

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
January 14, 2020**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)
Angie Hubbard – AHu (Interim Planning)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)
Kelly (BOC Asst. Clerk)
David Gechas – DG (Civil Att.)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)
Shelly Keitzman SK (HR)
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)

Lisa Schreckengost – LS (Deputy Auditor)
Kelly – (Interim Fair Events)
Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch, Sheriff's)
Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)
Tony Hawley – TH (Sheriff)
Karen Beatty – (Central Service)
Larry Gilman – LG (Assessor)
Annie Lyons – AL (Noxious Weeds)
Charlene Groomes - CG (Clerk's Office)
Susan Speaker - SS (Clerk's Office)
Arian Noma – AN (Prosecuting Attorney)

Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker.

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Summary: Public Comment: Citizen comment concerning “revolving door” of prosecutor’s office, **Civil Attorney:** Building Dept. contracts, Record request, Research, **State Senator Shelly Short, Admin & Fair Maintenance:** Custodial opening, Sand filter - irrigation system, Part time custodial position, Heat Exchanger & Compressor, Fair Grounds LED, **Building Dept:** New truck, **Misc:** Rental rates for Hancock Building, Possible State surcharge on property insurance, **HR & Risk:** MRSC webinar, Executive session - negotiation strategy, Roster of Engineers & Architects, Planning Director, Grant - Office of Public Defense, **County Auditor:** No bad news, Assessor & Mfg Home, Elections, Sec. of State about security, Current elections, Fire District certification, Observe the election process on election night, **Public Works:** Maintenance & Roads, Johnson Creek @ Greenacres: CCT proposed culvert, Miller Pit, Statler Bridge replacement, 2020 Budget, Purchasing policy, RFQ qualified Architects, Windows in the PW Building, **County Board of Health:** Admin Reports, Community Health, Environmental Health, **WDFW on Wildlife Population:** How WDFW does population sampling in the Western Okanogan, Citizen Questions, Deer habitat the primary driver of population #, AH & JD – discuss anecdotal experience in contrast to survey results

BOCC: AH, CB, JD

Staff: LJ, DG, JP, AHu, DH

9:00 Public Comment

- GT – relayed a **Citizen comment concerning “revolving door” of prosecutor’s office** involving a person who has been arrested and released multiple times from the Oroville area. The citizen comment that there had been a mental evaluation but not acted on. The individual then quickly committed more infractions. DG suggested that any person with direct knowledge could refer the person under an involuntary confinement order if the person is a danger to themselves or others. CB commented that he had heard the same comment at the previous nights OCOG meeting. *(A later phone conversation from DG shared that an issue such as this can be much more complicated than a prosecutor’s decision. Sometimes a judge will give a lighter or harsher*

sentence despite a prosecutor's recommendation. Cost issues can intervene as well as difficulty of conviction would need to be considered. Not so simple as the just the prosecutor and need to look at the involuntary confinement avenue.)

9:10 DG (Civil Attorney)

- Worked on **Building Dept. contracts** for inspection services with cities for 2020. Some are very short term and a rollover from 2019 – Okanogan city, Tonasket & Oroville as they are negotiating contracting separate inspection and building personnel. Twisp, Riverside & Brewster are more involved as are an extension of past long-term contracts for services.
- **Record request.** Looking at charging costs more consistently for large requests. There is some push back if a person is indigent. May be a challenge.
- **Research** for some Departments.

JD – Talked with **State Senator Shelly Short**. This term of the legislature is a short session and already has a lot of bills submitted (left overs from last term). One item is use of a surtax on Marijuana to reimburse Counties for cost of indigent defense.

