

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Naomi Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager
Brock Hires, County Fair (*via Zoom*)
Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources
Tom Evans (TE), Veterans (*via Zoom*)
Cari Hall (CH), Auditor
Lisa Schreckengast, Assistant Auditor
Lori Jones (LoJ), Public Health Director
Jill Gates, Public Health
Dennis Rabidou (DR), Juvenile/Family Services
Henry Rawson (HR), Superior Court Judge
Robert Colbert (RC), Court Commissioner

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:

- *Fairgrounds budget abounds with repairs, improvements; part-time clerk at top of busy Manager's wish list; Conservation District donating 200 trees*
- *Veterans', HR and Commissioners' budgets gone over, no sticky issues*
- *Mike Beaver from Juvenile Dept. to be reclassified since taking on new duties no longer assured by Superior Court*
- *Resolution passed to transfer bond money from current expenses to "Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund"*
- *Health department to get \$200,000/year in ARPA funds from County*
- *Possible exchange of property between County and City of Okanogan*

1 :35 - Fairgrounds Budget - 2023 estimated revenues include \$80,000 from County, \$32,000 USDA Safety Grant plus other grants, contributions and donations (\$14,00 this year) and rentals (\$200,000 plus \$15,000 from the RV Park). NP : I'm confident upgrades will bring in folks. Part of budget will cover replacement of concrete floor in quonset (\$15,000), new rabbit and poultry cages (\$17,000), \$4,000 for sprinklers to wet down the racetracks (ground is « blowing away » from dry climate), \$8,000 for bi-weekly maintenance to rid the grounds of rats and mice, NP : All the power boxes are out-dated and old, one is not working... There are no outlets near the grandstands for vendors to set up. AH : The Fair Advisory Committee talked about moving the announcer's stand to the finish line. NP : It's on my wish list. The Conservation District is giving us 200 trees for shade—we just have to make the holes. *She would like \$50,000 to re-do the RV park toilets—currently without outlets or changing stations—and transformer replacement.*AH

reflects on the county's bond for building projects and the fact that \$12M earns \$336,000 annually in interest. AH : We could take baby steps for deferred maintenance. 2.8% is a good rate. I'd like to leave this (and another project, probably the electrical work) out of the budget and try to include them in our capital projects.

2 :42 -...NP : Do you want to hear my wish list? AH : Not really. NP : If you don't ask you'll never know. AH : ...You have \$465,000 costs and a profit of \$225,000. We spend more than we make on the fairgrounds, except in 2020 because of the fire. *(Counting grant dollars would reduce the difference...)* So what is this list? NP :

- A covered arena
- Gravel the RV spots
- A « hot walker » track for race horses
- An arena sound system
- New race stalls in the barns
- A well at the north end (*« interesting », says AH. He'd also like a ticket booth at that end*)
- An outdoor covered stage in the Rotary area, in the trees
- A \$1M indoor arena
- Beef barn drainage to relieve the mud behind
- Main gate drain to reduce flooding
- Painting « Okanogan County Fairgrounds » on Agriplex
- Heat pump (*theirs went out, is « limping along »*)
- Re-purpose old bathrooms to make vendor space (*AH skeptical*)
- Goat/Rabbit offices
- Agriplex partitions
- Event tent for 96 people (*« A lot of people are asking for one. »*)
- Scissors lift for light repair, (*AH says maybe buy one to share with Maintenance*)

AH : All good things to consider. NP : \$2 M. *They discuss expenses being possibly covered by the Safety Grant. NP has expressed need to hire a clerk to assist her, says there are two people interested in working 20 hours/week. AH will work on that.* CH : Thank you, Naomi, for being prepared today. It was awesome.

3 :20 - Veteran's Budget - \$40,000 will cover rise in office costs, printing and shredding, and a cell phone for director Tom Evans. CB : That was the easiest item of the day.

