

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, November 16th, 2020, AM

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Management
Carey Hall, Auditor
Leah McCormack, Treasurer
Lisa Shreckengast, Auditor's office
Lori Caswell, Emergency Management
(By telephone)
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lael Duncan (LD), Community Action Director
Kelly Edwards, Room One, Twisp
Lisa Apple, Behavioral Health Center
Nancy Nash-Mendez, Housing Authority
Margo Amelong, Support Center

(Time stamps refer to a Zoom recording of the meeting, available on the County Watch website.

Summary of important discussions: Lifeline operations in all three county districts approved to receive medical equipment (6:49); Roads - Loup highway needs more attention (20:45); WRIA 48 - Methow Council process could serve as a model for an Okanogan County 2009 watershed plan update (29:23); Professional Services should open up an attorney position to handle public records requests (59:00) ; Emergency Management Budget review - Federal grants in view, hiring of a new planner and purchase of a new car and a telephone-to-computer system, cuts to small tools and travel (52:10) -; Housing - Lael Duncan has facilitated funding requests by Behavioral Health Care, the Okanogan Housing Authority and Room One (Twisp), and says she would also like funding to be there for Community Action, Oroville Housing Authority and the Homeless Shelter, as needs are expressed (1:59:00).

- 6:49 - **Lifeline/Emergency Management Services** - **CB** presents a motion for each of the three districts which clarifies county ownership of medical equipment, bought with CARES money, which may be used by Lifeline for emergency Covid needs. 14:51- Language in the version for Fire District 15 which covers parts of Douglas Co. will be modified to read "within their service area" instead of "within their county."
- 20:45 - Snowy **road conditions** have led to two accidents. **AH** will talk to county engineer to prioritize routes for snow plowing. **JD**: there's more budget for maintaining roads now that Highway 20 has been closed; they should use de-icer proactively as they did before, not right before sanding which can cause ice to form.
- 29:23 - **WRIA 48 - Okanogan River/Reservation** - In-stream flow rule establishes how many permanent

wells to have but **AH** says they can't implement the plan because of an argument on what to use the reserve for. **AH** and **CB** have already addressed Dept. of Ecology on updating the watershed plan which was last reviewed in 2009. They agree that this plan was contentious, not in line with the stream flow legislation, and should be updated as part of a 2-year process and, like the Methow Watershed Council, involve landowners, water users, and other parties, not all people from the same organization. **AH** would like to see the in-stream rule changed to allow more water for cities. Planned work with the Colville Tribe in a Coordinated Resource Management process.

52:10 **Emergency Management Budget Review** - Expense Portion: \$140,439. Grant revenues total \$100,281 and include a yearly SHSP (State Homeland Security Program) grant of \$47,199--next year it will be \$47,199 and \$53,082-- and an Emergency Management Performance Grant of \$27,896 for the wages of a new Planner. (Something said about sharing cost 60%-40%.) First planner increased to full-time and named Senior Planner. (59:00) - **Professional Services** budget should, says **AH**, provide for a new Civil Attorney to "take the weight off" the County Attorney since taking care of public records requests entails a lot of research. EMS will purchase a cell phone/satellite phone/computer liaison system called a "jet pack", as well as a new car. Next year's travel budget, in view of Covid, reduced by 40% and small tools by 75%

1:59:10 **Housing Coalition** - Director of Community Action, **LD**, acting as facilitator, presents a Request For Proposal to aid: the **Housing Authority** in operational and maintenance costs at the Vista Parks Apartments in Brewster which suffered in a fire 18 months ago: \$62,000 plus \$12,000 for case load management assistance; **Room One** in Twisp - - **KE** says the need for housing has doubled while options have been reduced, receives some CARES funding but is asking for \$12,000, same as last year to offer concrete support in eviction protection and rental assistance; the **Behavioral Health Center**, running a deficit, asking for \$50,000 for what is "a huge asset for the community, working with folks in recovery." 2:07:53 - The **Support Center** requested a new fire alarm-heat detector. Other expenses: 75% of the Manager position, benefits, food, insurance and supplies for the clients. One family at a time housed at the Center, others are using a motel, this cost covered by other sources. **LD** would like \$50,000 to be reserved for Oroville Housing Authority which will have needs "down the road." **NNM** says Housing Project ready to cut the ribbon on a new project at Meadow Point and wishes there could be a big celebration. Maybe next year.

2:18:48 Meeting adjourned