

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
December 17, 2019**

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.

For the officially approved minutes of the Board of Commissioners' meetings; (normally published at a later date), see www.okanogancounty.org.

Summary: District Court & Justice: Time spent on domestic disputes, Union negotiation, Budget approved for 2020, **BOCC Clerk:** Reviewing various department purchases, **Interim Fair Events:** Okanogan Dogs, Outdoor light, Porch roof, **Admin & Fair Maintenance:** Ameresco & Alcedo emails, Repair of Water Heater, **Civil Attorney:** Exec. session, Watershed Council, **Finance Committee:** Monthly budget & finance review, Missing budget info, Computer issues, Fire Districts, Vehicle Reserve Fund, November cash in Current Expense, Revenue, Doctor in the Jail, Doctor in the Jail, Expenditures & Carry Over, **Public Works:** Roads & Maintenance, Ellisforde Transfer Station, Statler Bridge, Purchasing Policy Draft, Discussion of Emergency Preparedness, **Misc:** VSO, Salary of the Emergency Manager position, Emergency Advisory Committee meeting, **HR & Risk:, Housing Study Review & Recommendation:** Sets interviews for Jan. 15, **Misc:** Fire Dist. #3, Lake Management District Special Assessment Rolls, Approve proceedings

BOCC: AH, CB, JD

Staff: LJ, TC, DG

DR, Judge Rawson (**District Court & Justice**) – Started @ 8:00

- Discussing **Time spent on domestic disputes** and legislature need to address costs. Who to hear cases – Court Commission often capable and of less cost. Training, other costs are at issue.
- Unable to attend the next **Union negotiation**, DR will be on the road to another commitment, could call in if necessary. TC & AH – not necessary.
- **Budget approved for 2020** – a temporary hold on purchase of vehicles approved, will need a final review by the Finance Committee.

LJ (**BOCC Clerk**): **Reviewing various department purchases** that need clarification – Sheriff's new vehicle for \$53,000.

Kelly (Interim Fair Events)

- **Okanogan Dogs** – an adoption program for stray dogs. Dog rescue of 4000 dogs this past year. They found homes for all. They want a charitable reduction on use of the Agriplex for an event. Question is does the organization meet the published requirements for a reduction? BOCC – after careful review the organization does not meet the requirements (poor or infirm clients.) CB – a recommendation to publish and make available the specific ordinance and requirements for a charitable reduction.
- When Kelly leaves the Fair office at 5:30 there are no lighting – completely dark. Would like an **Outdoor light installed for safety purposes**. Recommendation to have a light controlled by a motion detector – Just need to put in a work order.
- **Porch roof** has two very bad leaks – just need to put in a work order.

JP (Admin & Fair Maintenance)

- Has passed on **Ameresco & Alcedo emails** to the BOCC about the issues with the water heater at the Jail. No separate water turnoffs for the heater so will need to shut down the whole system for the necessary repairs. System is otherwise working well. Will put in shut offs to enable isolation of heat pumps & water heater.

DG (Civil Attorney)

- Needs a quick **Exec. session** for the same things as discussed on Monday. DG has received an email with additional information. 15 min. **AHu, DG & BOCC attending. Pending litigation.** Return at 9:37
- CB (*This note may or may not be associated with above*) – issue may be able to go to **Watershed Council** group in the Methow. If BOCC gives OK to the group to proceed then they may be the best placed to work the issue out. JD – need to check on the credentials of the Watershed Council. BOCC would need to check & validate if the BOCC is to proceed in having the Watershed Council proceed on the issue.

10:00 Finance Committee (LM, LS – CH home sick)

- **Monthly budget & finance review.**
- **Missing budget info** from 2 Fire Districts: Riverside & Mt. Hull. JD will contact Riverside, GT will contact Mt. Hull.
- Have had **Computer issues** with conversion from Windows 7 to Windows 10. In addition, State Auditor has had a software update.
- LS – **Fire Districts** are generally very small budgets and hard to operate. Generally, they need some help to balance each year. Would be good to have a regular update of contact numbers & email and names of officers.
- **Vehicle Reserve Fund:** AH asks BOCC to direct Clerk of the Board to ask Treasurer to transfer funds, \$37,220.22, from Fund 160 for Juvenile Dept. vehicle purchase to reimburse Vehicle Reserve Fund for purchase. Done.
- End of **November cash in Current Expense** is good. This is an estimate due to illness in Auditor office, about \$3 million on hand.
- LM does not see any issues with funds that are usually monitored closely for expenditures.
- **Revenue** – looking at large discrepancies between budgeted and actuals. Planning is 20% below, probably in SMP. Looking at the Jail in 2020, revenue could/should be higher than budgeted. Room & Board from Federal is much higher, \$172,000+ for DOC. Out of County revenue, (Douglas Co. & Cities) for booking and board. New administrator in the jail might need help in keeping up.

