implementation now.

AH—(Reading from his computer)—the Developmental Disability fund in 2022—we received \$120,000. Prior to that it was \$70,000. We paid \$44,795 to “professional services”.

CB—How are you with the current administration of the program? I'd like to invite OBHC and Careen Radford to be on the agenda. OK?

AH—Say yes, we received the email. We want to have our contractor talk to us.

JN—The county should have received \$316,000.

AH—But we don't know because they haven't engaged with Okanogan County for a long time.

CB—We need to discuss this with the current contractor. There's a missing piece.

JN—Do we have anyone qualified to administer this?

AH—No way. We used to have someone, but then we stopped. I don't think we should go back to that.

CB—I agree.

CB—I'll do that. The first email came in June, 2022. Branda posed the question and got no reply. Two weeks later Careen commented. I'll contact her boss.

AH and CB—We get lots of emails from DSHS and DEA and other state agencies. It's pretty easy to cruise right by.

CB—OK. That's a task I'll deal with and hope to get an agenda item with both the contractor and the state involved.

CB—Anything else?

JN—I've got OCOG (Okanogan Council of Governments) tonight. Anything you want brought up?

AH—Reiterate Public Health. We have an opening of the Public Health Board.

CB—Time to adjourn. 3:30