

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**August 10th, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

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**Present:**

Jim De Tro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
(Andy Hover/AH, BOCC District 2  
Josh Thompson, Public Works engineer

**Summary - 8/10/2020, AM:** The new video recording system is tested, with positive results in the end. **CARES Act** - LJ spells out the granting process: A19 contracts are submitted to County Commerce Dept. for funding which hinges on the contract between the County and the allocating Economic Alliance; clarifies what can be covered; some confusion as to how Public Health hiring can be invoiced or "obligated" if the deadline for payment of funds is this Fall. **Public Works Projects** - JT seeks to pursue improvements on the Pleasant Valley and B&O roads, put a "creekguard" where the Sinlaheken Rd. washed out in 2017, repair the damaged Twisp River Bridge where it Pullman Creek comes in, and start sealing cracks in other bridges to prevent major repairs; at the Sno-Park, road improvements necessary to prevent damage to plowing equipment this winter; seven laptop computers are being set up and will be billed as Covid expenses.

*(The recording is in three parts)*

**JD:** I just talked to Josh Thompson about architectural services for (inaudible). He said you can't choose services off a small (work roster?) so they sent me the architectural services solicitation. **CB:** You mean a publication for request of corporations? Yes, that's the way you have to do it. **JD:** So I was going to look over this and then get a (inaudible) out for county remodels, reconstruction. **CB:** Oh, you mean to extend the scope of work for (inaudible)? **JD:** (inaudible) **CB:** There would be a request for qualifications, same as with engineers. Can't base your selection on cost or reasons like that. Who's the most qualified, and go from there.

*(LJ and AH attempt to make the newly installed video recording system work, call the one who installed it, reboot the computers. Audio recording is working.*

*(2) 4:55 They discuss technical details at the same time as JD talks to CB..)*

**CD:** Talked to Jeff (schools?). The state is going to give us options. They recommend that they don't meet--have the school in session. What he said was that if you give me a recommendation and I don't follow it, do something different, the insurance won't cover it. And I think that message got back, so I think it's one of those things, too, though. It's "tell me what to do or don't tell me what to do." **JD:** Right. Exactly. **CB:** But he's looking for options. He's been doing a lot of work and he's checking with internet providers to see how they might help, drove around the county, check the hot spots. Gotta figure that thing out but I was wondering about talking to (inaudible) at the PUD in regard to broadband service and see what they thought about, you know they're not allowed to retail but I'm curious about what kind of options they might have in an emergency situation... **JD:** So from what I understand, to get internet, obviously you have to have a router to get the connection. So my house is sitting there, and I've got a coil of wire ...*(technical discussion continues between LJ and AH)* so getting that wire to my house is the issue. Now it's the PUD to worry about this because they have retailers. Now what would that do to the retailers? Is it possible to, under some sort of emergency provision and the CARES Act, something like that, basically set up wireless hot spots? They've been doing it but on a limited basis as far as I know. So if you could hook up wi fi hotspots along its backbone, also *(that maybe)* could help people out with equipment somehow. **CB:** That's what I was thinking. And, see what *(Ronnie's?)* schedule is but *(inaudible)*. *(While LJ and AH get the video recording and messages out to participants, CB and JD discuss fish in the Similkameen Valley, the Enloe Dam, and those who say there's not good fishing.)*

### **CARES Act Money**

- (3) 6:55 **AH:** So, discussion on the CARES Act money. Lanie, is it a professional services contract with the *(EDT)* that you're able to use as a template? **LJ:** That template came from our Economic Alliance *(and that was what was used in)* Brewster's CARES Act money. **AH:** Department of Revenue is saying you got to have back-up documentation. It's kind of like if we, if the county, are giving out all these grants, how do we know that those people spent those grants before the *(inaudible)*? We don't. **LV:** We need the documentation between Economic Alliance and that they got the money. **AH:** Should we run the CARES Act money through Economic Alliance? **CB:** Absolutely. **AH:** So the county has a pot of money- - **LJ:** We don't have it yet. **AH:** I know, it's a reimbursement. ...We can utilize - - **LJ:** The amount that the contract is for. They can put it in their account and then divvy it up as it goes, I believe. **AH:** Okay. So why couldn't we take the \$563,000 and through Economic Alliance couldn't we divvy it out to our Public Health? **LJ:** I don't believe so because the contract is with the county and Public Health. **AH:** So if the Economics Alliance is divvying out, let's see, \$10,000 chunks *(inaudible)*...to somebody, is that money spent at that time and we get reimbursed for it? **LJ:** I believe that the contract between the county and Economic Alliance obligates the money. We can list that as part of the A19 that we submit to Commerce. They give us the \$250,000 or whatever it is. **AH:** Okay so we get to do that with County Health too? **LJ:** Yes, and then Economic Alliance comes to us and says 'okay. These are the businesses that we have ready to go for these funds. We cut them a check. **AH:** Let's see. Technically that money still is not spent. **LJ:** It's obligated. **AH:** So we can obligate then 563,000 or whatever **LJ:** 575... **AH:** ...to Public Health and then they say "we've obligated this