JP (Admin & Fair Maintenance)

- Interviewed and selected a person for **Custodial opening**. Will start Jan. 21. Daniel Haven from Tonasket.
- Still working on quotes for a **Sand filter for the irrigation system** at the Fair Grounds. Have found some much lower cost options.
- Sent an email to the BOCC on the cost of **Part time custodial position** to be used between the Admin campus and Fair. Would want a person ASAP. Would get Daniel trained then add another person. One of the interviewees from the last hire might work well in this proposed position.
- Have a quote from Salcedo to replace the **Heat Exchanger and Compressor** to replace the damaged/broken one at the Justice Building. JP feels the water flow is the problem for the breakdown. The injection well system for the geothermal HVAC may be backing up. The pressure in the two injection wells are limited to 10 psi & 30 psi. The lower psi well will back up if pushed higher. This limits the amount of water flow that can be sent through the system. The damaged equipment overheated and ruined the equipment. JP feels this is the likely cause. Maybe a design problem. Maybe \$12,000 to get the repair done. Some lack of heat now but a problem yet – AC in the summer will be a big problem if not fixed. (Jail boiler is providing some heat to the system with heat exchangers).
- - AH – Any lighting at the **Fair Grounds LED**? JP – Only 3 new ones at the parking lot side of the Agriplex. AH – have PUD check power usage for the interior lighting at the Agriplex. AH got word that arena light can be swapped out to LED and this could be part of the same project.

DH (Building Dept.)

- Talked with CH & LM about cash on hand. Building has \$400,000 in their account. Needs to pay the yearly bills but this is in great excess of what is necessary for normal bills and will be covered by normal revenue. Building has 3 working pickups currently, 2 with a lot of miles. A **New truck** would replace one of the pickups with high mileage.
- AH – move to authorize Building to go out to bid for a new PU. Passed

BOCC – Misc.

- **Discussion of rental rates for Hancock Building.** Storage only and full occupancy rates. A fiber optic line has been installed. BOCC needs to amend the fee schedule for the building.

Motion to the Clerk of BOCC to create an amendment to the rate of \$.59 sq. ft. for office space, \$.30 sq. ft. for storage in basement. Total rental would be about \$1100 for monthly rental.
Passed.

- **Possible State surcharge on property insurance** to provide funds for fire control/prevention on DNR jurisdiction lands. This is a proposal in the legislature. A question is how to justify to non DNR jurisdictions the increased cost of a surcharge on policies, i.e. urban areas. (Shared danger, universal usage of DNR jurisdiction lands, mutual efforts, DNR grants to others).

10:00 TC (HR & Risk)

- **MRSC webinar** has been set up covering – legal updates. Costs will be reimbursed.
- AH asks for an **Executive session for negotiation strategy on Sheriff's office union**.
- Pre-construction meeting on Jail with Holme on **M Tank work** on Wednesday – after that a notice to proceed.
- **Roster of Engineers & Architects for projects?** Will need to ask JT.
- Final offer for a **Planning Director**, want them to start ASAP – yesterday?
- Received a **Grant of \$52,274 from Office of Public Defense**. Concern about in adequacy of reimbursement. CB – jail fees for Jail came up at OCOG Monday night. Cities want more input on why costs keep going up. Need the Prosecutor and Jailor in the process to provide information. If less people are in the Jail for County, then fixed costs per person are higher.

10:30 CH (County Auditor)

- **No bad news**
- Will start on annual report by the end of the month
- Will be meeting with departments about how to work with grants.
- Budget so far, so good. Payroll is all manual entry – LOAs are all new. IRS requirements require learning
- Reporting is going great, no new RCWs. Auditor Assoc. want more uniformity across the State locally we follow Spokane policies.
- **Dept. of Licensing** – a customer might call. Very upset. A manufactured home that belonged to the person was found by the Assessor on another person's property. The title had not been changed when it was sold. When the home was sold the title should have been filed as being sold with the Dept. of Licensing – a release of ownership. This caused an assessment issue. This is a North end person. They did not do the proper paper work for the transfer (elimination) of the title. CH is warning the BOCC of the problem. This property was originally a foreclosure sale and the proper the proper procedures.
- **Elections**. Will be a big topic this year. Multiple bills affecting elections have been reintroduced in the legislature this year:
 - o Date of Return on the ballot envelope is one that would have an additional cost.
 - o 17 -year-old allowed to vote, if will be 18 by general can vote in primary for that vote – State wide registration would make this easier.
 - o Rank Choice voting may come back. No software that can do this at this time. One out there but a big cost to switch. Does not fully understand full rationale for moving to this. JD blames “other party” goal is to confuse the voter. Another unfunded mandate?
 - o May be 13 more bills beyond these coming along.
 - o Possible to have Dept. of Commerce find “holes” in County revenues. Would then bill the County for the service.
- Have hired a new election person, Mathew Shue. Will start Jan. 21.
- Receiving a lot of email from the **Sec. of State about security** in the upcoming election. Feds. Are good about what they do. On election might have to keep the Courthouse open late, wants

