

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
11/16/2020 PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC chair, District 3 (by phone)
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, District 2(absent to attend a meeting)
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development
LM—Leah McCormick, Treasurer

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Summary of significant discussions:

Planning Department update—PP discusses several changes the department is making to become more efficient including consolidating forms and rewriting instructions. The department has received a reimbursements from Ecology and will soon receive a second. Finally, they are making changes to comply with Governor Inslee’s latest Covid proclamation.

The commissioners hold hearings for revenues for County current expenses and roads, Oroville EMS District, Tonasket EMS District, Methow Valley EMS District and also a public hearing concerning the Community Development Block Grant closeout.

Ariel Clark wants to buy a piece of tax title property that’s adjacent to a piece her family already owns. The Commissions, Leah McCormick and Ms. Clark discuss how this could happen.

2:21:00—PP—Met with Permit Review Committee made up of Building Department, Public Works Department and Planning Department staff. Talked about sharing enforcement duties when they’re on site if there are serious issues. This is about the Levitt (sp?) property on Lake Osoyoos. Decided that for any shoreline development permit, they’ll have a pre-application meeting including Planning staff, Building Department and Health Department to stream-line issues.

PP—Planning staff will change notification procedure for the approval process so applicants know there’s a 3-5 day approval process once the permit is received from the Building Dept. This will make things easier for staff and applicants both. Also, many applicants are not including the full outside dimensions on the application, so they have to re-do the application and pay a \$25 fee. Planning staff is trying to figure out how to avoid this problem.

2:23:50—PP—We’ve issued 106 permits in September and 97 in October.

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AH—What sort permits?

PP—All kinds. With shoreline development you may have to stack permits. For example, you'd need a Shoreline Development permit, a Floor Plain Development permit and a Channel Migration permit. We're trying to see how to combine the forms into 1 application and 1 report, instead of 3. It would be a lot easier for staff and applicants both.

2:25:30—PP—Had a good conversation with Trevor Hutton at Water Resources at the DOE concerning an opinion by the Attorney General that Dave Geches had shared with us before, but this interpreted the legal jargon. It had to do with being able to stack the water uses in RCW 90-44-050.

2:26:20—PP—We received the first reimbursement from DOE for a little greater than \$301,000. Rocky has the work for the second reimbursement almost ready. It's for approximately \$120,000. So there will be very little carryover into the FY 2021 budget.

2:27:00—PP—Discusses Gov. Inslee's latest proclamation regarding Covid-19. She says the department is being more stringent. The staff needs to be careful about not congregating in the kitchen and around the copy machine. They'll continue to be open by appointment and for drop-ins if there are few enough people in the room. They're going back to the telecommute schedule where ½ of the office works from home on alternating days. This is possible now because they all have laptops.

AH—What did the proclamation say?

PP—It mandated work from home if possible for professional services.

AH—Professional services or government services?

PP—Much of the things we do are professional services. Dan (Higbee) of the Building Department says most of the staff is still working because building construction is still allowed.

AH—We should really figure out where government services fall. We take taxpayer money and do things that we're required to do. So let's look into that more before we change anything like working from home.

PP—We have 2 people who are immuno-compromised and other staff members have elderly parents living with them.

AH—I understand.

PP—That's my update.

LJ—Could you let me know if your update is going to be less than two hours, because that's what I schedule you for. If I know in advance, I can do the schedule better.

PP—Sure. I'll let you know on Fridays when I do my agenda.

2:34:40—LJ—At 4:30 there's a person interested in buying a tax title property that the county tried to sell several years ago but was unable to. (*Note taker: Tax title lands are any tract of land acquired by the County for lack of other bidders at a tax foreclosure sale.*) LJ discusses the rules for such a sale. Leah McCormick, County Treasurer would like to be here during this discussion.

2:39:30—JD—Do we want to do vouchers?

AH—There are a lot of reimbursable vouchers. About \$2.3 million for the Sheriff's Department and a grader for Roads.

AH—Move to approve vouchers for \$2,402,047.25. Passes 2-0

AH—Move to approve Public Health voucher and payroll for \$73,811.65. Passes 2-0

JD—Lanie, please leave the vouchers and I'll come in tomorrow after 5:00 PM and sign them.

Board adjourns for 90 minutes.

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2:54:00—Public hearing for the Oroville EMS District revenues. Total amount the EMS District can levy is \$215,490.60

3:02:00—Public hearing for the Tonasket EMS District revenues. Total amount the EMS District can levy is \$217,125.

3:07:15—Public hearing, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning only Closeout Hearing—Housing Coalition.

Brian Points gives a summary of his power point presentation to the BOCC on Oct 19, 2020. His study of housing supply and demand in the county was overseen by a local steering committee. BOCC votes 2-0 to accept the report.

3:27:20—Public hearing, Methow Valley EMS District revenues. Total amount the EMS District can levy is \$597,640.

3:31:00—Discussion with Ariel Clark regarding her request to buy a tax title parcel. After some discussion between Ms. Clark, the commissioners and Leah McCormick, County Treasurer, it's decided that LM will hold an auction for this parcel and another one where's there's an interested buyer. It will take 30-45 days to firm up the plans. Everyone is happy with this plan.

Board adjourns.