

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, December 7th, 2020, AM

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Present:

(By Zoom) Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Cari Hall, Auditor
Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer
(By Zoom) Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Bruckner, NCR Libraries

(Recording available on AV Capture video. No time stamps available)

Summary of important discussions: Most demands met for Stadium-Tourism budget; new trustee appointed to NCR Libraries Board, new CARES funds coming in this week will offset Public Health and Economic Alliance expenditures; County will fill a spending gap in the Homeless Housing budget; Courthouse will receive an emergency power generator; \$1,000,000 will be borrowed for purchases of 18 new vehicles; review of overall budget and discussion of purpose of budget hearings.

Stadium/Tourism Dept.: All budget demands met except for Methow Trails whose projected scoping of a new trail didn't fit into the Capital Improvements budget, and a request from the Highland Alliance.

NCR Libraries: Jill Sheley (Winthrop Library, Friends of the Library, Methow) was chosen over another candidate to serve on the North Central Regional Libraries Board of Trustees. She was preferred over the other candidate who offered IT expertise but doesn't live full time in the county.

CARES Act funds totaling "a couple million" scheduled to arrive this week will more than over a spending gap of \$274,000 for Public Health and \$370,000 for the Economic Alliance. The Public Health budget will be balanced with money from the \$639,000 Non-departmental Reserve until new funds can be channeled through the General Expenses budget which receives the CARES funds.

The Homeless Housing Dept. received two over-bids for their project; the spending gap of \$68,329 will be filled by the county. Next year's budget request is for \$185,621 but requests are forthcoming for Room One and Okanogan Community Shelter.

An emergency power generator for the Courthouse will be paid for by the Capital Improvements budget and a DAHP (Dept. of Archeology and Historical Preservation) grant. The commissioners approved buying the \$93,966 generator from Power Systems West.

The Budget Public Hearing continued with approval of previously “green-tabbed” expenses. CB suggested, to keep the public hearings short (another one scheduled for Tuesday morning), that the working out of the budget be done beforehand. AH says traditionally the hearings have been used “to get the red tabs green.” CB prefers not to “drag the hearing through a budget workshop process. In the open hearing with Auditor and Treasurer they discussed a million-dollar loan to cover the past purchase of two sheriff’s vehicles and future purchase of 16 others including for the Planning and Assessor’s offices. Cars on average will cost \$25,000 apiece. Treasure McCormack calculates they could have \$200,000 a year in interest payments, says 60-90 days needed before getting exact figures from the bank. The purchase of the sheriff’s office vehicles will be covered in the budget by transferring unexpended funds from the Solid Waste loan.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05.