security on duty to cover during that time. Auditor's office will cover the cost of the additional security. A lot of operations are currently subject to a FOIA request, would like to be able to withhold the security procedures.

- **Current elections:** There is a Feb. special election for schools, on 2 Districts in the County are not involved. The Presidential primary is in proofing, will be mailed out about Jan. 24. There are 2 elections at the same time. The Special and the Presidential primary.
- **Fire District certification.** Did not meet the 60% of the land owners by area requirement. Have talked with Virgil Newton, the main person working on the certification for the fire district. Could get there by pulling out one land owner to make the 60% criteria. Working on it.
- Encouraging people to come in and **Observe the election process on election night.** Check with CH (Auditor's Office) if you are interested.

11:00 JT (Public Works)

- **Maintenance & Roads:** Storm crated some overtime. We were lucky as there was relatively drifting except in the Cameron Lake area – this is normal. Thursday the wind will likely die down then will be able to get all roads open. No one in trouble at this time.
- **Johnson Creek @ Greenacres: CCT proposed culvert** – Trout Unlimited & CCT effort to remove fish barriers in streams. Design report has been forwarded, recommends a full replacement of the culvert with a bottomless design and building some pools. Project may help NEB needs for WRIA 49 process. Would need County permission to work within the County right-of-way.
- **Miller Pit: Mitigation conditions** - There is concern that a resolution or ordinance is not binding on a future BOCC. The current BOCC is looking at the details of the CUP hearing and documentation to see if they have an avenue to tie the mitigations to the CUP that would make it binding. The goal is to guarantee the enforcement and permanence of the mitigations.
- **Statler Bridge replacement:** Not close to opening on scheduled day, likely will be the end of Feb., need to get all instream work done ASAP.
- **2020 Budget:** On end of 2019 will have about 1.3 million higher as carryover.
- **Purchasing policy:** Sent our request for info on Emergency purchasing. 3 Examples from other governments from MRSC. Mostly succession if BOCC dead or unavailable and need to authorize a purchase or agreement in an emergency. Set order of decision making – 1) Sheriff, 2) Emergency Director, 3) Public Works Director, 4) Prosecutor? – Would need to have BOCC approval at some point. Purchasing Authority – some governments have a set amount of authority in case of an emergency. BOCC considers giving PW Director spending within budget as necessary. Worry about details later.
- AH – does PW have a list of **RFQ qualified Architects?** – No. Need one as need design for a single entry for security purposes at the Court House.
- Have replace 9 **Windows in the PW Building**, has made a lot of difference. LJ – need to put into the budget. Will need to create a budget supplemental ASAP. Would like put in next set of 9 before summer. BOCC – look at replacing all building windows.

1:30 County Board of Health.

- **Admin Reports.**
 - o **Minutes** – rephrase State Auditor “findings” so that it represents the very positive nature of the report. Findings by itself sounds negative. Move that paragraph to under Admin area. Approved as amended
 - o **Financial** – all bill paid, match the Treasures report, vouchers paid, no change in financial reserve. Approved
 - o **JD elected Chair, VP – Marianne Williams** – Approved