3 :32 - *A delegation from the courts arrives to request a job reclassification.* DR : Last June we were notified that the Prosecutor's staff would no longer fulfill their role in Truancy Court. RC : For two and a half years I handled most juvenile calendars, and the prosecutor's office facilitated hearings when the schools filed cases. It's not easy to do your job without someone in that role... Since Dave left, Mike Beaver from the juvenile department has fulfilled that role in the courtroom. He's not an attorney but comes in and says « Your honor, this was done, this was not done » and works with school districts. He is doing better than the Prosecutor did... DR : Our request is to reclassify that position from grade 31.5 to 36 as a Probation Manager because he's a good employee and been with the county 25 years. HR : His level is « mid-management », wearing multiple hats, extremely adept. We turn to him in criminal matters... RC : Probably very few at-risk minors in our county that Beaver doesn't know. He's the most up-to-speed of anyone in the Juvenile schedule. *AH prefers to wait until he has more information from other counties in comparable positions, citing his unique position to deal with contracts and responsibility to give raises fairly. CH says this is an appropriate pay scale.* JD : This budget pales in comparison with if we lose this person and have to replace him with a professional attorney. CB makes a motion to approve the reclassification as recommended. It carries, two votes to one. CB requests they « come up with » information that might better inform AH.

3 :59 - The **HR** budget discussion centers on projected revenue from criminal justice, up \$100,000. **CH** : Jail fees are \$114,000 just for Omak. **SK** : Not having Douglas County inmates makes a difference. *CH says to go just \$50,000 higher.* **AH** : We should get together and talk about jail... *He agrees to reduced increase amount. Postage costs will go up as well as office supplies and Travel/Training.*

4 :15 - *Commissioners' budget is « green-lined ». It includes \$81,274 for the three commissioners' salaries, up from \$68,406 for 2022.*

4 :32 - *Public Hearing.* **CB** : It's the local assistance US Treasury funds that we're putting into restricting ending fund balance. This is a resolution authorizing a budget supplemental appropriation... This is local assistance and Tribal Consistency in the amount of \$6 M. **AH** : So this is the public hearing to put that money into the fund that we created. **CB** : We're transferring the money because it came into current expense. And we can invest it. *AH is in favor of this. Resolution approved.*

4 :36 - Health Department ARPA allocation - *This is \$200,000/year for five years, coming from the county's ARPA funds and replacing the previous yearly allocation of about \$130,000.* **LoJ** : Would the commissioners like a work group for these funds, or to make a resolution ? **AH** : Should we do a letter ? ...**CH** : With ARPA funds, because the Health District is part of it, you feel we should do an agreement for this fund. The more documents you have, the more reporting, the better off you are. **AH** : It's for five years, to be spent by 2026 and allocated by 2024.

(Back to discussion with SK) - AH : ...We billed Douglas County for inmates they sent here, \$33,000 ear-marked for capital jail improvement. CH : It came to me at 2 a.m.–you could use it for the kitchen. (Both she and JD keep notebooks by their beds to jot down ideas.)

4 :56 - **LJ** : I have some things for you to sign.

- Letter of intent for ARPA funds for the City of Okanogan
- Distribution of ARPA funds to the Community Action Council for laptops, cooler, generator.
- A letter of recommendation for James Wright seeking a seat on the State Board of Health
- A letter of support for John McDonald from the PUD for USDA Reconnect funding. *CB proposes a later discussion on if he can use ARPA funds for this.*
- A resolution to surplus the old Fairgrounds tractor and trade in for another

5 :01 - **CB** : At a meeting with the City of Okanogan the mayor and Public Works were asking if we were looking at getting rid of property on the other side of Oak Street Bridge. It's a square piece in the middle of a right of way. They're looking at making a better approach to the rail. **AH** : ...If we can put together an inclusive deal, make a trade for something flat. *JD talks about floodplain vs. Floodway, CB says he'd support a letter to remedy that situation (of floodplain laws since, as JD said, « Okanogan and Brewster would no longer exist if it was the level of the 100-year flood. »*

5 :13 - *Meeting adjourned*