

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
(BOCC)  
Jan. 16, 2018**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)  
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)  
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)  
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)  
Debi Hilts – DH (HR)  
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance)

Perry Huston – PH (Planning)  
Lanie Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)  
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)  
David Gechas – DG (Deputy Civil Att.)  
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)

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**Maintenance, Moving Fair into Current Expense, Hirst Possibles, Finance Committee Report, Oroville EMS, PWorks, Public Comment, Building Dept. Report, Weeds Report, Prosecutor’s Office**

9:05 JP (Maintenance) – vendor of whole heating/cooling system wants a designation as a single source for everything heating and cooling. They must justify that they are the “only supply of the services” in our area. DG - needs to approve designation as a sole source. JP – hands out details/bill for a slide in Sprayer for work at the Fair and elsewhere that can be used for weed spray de-icing, mosquitoes, etc. It would also work for a 4 X 4 Side-by-Side. No need for a bid process as it is within budget and below minimum required for a bid. Asks for a reimbursement for costs of using personal cell for Fair business. Discussing of availability of a cell for public records requests. LJ – maintenance currently has 3 cells at \$4190, an additional line would bring costs to \$225. Possible to use old phones from others so only need to pay for line. TC – text messages are main problem. CB – discusses why he avoids doing responses to public on email. TC – received contract on Union agreement from Teamsters, will examine for any part of agreement that changes then present to BOCC for approval. DG – looking at letter from Newhouse about Salmon recovery as to when 21 day review period begins. Also reviewing for pay for fuel via some co-op arrangement with other departments. GMA vs. Non-GMA issue – what it would take to fall into each category in terms of Sub. Section 2 in Hirst – (*There has been an agreement in the state legislature so this is somewhat moot, maybe a whole new group of issues though under new law*). Checking on CDL program at PWorks and then a reimbursement to employees to county for the cost. Island County is the only county using a similar program. Island not having any problem with trained employees jumping to a different employer but it might be an issue in Okanogan Co. due to lower pay scale. CDL training cost has gone up considerably. Discussion of law enforcement academy grads often poached soon or as grad. leaving the jurisdiction that paid the training fee. Problem is relatively low pay/benefits in many small jurisdictions and employee

jumping to better opportunity. DG discusses searching for law or legal case via proprietary search engines. DG has nothing else at this time.

Ph – he has sent a resolution over to have Fair to Current Expense. LJ & others have it for review. A new bill is floating about Hirst. JD is critical of the fix, PH feels it is not addressing senior water rights so it's not a solution (*There has been an agreement in the state legislature so this is somewhat moot, maybe a whole new group of issues though under new law*). A split of fee with DOE & County is an issue. Also lack of language on non-GMA counties is a problem in his eyes. JD – sees more proposals will be floated and want to see more of them. He has a concern that proposals put instream flow as a senior right and want instream as junior. (*Obviously new law needs to be looked for answers*). JD says AH, (absent today), too notes at OCOG meeting about an email about scoping on water resource enhancement and needs to put in comments by 19<sup>th</sup>. Other counties got email, no recollection if Okanogan got that email.

10:00 AP & CB – a lot of ATV comments, none contrary to what the BOCC is doing (*unsure what this means*).

10:02 Finance Committee Meeting: Leah McCormack, Laurie Thomas, Cari Hall. They give a basic review of revenues & expenditures. The take away is that things are matching up pretty well. There is always a tight spot this time of year before revenue comes in from the 1<sup>st</sup> half property taxes. They also have a review of why some departments have a large carryover and/or investment. LT is against putting Fair into current expense. With a stagnant current expense can't really absorb additional costs. Fair does not generate revenues to justify expense. Wants to be on record that opposes moving Fair to Current Expense. She has a concern that revenue is just not there and would need to subsidize or "drain" Current Expense causing pressure on other needs. CB recognizes issue and wants input on developing a kind of budget that would allow BOCC and others to make reasonable decisions on how to adjust to prevent Current Expense burden. Can't use one fund to benefit another by law. Need to make sure that any fund transfer is a loan and documented.

LT comments on a bill that affects how ballots are presented. Each jurisdiction would set different methods of voting. Feels this is an extra burden on county for the auditor and elections. Wants BOCC to oppose. CB responds that he totally understands and does not see that passing the legislature so the county is neutral. If bill would pass it would require an almost complete hand count leading to a delay and higher cost. (Probably not an issue in Okan. CO. but there is a hypothetical sever problem due cost and difficulty). This is an amendment on a Voting Rights Bill.

LM – it came down that McCleary is not going to affect the tax statements. This is a change, it will require an insert for an explanation to tell what is going on.

10:42 LJ hands out an Exit Audit of the Oroville Rural EMS. One complaint about an old report had not been properly filed. They need to do this in the future on a timely manner (by May

2018). There had been some concerns when County took control but ended up being resolved. Really pretty good outcome given expectations. The bill for the audit is \$1774, LJ may need a supplemental to pay.