to this many people doing this kind of thing.” **LJ:** Or they make up documentation and then we give them the money. **AH:** So I wonder if Public Health can say “We’re hiring a person for two years and we need to obligate that funding.” **LJ:** All of our expenditures have to be done within a certain time. I think the same goes for Public Health. **AH:** So you understand my conundrum when I say that okay, Economic Alliance is giving out 10,000 bucks. Then that’s the end of it. We don’t know if we’re getting receipts for masks or, you know. **LJ:** They have to demonstrate to Economic Alliance that they’re eligible to receive the funds due to Covid. **CB:** So they would  
13:12 have to demonstrate the award. The alliance would go through a process to award the money, they would select the awardees and then they invoice us, we show the invoice to Commerce - - **AH:** And they reimburse us. **CB:** Well, it’s not a reimbursement. **AH:** I understand. They’re invoicing us and we’re not paying out yet. What I’m trying to do is figure out how you can do that with Public Health. **LJ:** *(Reading)* “We have to consider both our direct costs and the costs to our community. There are many possible eligible costs. One could possibly justify some of the grey area costs based on the tests but are they directly addressing the immediate impacts,” underscored, “*(inaudible)* in these situations it may be safer and more appropriate to utilize funds in one of the many cost categories that most clearly meet the intent of the funds. Again, each grantee has the full authority to make the final call, based on their circumstances and justification.” **AH:** To me there’s no greater way to spend to money than to try to get public health, because we have to do all the things that we’re required to, that we can’t keep up on. **CB:** You’re not making a comparison between two things, are you? **AH:** ...Let me communicate my comparison. On one side we have public health where if we hire somebody, those wages couldn’t be reimbursed until October 30<sup>th</sup> because we couldn’t show a receipt for that. But then I go over to the way the Alliance is doing it; they’re saying that the *(hypothetical)* \$10,000 is obligated. Then those people, once they get that money, they aren’t obligated to spend it before  
17:30 October 30<sup>th</sup>, are they? *(They agree to raise this question before Commerce: “Can we contract now for a position that extends into the future and obligate the funds?”)* **AH:** I don’t see how they’re letting small businesses take money and we’re not getting Public Health money. How can we utilize money that we have been given that we’re going to have to give back for some reason? **LJ:** One of the cost categories here is for economic support: **a)** small businesses **b)** payroll support programs and **c)** other. And it says that once the contract between the grantee and the other recipient is in place, the funds become available. *(Says she will submit the “A19” request for category “a” and get reimbursed for it.)* **AH:** Are you going to use the second category for public health? **LJ:** for that there’s a separate category, Public Health Expenses: **a)** communication of public health measures **b)** medical and protective supplies **c)** disinfecting public areas and other facilities **d)** technical assistance on Covid-19 threat medication **e)** public safety measures undertaken **f)** quarantining individuals and **g)** other. **AH:** So contact tracing would fit under that. **LJ:** And  
21:45 there’s another category, Medical Expenses. *(A decision is made to invite LJ’s contact at Commerce to discuss their questions at a meeting.)*

### **Video Recording**

29:00 *(LJ will instruct meeting participants to use Zoom or the Capture option to attend*

*meeting. If you use both, there's a two-second delay. Documents shown at meetings will be posted on Friday's agenda with a link. There will be a time stamp so people can refer to individual topics.)*

### **Public Works Engineer, Josh Thompson**

47:46 **JT:** On our maintenance and road conditions I met with Top Pitts up on Pleasant Valley Road, West, this morning. The major issue is where our road meets Hwy. 20. The edge of the asphalt is gravel a little bit and there are also potholes in the gravel. Need to deal with the protecting edge of the asphalt, do some patching. **AH:** The rest of the road is in very good condition for a dirt road. I go that way on my way to work every day. **JT:** If the state is not going to patch and protect the asphalt, the county should take care of it. I looked at the B&O Road last week. Other than (*that*) the geometry of the intersection is poor, the road's not in that bad a shape. We plan to chipseal it in 2022. **CB:** The (*ED?*) director was talking about identifying projects and they've got a bunch of money to identify them, not to do them. So I said that'll help us identify that as a federal project. I call it "phase 2". Probably soon. That's the only thing I can think of to deal with it. Then we can have some advance planning on that intersection with DOT (*Department of Transportation*). If we could make a grant application... When we did the pre-design work, they paid for it. I'm wondering if the county could do that pre-design work. (*He agrees with JT to apply for aid and once money is allocated, put it on the six-year plan.*)

