

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
February 11, 2020**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)

Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)

Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)

Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)

Kent Kovalenko – KK Solid Waste Manager

Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)

Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)

Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)

Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)

Naomi Peasely – NP (Fair Events)

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.

0900 – Commissioners' Staff Meeting -

Fairgrounds – Joe Poulin and Naomi Peasley - Beef Barn and Queen's improvement project – Conflict. “Beef Barn doesn't want to give it up.” **AH** will meet with the interested parties to seek resolution; Charitable group (didn't catch name) requesting a 50 percent fee reduction, serving the poor. Commissioners move to approve fee reduction; Meeting with gun show people next week. Discussion of booth dividers. **CB** will look in surplus warehouse for dividers. Brain storming of groups that might help build dividers in exchange for “free rent”; Proposal to accept credit cards at campground, self serve kiosk; Problem with steer manure getting removed from barn at end of fair. Trailer that the manure gets put in fills up. Discussion of how to remove the manure. **AH** will go over there and “see what they've got.” Joe suggests selling the manure for compost. Andy suggests giving it away. **CB** – Thinks the staff can handle this. Don't need an executive decision. Okanogan County Tourism Council – wants Fairgrounds to be a member, cost is \$40.00 per year. Yes. ; presents Fair policies and procedures for 2020. Discussion of who's up for appointment, Lanie lists members who need reappointments, and will follow up with who would like to continue, then update the appointments; Kyle is making picnic tables from the wood from the old arena. (27 made). Kyle donated the lags. Need more lags, has ordered more. **AH** astonished at Kyles's resourcefulness. Handout of bid for installing LED lighting into Agriplex, courtyard, annex, kitchen, bathroom. Analysis of expense to install then operate the LED lights vs fluorescent. Hope to pay for itself in about two years. Determined to be a maintenance project. \$20,000. Also, considering replacing 40 year old electric stoves with gas stoves. Discussion surrounding other projects at other county buildings that might take priority. Parking lots, windows at Public Works, bullet proof glass at Auditor's office (?). Discussion on Mini-Split Ductless Heaters for Annex building (?) Discussion of surplus items including vehicles.

Resolution 23-20-20 – Needs Effective Date and Rescind Resolution (?)

CB – Long discussion over concern when no quorum of commissioners' and members of the public approach and discuss issues. (*Wants public to be sure that these discussions are informal and no action will be taken.*)

(video available on YouTube Channel) **Auditor - Carie Hall** – Election day. Discussion of ballot box in Pateros, working to install more including Brewster, Methow, and Twisp. Talking with Tribal Council trying to increase voter registration, 2 boxes available. Also, talking with various Chambers of Commerce to educate on voter registration process. Annual Report – takes 3.5 months to complete. Challenged by new employees, New manual from state auditor with changes. Due May 28th, but wants to complete by end of April. Planning to take vacation second week in May, which is the only time possible, due to the number of elections this year. Candidate filing, first week of May (?) New this year, everybody can file online. No filing fee for county. Twisp sub-agent has been open for 2 weeks. He's doing a great job. His name is Jim Grennell. He's in the old Filer Plumbing building. Meeting with Craig Nelson, Conservation District regarding costs for elections.

Public Works – Josh Thompson Ecology is offering a chipper for Firewise fuel reduction. Discussion of liability, maintenance vs hiring a contractor, due to high maintenance of chippers.

DOE- leachate testing request – Synthetic chemical. Fact finding, want to see what is out there. Recommends letting them test. Where are the most concentrated areas.

Maintenance and Roads – Seeing more rocks, 8" of snow in Oroville last week.

Statler Bridge – slow, hoping to pour wing walls this week. In stream work done. Rip rap. Expect a lot of spring runoff.

Emergencies – call the commissioner in the district first? Lanie reports, the chairman is allowed to make the decision that is ratified by the other 2 commissioners. The other 2 commissioners are not allowed to do that. Decide, chair first, vice chair second, then 3rd commissioner.

Policies –

Complaint handling

Work for others

Priority programming

Local Improvement District - Surface Transport Projects Block Grant - Federal money allocated to counties, roughly a million dollars, need to spend it or will get sanctioned. Worried won't meet spending quota for year, need existing projects to move forward. Recommends call for projects for 2022, 2023.

