

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (via Zoom)
Jon Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Shelley Keitzman (SK), Risk Management, Human Resources
Justin Haug (JH), WA Dept. Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Susan Speiker (SS), Court Clerk

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:

- *HR provides job description for \$64,000/year Public Records Officer, is reviewing related records-retrieving servers; meeting next day with Pacific Security, court personnel and sheriff to discuss courthouse security*
- *Hover suggests changes to official meeting minutes regarding comments about battery recycling increasing their carbon footprint, and about Conconully's funding request being prioritized over that of the County's 911 Communications system*
- *Fish and Wildlife boat launch projects approved for Patterson, Sidley and Spectacle lakes, Patterson users wary, explanatory meetings have reassured some; high water mark and ownership of Sidley lake bottom discussed; Hover evokes river access by bridge north of Brewster for WDFW project*
- *Moldy court cases files, victims of ice dam leakage in Courthouse attic, provoke sickness among several of clerk's staff, will be treated externally for \$6,251; keeping records for eternity has a cost: \$10,000 to put 100 years of archives onto microfiche*
- *County not interested in inheriting steep river property by Chopaka, recommends adjoining owner, DNR, for acquisition*

1:30 - *SK shows BOCC a job description for position of Public Records Officer. They will receive an annual salary of \$64,300. They will receive requests directly through the website or other departments will go to them with requests they've received for the officer to check them out. Attorney General recommends two servers for this, "Next Request" and "Government Q andA". SK: We have office space for this person, at least temporarily, in the Prosecutor's building where they have access to the Prosecutor's Office and the law library. AH and JN want to move forward with this. SK will get feedback from Walla Walla and Clallom counties which are using on one of the services and will see a demo on the other after this meeting. AH asks for a third service to be reviewed, as usually the county takes three quotes.*

Courthouse Security - Pacific Security arriving the next day to meet with SK, Superior Court Administrator, Court Clerk, Auditor and hopefully Sheriff and a commissioner. AH says he'll

attend. SK would like to have the meeting there to be able to include Commissioner Branch on Zoom. She talks about finishing all her trainings in March, and attending a Risk Pool Conference March 29th-31st.

1:40 - Review of Minutes - AH, referring to a statement “His theory is that they are increasing their carbon footprint” (by recycling batteries) says he meant “actually increasing” because the process includes driving to Spokane and shipping them by rail somewhere. He wonders what the conversion rate is from recycled batteries to new batteries. He asks LJ about the architect’s drawings of the Justice Center single point entry; she has received drawings from different angles. Regarding the discussion on Conconully’s vs. Dispatch’s funding requests, AH would like to change “He feels like Conconully’s ask was more important than the County’s 911 communications ask” to say that because Conconully had bonded for money, it should be a priority.

WDFW Report - AH: (regarding public reaction to planned improvements on Patterson Lake): The biggest fear for most people is if you build a big dock you get big boats and have water skiing, etc. ...I don’t want to change the speed limit. It needs a better bathroom, better grading. It’s going to make it better for all who want to stand-up paddle board and the rest... There weren’t so many negative comments that you folks would consider scrapping that project? JH: No. I’ve met with Wolf Creek Irrigation District, talked to people who receive their water, presented the project and explained to them the intention is not to change the lake in the way it is enjoyed. It’s more tranquil compared to Pearrygin Lake. The boats that are going to be using it are the same (as those) that are using it now. (Speed boats or jet skis) just have to abide by the speed limit. So the fear was, they saw the level of improvements we were doing, like the plank launch and the float, and they... thought we were trying to make it more of a water sport– That’s definitely not the intention. AH: Not to mention there are so many hazards within that reservoir, it would be hard, and it’s a good place to go for sail boarding and that stuff. JH: I met with individuals and a representative from MVCC (Methow Valley Citizens Council) ...and it went well... Everyone we talked to there understood after explaining our intentions (and that) we’re competing with pretty big projects on the other side of the state.

Sidley Lake - JH: ...We’ve had an agreement with Okanogan County since 1957 to provide public access. (It’s on) property that spans between Molson and Sidley Lake, donated or purchased at low cost, a very small parcel so not a lot you can develop. (It was) a VFP (Veterans for Peace) project in 2006 or 2007, with a parking area, vault bathroom... it’s where the majority access the lake. The boat launch and float project, “right across from Marie Louise”, remarks JN, would be on a smaller scale than Patterson Lake; both are funded by the BFP (Boating Facilities Program) which uses fuel taxes for motorized access. JH: We’re also proposing a project at Spectacle Lake. It’s actually a Bureau of Reclamation project.

