

< Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021, 1:30 PM

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Leah McCormack (LM), County Treasurer
Maurice Goodhall (MG), Emergency Management

Time stamps refer to Zoom recording on this website

Summary of important discussions: *Clean bill of health from Treasurer, current expense funds up overall from last year; funding arrangement needed for senior planner position since Oroville not sharing cost of post; scanning of archives to cost upwards of \$33,000; architects chosen for Forest Service building upgrade; computer system not chosen yet for costly changeover; purchase in 2021 of seven new vehicles including five for Sheriff's office; three tax title properties to be sold March 8th; grant contracts approved for broadband and senior housing; flooded culvert on Good's property, water has receded, sandbags put in place.*

Leah McCormack gave the Revenue and Expense Summary. January is comparable to past January figures. Department Current Expense funds are overall above last year's. LJ reports two reimbursements from Covid spending in December totaling nearly \$2.3 million. Planning and Development received a \$21,000 grant for WRIA.

AH favors building up the Current Expense reserve to filling up the Contingency reserve because the latter, being quickly accessible funds, should not be used for big expenses such as unpaid salaries. LM says they have never met the 10% of budget goal for the (Current Expense Reserve? Inaudible) and it would be good to do so given the age of county buildings.

Oroville will not be footing half the bill for a Senior Planner position as the County had hoped but some funds available nevertheless. Boxes of archives from Planning (283) and the Assessor must be scanned; the bill will be over \$33,000.

Architects chosen this morning; they will evaluate Forest Service building for upgrade prior to purchase by the County. By first redoing the Winthrop and Twisp shops using the most affordable materials they will give County an idea of costs for the larger upgrade.

16:30 - Treasurers asked to devise a financial plan for computer system changeover. The company hasn't been chosen but one option being considered could include recording software. The bill could be as high as \$500,000.

17:58 - Vehicle purchases: 8 Sheriff's trucks, a canine car (replacing one just wrecked by an uninsured car) and one car each for the Assessor's and Planner's offices. All but 4 trucks to be bought this year. Previous plan to take out a big loan rejected in favor of providing \$250,000 a year to this end. The \$400,000 from Current Expenses already budgeted for cars will be added to \$18,000 now in the vehicle replacement fund.

25:00 - Bond rates and penalties: ..AH asks LM about bond closures and rates. LM says County's rating is pretty good, discerned by S & P. Discussion over a House bill to eliminate penalties on bond interest payments. LM not enthusiastic, says they reduce costs on one side and raise taxes on the other.

34:54 - Tax Title Properties: Three foreclosed properties deeded to County Tax Title will go up for auction March 19th including one on Boundary Point and in East Omak by the bridge. LM thinks all will be sold. Settles questions saying Treasurer sets minimum bid and places newspaper announcement but County can also recommend a minimum.

49:34 - Consent agenda and minutes from Feb. 8th, 9th, 10th and 16th approved. Resolutions passed to approve CERB block grant contract for rural broadband and DSHS-County contract for Meadowlark Senior Housing in Omak.

Flooded Culvert - MG reports on a clogged culvert reported by the City last week on Apple Road which got repaired and lined with rock. On Monday there was some flooding on the plain between the river and highway 20 but within an hour the water started to go down. On the Good's farm Sandbags were laid down. Conversation about delicate balance between private property and public intervention to avert water issues. AH recommends turning to Long Term Recovery in certain cases 5 (e.g. fire areas). CB talks of "avoiding liabilities staring us in the face"... "dodging the bullet" by working with the homeowners, taking inventory to manage stormwater problems. "It's a balancing act."

1:16:06 - Meeting adjourned