Slurry Seal for towns, chip seal doesn't work so well. Discussion of fog seal.

Bills – Senator Hobbs, gas tax, impact fees, fees on driver's licenses – doesn't filter to counties.

57 cent carbon tax.

Rep Fey - 10 cent gas tax to fund culvert injunction. DOT has to replace every culvert considered a barrier to fish.

Cover your load, necessary for Interstates, but will apply to whole state.

Bill - 2850 Archeological sites. Need assessment before any state money can be applied to public projects.

Evaluate the "health" aspects of projects, include walking and biking lanes. Include consideration during transportation planning.

Triple trailers – 1991 banned Federally, but certain states grandfathered in – State bill that would allow it in Washington, when the federally rules change to allow it also.

Cattle guards – Question of maintenance or replacement. Determined franchise is responsible.

Public Health –

Call to order and introductions – Dan Higbee, Andy Hover, Jim Detro, Lori Jones, Mary Ann Williams, Jill Gates, Jim Wright, Carly Wright, Patricia Stanton, Chris Branch, Kris Erlandsen.

Approval or additions to agenda – Payroll Resolution

Public Comment –none

Administrative Reports/Actions -

Draft Minutes of January 14, 2020 – approved

Financial reports – January 2020 – Made payroll, paid bills, listed vouchers, stolen gas card and radio- perpetrator incarcerated, but transferred to another individual and continued to charge card. Process has been changed to prevent recurrence. AH reminds department to report missing funds to state auditor. Asks for documentation of incident and remedies in place for report to state auditor.

Treasurer's Report –

Cash on hand –

Vouchers and Payroll – Approved

Resolution #2020-01 Personal Vehicle Mileage Rate for Business Use \$ 00.575 – approved. Matches state determined rate.

Resolution #2020-02 – Dan and Lori paid at higher class, Recommending adding a Grade from 30 to 32. Don't have a pay grade for all that they are doing. Took over duties of Department Head when that person left. Consolidates duties. Currently not getting credit for current salary in terms of retirement benefit. Discussion ensues. "higher class" pay has not been accounted for decades. AH – proposes looking at all pay grades and look at

it for the long term. Asking for more information as to how it is possible that their pay is not being accounted for by social security. **LJ** – wants job descriptions for the jobs they are doing now. **DH** – so much staff was removed, nobody’s job description matches. **AH** – Will meet with staff to update job descriptions.

2019 Year End Review - scratch

Community Health Update: Lori Jones - “Rockin”, 8th confirmed case of Hep A, tracking down contacts, inmate in Spokane, has been infected, was in Okanogan County. Sheriff Hawley meeting to work out a plan to vaccinate inmates. Reports high incidence of acute liver failure, not old people, statewide. Medical Clinics are not getting physical addresses. Adds to difficulty of locating persons who might be infected.

Corona Virus- sent notification to clinics and hospitals, heads up after case in Snohomish County. Reported: After flying back from Hi, a citizen reports being notified by “CDC” that they had been exposed to Corona Virus. Follow up revealed no one on that flight has been exposed. Possible Scam: People posing as CDC calling folks with this information.

CDC – We don’t know what we don’t know yet.

Corona Virus - Droplet transmission.

Money from CDC grant – Opioid Epidemic – Advertise on billboard up near border. No decision.

State notifying employees, that Seattle Times requesting state retirement records.

Concern as to why Seattle Times wants this information. Seeking advice for Mr. Gecas.

Environmental Health Update – Dan Higbee

March 26, 1-5 – Septic system installer classes, ceu’s needed to obtain their licenses.

6K grant – For areas with Hep A outbreak, vaccine at no charge.

2 Employees to retire one in July, one in August. Brought to light the retirement issues mentioned earlier. Hope to hire prior to retirement to allow for training.

Kudos to emergency management for getting information out in a timely manner. **AH** – You can always use Everbridge.

Adjourn

Risk Management – Tanya Craig

Public Records Requests:

Freedom Foundation – wants employee information

Northwest Administrators, Inc – secondary retirement plan, on top of PERS, they performed an audit, 5 year plan. Working on the disagreements she has with their request.

Discussion of union negotiations. Roads did not accept contract.