- Having a **Doctor in the Jail** instead of a PA seems to have cut down on emergency room visits and saving overall costs.
- Traffic fines are down in District Court.
- Fair revenue is up
- Pretty right on in **Expenditures and Carry Over**

Miscellaneous

- AH & JD discuss various aspects of climate and weather issues. Basic skepticism about human caused climate changes. CB working on other work.

11:00 JT (Public Works)

- **Roads & Maintenance:** Getting ready for the forecast weather of 12” – 18” in the Methow & about 6” – 8” in the Okanogan.
- **Ellisforde Transfer Station:** Contract extension contract. Same as in the past. The contract is less expensive than if the County operated the station. Small increase based on the CPI. Only added a provision in case of assignment clause in case of a sale of the business.
- **Statler Bridge:** The contractor is still catching up on paper work.
- **Purchasing Policy Draft:** JT has talked with the Emergency Mgmt (MG) about provisions for succession of decision making in case of a need for immediate decisions and the inability of a variety of personnel no being available.
- **Discussion of Emergency Preparedness:** Updating of plans, consideration of some less obvious disasters – hacking or ransom ware attacks, wide spread loss of electricity for extended period and more.

Lunch

Public Comment

Miscellaneous:

- AH want to direct a letter to the new **VSO** concerning the budgeted second position in the VSO office. Position was conditional on 50% match from Work Source. Needs to either have a part-time position or more funding.
- CB & AH: Proposal on the table to increase **Salary of the Emergency Manager position**. No emergency reserve in the Emergency Dept. Cities contribute 40% of budget for the department. An increase in salary would need to be shared along that formula.
 - o MG is brought in to be part of the discussion.
 - o AH – last year cities were billed extra, \$3500, more than budgeted.
 - o MG: Have bought sand bags for city use and distributed as needed. Other funds were spent on wages. In a big event costs have been reimbursed from someone – FEMA < Corps of Engineers, State, etc.
 - o Could short bill next year to reimburse cities for the 2019 over charge.
 - o Salary increase was discussed earlier with not decision.
 - o AH & MG: Put in the 2020 budget a pension increase. Does not want to go back and add on increase retroactively City councils are in favor of a salary increase, AH not comfortable but would accept an overall decision. Not a retroactively though.
 - o Questions is whether to pay for a retro salary increase or not.
 - o MG: Advisory Committee decision can be overruled by the County as the County has the ultimate say, the same as other agencies (Weed Board).
 - o AH: will have a increase beginning Jan. 1, 2020.

- MG also pays IRS for taking home vehicle, relatively a small amount per month. Will look into if this is a necessary function of the job to be able to respond at odd hours to emergencies.
- CB will attend **the Emergency Advisory Committee meeting**, BOCC will meet on Wednesday and deliberate on the issue. Wednesday is an optional session day so can convene and make decisions. BOCC will already be meeting to interview Planning Director candidates.

2:20 TC (HR & Risk)

- In full swing with 11th hour Union negotiations.
- Discussion with Judge Rawson
- 2 Sheriff's promotions, due to other retirements and transfer.
- BOCC goes into a closed session concerning Union negotiations. Return @ 2:37

2:38 Needs proposal for **Housing Study Review & Recommendation** – Lael Duncan

- Housing Coalition met to review 7 study proposals, **Winnowed down to 3**.
- Review of scoring. Wants a BOCC member for in person interviews of the proposals. CB is willing. JD OK with CB. (AH in Union Negotiations). **Sets interviews for Jan. 15.**

3:15 Miscellaneous

- Request from **Fire Dist. #3** – need a letter saying that Fire District is legally authorized entity. LJ has a letter for the BOCC to sign. Passed
- Resolution adopting the **Lake Management District Special Assessment Rolls**. Resolution 166-2019 passed
- Mover to **Approve proceedings** – 11/25 & 26, 12/2, 3, 9 & 10. Passed
- Approve Consent Agenda. Passed.