### 56:00 **Tonasket Airport**

**JD:** Is the Tonasket airport road paved? **JT:** No. (*AH wonders if paving could be part of the current improvement project. JT says not eligible for any funding they could get. JD asks about the surface on Brewster's golf course road. JT says it's chipseal. They had to pave it because it's steep. JD talks about aviation association low-interest loans to pave Tonasket's airport road, as it's the only town in the county not to have paved airport access.*)

### 1:00:00 **Bridge Reconstruction**

*(JT says Loup Loup Canyon Rd., just past Rock Creek Rd. and Sinlaheken Rd. were washed out in 2017. For Sinlaheken he'd like to buy a culvert and 16-ft. cattleguard to replace the temporary "driveable ford" left in place because in fire areas and to "see what the creeks would look like." On Loup Loup they will need a 19 ft. bridge. In Sinlaheken there wasn't a culvert and the creek has fanned out. JH proposes a 16 ft. cattleguard called a "creek-guard" with a 14 ft. actual span at a cost of \$32,000. Fish and Wildlife supports the idea because it would be easy to clean out in case of a flood event. Same thing in Loup Loup Canyon would be too expensive.)* **JT:** We're thinking of something like a creek guard that we could build ourselves with steel beams, stay-in-place concrete forms...I'd like to get the Sinlaheken one done this fall. We put the money in the budget. We're a little short. **AH:** I think we should do it. (*JT evokes for Loup Loup Canyon a 20 ft. arched bridge like the one at Blue Lake. Since this road ends up on the reservation, AH wonders if the tribes might contribute to the financing.*)

## **Road Closure**

**JT:** There's a county-CCC project where the Colombia River Rd. *(on the reservation)* comes to the Agency. Their contractor is asking that we not have any trucks over 26,000 lbs. for two weeks starting today. That's their road so they have a right to close it. It goes across Schoolhouse Loup so there's not even a detour available. I recommend they put signs up on "our end" of (the road) by the mill and also where Cameron Lake Cutoff Rd. comes in. They said they would do that last Friday or today. I heard they just closed the road because of fire over there. I'll go and see what signs are up. **CB:** There's a lot of people were going up there to Omak Lake and the (inaudible), that's where I think that fire started.

## **Sno-Park Road Maintenance**

**JT:** So we had a contract with State Parks. We get some of the snowmobile funding to plow some of the roads in the Sno-Park and also we're on the program to groom some of the trails. Some of the county roads are in pretty rough shape so we're to make a request of them to use some money so we can fix up some roads so we can plow effectively and not damage equipment. (Crawfish, North Fork.) They haven't given us any funds these past few years but we're asking them again. Sno-Park passes and snowmobile registrations were down last year...

## **Bridge Deck Preservation**

**JT:** Looking at some products to seal some of our bridge decks...The Twisp River Bridge where Pullman Creek cuts off, a whole bunch of white markings out there. You can see where it's delaminated. If you get moisture down into the cracks down into that first layer of rebar and that rust expands, you get problems like you had on the Omak Bridge. The deck starts coming apart...And so that one needs some serious repair, not something we do with just sealing. *(Talks of looking at the product Grant Co. has used to seal with, and getting a few bridges sealed before they need serious repair. Priorities: Twisp River Bridge, Buttermilk Bridge, (inaudible), Chewuck Bridge and the Oroville Bridge on Hwy. 7.)* We have money in the budget so we'll pick a small one and do it this Fall. **CB:** How's that one in Ellisforde? **JT:** I'm going to look at Ellisforde and Monse. Could not afford to fix 'em. General estimate is \$600 per square ft. Bridge at Monse is 600 ft. long and Bridge Replacement Fund caps at \$12 million.

## **1:17:00 Laptops for Public Works**

**JT:** Six of the seven laptops we ordered are in, getting those set up. **AH:** Did you get the auditor to give you a Covid code per Public Works? Get her to give you bar codes for Covid expenses...Make sure Lanie gets the receipts for them. **JT:** Is that for labor also? *(AH says yes. Bar codes enable tracking during audit. It is time off or on-call that will be recorded as a Covid cost.)* **AH:** Check with Lanie because these can't be costs covered in the budget already.

*(LJ repeats the "5-point test" for qualifying Covid expenses. Cut-off date for requests is Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, submission by county Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> and "finished out" by end of November. A "conservative" Public Works budget has been submitted, which includes Gypseal.)*

**AH:** Just going over the Capital Facilities/Building portion of Public Works.

Technically we can fund County buildings through the Capital Improvements Plan...In trying to think of Capital Facilities-type planning, those are probably the next things that are going to be on my list. We should start thinking of those two (Public Works) shops.

*(JT relates how some residential water pipes were connected to those of the Forest Service so when water was shut off for one it was shut off for both. CB says that happened to him twice, the second time he owned both lots but it still wasn't right without an easement. Meeting ends at 11:30 with reflections on the Cutthroat salmon to be found in Rock Creek.)*