10:45 - 11:00 Downtime

10:55 PWorks: Josh T. & Ben R. JT – Wash. Post called to verify that county has only 4 stoplights. JD – big crown at Conconully Outhouse races. A lot of fun. **BR ADMIN.** – Open Positions : Stephanie Adams started on Tuesday morning. Eng. Tech position candidate turned down the offer so they are back to looking to filling that position. SW Fees – had a lot of good discussion on cost at the SWAC meeting. Feb meeting will cover in detail The notice of that meeting is out to all cities. Had a meeting with commercial haulers: it went well talking about increase in fees but also to establish better general communication, covered past practice and history, updates on where haulers are in business. Concern about tip fee but they understand county needs and support. Haulers need 90 days to implement any increase at their level. They would like longer lead time from SWAC on a tip fee increase. Metal & Appliance Salvage: PWorks needs to get taken care of as the site of the material is where the new leach pit will be constructed. Leach pits are filling up pretty quickly, this is no surprise. SW will have to find a more efficient evaporation process in summer. Doesn't feel can get through this season without re-circulating just as last year. No snow grooming due to recent rain. Working on Union MOA's –waiting on comments from DG, Civil Pros. Att.; CDL training & Waiver Update & Solid Waste Holiday scheduling. **JT Roads.** – kind of mess right now due to normal winter weather, 100+ overtime hours, a truck went on side up by Buzzard Lake, it got off into soft shoulder. Randy's Towing had it upright quickly – no apparent damage but it is being checked out. Levees – nothing new (Okanogan Elmway, Mazama): feed back from Okanogan City people say levee is not wanted or needed. If after CoE hearings this is same probably wouldn't do the project there. WATV Route signage – still working with DoT. – DoT asking why Okanogan wants signage when other are not requiring. JT has communicated to DoT about desire & specs for signage. Consent Agenda – 1) 3 Dump Trucks, 2) Consultant agreement for Conconully Sewer: check valve Vs. Gravity flow into dry well. Evaluate County pump house wiring and general overview of whole system. Holding tanks on County system are problem in that effluent sets & get quite septic. A letter will go out to homeowners so they are aware of study. County has 3 sewer systems in county, each with different billing cycles. BR indicates some discussion on Conconully annexation of the area that the County serves in that area. ER&R Pus: looking into possible Ford ½ Ton diesel. SRS still hanging out there. JD says mixed feeling about what is happening in talk at 4 County meeting. Okanogan Interlocal still out, don't know what outcome will be.

11:30 – email from a person that they are happy with plowing. NO road restrictions but need to pay attention.

11:35 Done with PWorks.

11:42 Moving up Consent Agenda. Passed, (CB needs to head to Olympia this afternoon so doing what can be done to speed up business). Motion approved for vouchers & payroll. Motion approved for Public Health payroll.

11:51 JD Lunch

12:00 Lunch.

1:30 Public Comment – concern that the County needs to be aware of ICE activity in County. Depending on what might be happening could affect a variety of county functions due to disrupted families and businesses. Would be good to just be aware of action in order to anticipate possible impacts. Maurice Goodall, EM: - discusses alert system in Okanogan C. and protocols U setting sand safeguards to prevent Hawaii like problem.

2:00 Dan Higbee, Building: permits down, revenue up. Pretty consistent. Methow Valley builders are booked up two years out, not nearly so much in mid-valley or North End. DH inquired about fees recommendation. Based on Sq. Ft. X multiplier. Wants to keep multiplier @ 2002 then use 1996 fee schedule and raise a bit. Still under cities & neighboring counties. DH still covering Twisp city: a brewery at Twisp Works, cleaning up work. Takes more time than expected. OTA (Overnight Temporary Accommodations): wants to do away with 6 month available rental threshold to require sprinkler installation. New building codes put in a new classification that by itself requires a sprinkler system - R3 as opposed to current county R1. These are county rules, not cities or incorporated areas. Rationale for a sprinkler system is unfamiliarity with surroundings and possibility of different activities that increase risk. DH was not able to get to meet with PH about enforcement duties. Nothing else at this time.

Anna Lyons – Weeds: yearend report. Hugely expanded aquatic weeds program. FYI – Jan. 24 Weed Bd meeting & Wee listing update. Spurge Flax is moved from Class A to B. How to address – whether to assist landowners or require control in what areas. More than likely twill put mandatory control on puncture vine & spiny sand bur (Goat Heads) in any traffic area, right of way or parking area. Feb 26 – Mar. 2 is National Invasive Weed Awareness Week – would like BOCC to issue proclamation. Mar 15 aquatic weed control work shop – applicator & herbicide vendor is hoped to be in attendance. Last year focused on weed but also built awareness on invasive species in general – insects, nutria, etc. Will be attending a workshop on Flowering Rush. It is suspected in County but not seen yet. Also will be attending a aquatic weed training at UC Davis. Looking into a truck purchase – will check local vendor first. Looking into contracting out aquatic program. Presently there are active control efforts at Osoyoos, Palmer, Spectacle, Conconully, Salmon, Leader, Patterson & Alta Lakes. Seasonal staff is 2 inspectors & 1 technicians, don't anticipate any need for new personnel for 2018 season.

2:50 Prosecutor's Office: Prosecutor Platter – in Jan. asked for a Chief Civil position salary adjustment, now asking for matching level for Chief Criminal position. They are using outside counsel a lot less than last year and will end up being cheaper overall. This request would be for

a \$10,000 increase. Chief Criminal is a much more busy than Civil - due to no personnel to supervise and criminal has a much higher caseload. BOCC decision will postpone until AH is able to be present.

3:00 No more critical business, CB leaves, no quorum.