- **Dept of Health Consolidated Contract** report: Extend Opioid grant to the end of March so all funds can be spent. (Consolidated Report covers all State grants and contracts. Various amendments are done throughout the year.)
- **NCACH CHI Contract** – covers meetings and admin functions. Has been a \$50,000 under current contract. Action Health Partners have been contractor locally. Have written for a new grant at \$75,000 – might hear in March to expand the goals of the contract. Discussion of the quality of statistical health information. Approved.
- **Community Health Update**
 - **Hep A:** 4 cases confirmed, all accounted for, most close contacts are now vaccinated. Coordinated with the Tribal jails, law enforcement & Health. Strain is related to Spokane outbreak by DNA analysis done at the State labs. This outbreak has nothing to do with any restaurant. A lot of transfers between jails can greatly complicate the spread of transmission.
 - An **Influenza death** in the County. Details are not public as under investigation. A variant of influenza B.
- **Environmental Health**
 - A **Break-in** at the parking lot and a \$2600 radio was stolen from a vehicle. Reported to the Sheriff, passed on the Serial #. Break-ins are an ongoing problem in the lot, mostly gas and some cut lines. Looking at various remedies – motion sensor lights, photo cell to turn on lights at dark?
 - Have to take a couple of **Enforcements to Prosecutor’s office**. County Health does most of the paper work for them. Likely to get to 3 instances. “Maxwell” on Mt. Hull, “Crumbacher” area – solid waste, “James” at Twin Lakes 2 residences on to small of a lot.
 - Still contacting **DOE on various policies & procedures on wells**. The question is why not share an adequately performing well between 2 or more adjacent parcels? DOE says not OK at this point. A Planning or DOE issue. CB recommends a conference with DG, at least one Commissioner and new Planning Director to discuss scenario.

3:30 WDFW on Wildlife Population

- Jim Brown - Regional Director, Scott Fitkin – Population Biologist
- **Presentation on how the WDFW does population sampling in the Western Okanogan** (Okanogan River west to Cascade Divide in the County). Study shows relatively steady populations before fires then decline shortly after and now beginning to recover as food availability increases.
- **Citizen Questions** – Tiegen Levine
 - Where is State on delisting wolves?: Under State guideline need to have distribution and numbers. There are enough numbers but a “bottleneck” in NE Washington – not spreading out. Under distribution there is no confirmation of breeding pack(s) in SW Washington. There will be a new population report coming out the end of March.
 - Where is the State on Re-intro of Grizzlies?: Under law WDFW cannot be directly involved but is required to “consult and have representatives” at Federal efforts. WDFW is required to manage wildlife but the law bans any effort in re-introduction. The WDFW is not necessarily opposed to re-introduction in concept but is concerned about the timing considering the wolves. Complicates management of various species and conflict with people.
 - Where is WDFW on rebuilding deer populations?: Anecdotally seeing an increase in burned areas for the first time (See above).
 - Does the WDFW have data on the prey of wolves?: See above.

- **Deer habitat is the primary driver for population numbers** – land use, fire, weather all affect habitat. It takes time to recover from recent big fires. Secondary drivers are predation, road kill, parasites, hunting (Is structured to not be a factor). Secondary drivers do not affect the overall trend not the carrying capacity – that is influenced by habitat.
- **Discussion of survey details** – Spring & Early Winter helicopter sampling surveys – numbers, deer classification (doe/fawn ratios). Harvest surveys are weak population indicators – affect by a lot of outside influences. Weather, number of hunters, days of harvest, focused on bucks – all lead to harvest being a poor indicator of overall numbers.
- **Harvest Managements goal is a healthy, well-distributed deer herd.**
 - Maximize hunter opportunity – generalize season, some areas managed for quality
 - Adequate buck escapement – goal is 15 bucks to 100 does as a minimum - Relatively stable buck numbers – graph shows above 15 over the last 10 years. (The ratio does not represent overall numbers of deer, just the Male/Female ratio)
- **Process of population estimate:**
 - Variables that affect data – group size, activity, vegetation cover (height, density, color), snow cover. As surveys are done by helicopter these variables affect the ease and accuracy of data
 - Helicopter survey – gives good trend data. A lot of data is gathered quickly, needs a trained, experienced observer.
 - Developing a Washington Sight Ability Model that reflects our conditions – currently using an Idaho model, will transition to an IPM (Integrated Population Model) and use occasional sight ability to reset data.
- **AH & JD – discuss anecdotal experience in contrast to survey results.**

4:30 Notetaker leaves for another meeting.