He talks about funding through the Recreation and Conservation Office. You have a 25 or 30-year agreement, sort of the lifespan of the project. If we get funding we’ll ask you (to prolong) the current agreement which expires in 2038. After we got funding to do planning, prints and drawings... I wanted to finish this project we started in 2007. AH: There’s an issue with that agreement. The agreement says “except for below the ordinary high water line in Sidley Lake. If you’re going to put a concrete launch in there you have to make sure you document the fact you’re doing something below (that mark). How is it that we own that property? JH: In the ‘30s when the County purchased it, it was a railroad. AH: (looking through the review) Oh, my dad signed that one! ...Does the County have jurisdiction over a body of water? JH: There’s the fish, the water itself, and there’s the bottom. I’d always thought DNR (Department of Natural Resources) had jurisdiction over the bottom. With Patterson I didn’t know Irrigation had property within the lake itself... That’s something you rarely see. AH: is that why Planning had to stop that– there had

to be a survey done? **JH**: Yes, a title report, to figure out just where that is. **JN**: Every time we worked on our launch, had to get it checked with DNR. **JH**: That lake property is probably DNR. *LJ looks in vain for some reverence to it.* **AH**: That's why it's excluded. It's not ours. You have to go to DNR: **JH**: Normally our construction folks work or our sister agency. They figure out if there are any issues... **AH**: I have no issue signing these projects. **JN**: Nor do I.

JH: There's one oddity. It looks like it's well within the Right of Way. Back in the day we struck a deal with Marie Louise for an agreement as well. The project didn't seem to impact the adjacent landowner. *AH wonders if it was setbacks.* **JH**: There maybe was a concern with the placement of the vault toilet; If it needed to go back a certain amount it would be closer to that line. ...We (*might*) have to extend that agreement as well.

AH: Down on the Okanogan River by the 97 bridge (north of Brewster) a lot of people put their boats in. It's just a little road that goes into the water. People park there. He would like this site to be considered for building a smaller launch to avoid parking problems. *JH sees that this would be useful in salmon season when all launches are full, will see what he can find out from his end.* **AH** thanks him for "all the grants".

2:22 - January 4th the Court Clerk put in a complaint about a leaky roof in the Courthouse attic. It was checked and no problem found but last week when a clerk retrieved some files they were "dripping wet". Boxes of files had been damaged by leakage from an ice dam where there had been a previous repair. **SS**: We dealt with it, accomplished one and a half boxes. Monday they started working on it and all of a sudden everybody started getting really sick. The files had started molding so we put them back in the attic. *They include things/cases not in current files juvenile cases, child support...* She got a quote from a company know by the auditor, "Marty". **AH** would prefer to have three quotes but she says it's urgent. *Some of the ink has bled.* **AH** sees about a budget line for this.

Archive Project - **SS**: I have another concern, which will have to wait. *She passes them some binders to see.* These are index books. The project is similar to what the Auditor also needs to get done. These books have 640 pages. They're index books, 640 pages. They go back at least a hundred years. They're cases I'm currently getting into the system. *She fears losing some, as they are in poor condition, falling out of their bindings, and must be kept indefinitely. It's a painstaking process. She wants to start in a month; it will cost \$10,000. When they are delivered in hard drive form they must still be organized and indexed.* *LJ says both projects should be considered together. A motion is passed to grant \$6,251 for the archiving of the wet records. There are four or five boxes especially damaged.* **AH** asks for a quote for the other archive project and will talk to the auditor about funding. **SS**: I don't take it lightly, spending the County's money. **AH**: You have to keep the records for eternity. **SS**: I appreciate that you would go the full mile with it.

The Board approves Res. 19-2023 LJ has prepared to approve the job description for the Public Records Coordinator position.

LJ mentions a meeting she scheduled about someone transferring her mom's property to the County. **LJ**: It looks like the property is completely surrounded by DNR and WDFW land so I told her to get in touch with them. It didn't look like it would interest the County. It's 370 acres, pretty steep, with river on three sides. *AH is not interested. She will relay everything to DNR and report back to the owner to cancel the meeting. AH and JN lean over LJ's screen.* **AH**: It's by Chopaka? I see. It's on the opposite side of the river.

2:51 - Adjourned until Monday.