

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
(BOCC)  
Jan. 23, 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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**Staff Reports: BOCC Maintenance, Risk Management, Human Resources, Civil Attorney, Exec. Session – current litigation, Exec Session – negotiating a contract, performance of a public employee, Miscellaneous Admin., Well at Fair Grounds., Public Works: Admin & Roads, Public Comment, Homeless Housing Coalition RFP, Miscellaneous Motions, Consent Agenda, Miscellaneous Admin, Adjourn**

9:00 AH, JD, CB present. PH & TC along with DH & JP readying for staff reports. Dennis Rabidou has had an informal discussion, leaves (Maybe a new car? And more . . .)

AH & CB discussion of Fair. When will something be done in 2018, not sure about the specific.

PH – discussion with CB about implication of SB 5091 (newly passed bill overriding Hirst decision).

Official beginning: JP (**BOCC Maintenance**) – he has a letter back from ATS why they should be the sole source provider for HVAC system. LJ has received a checklist from DG on how to determine sole source status. Good starting point. AH – this should be an Okanogan County checklist not for vender to “tailor” their submission. Form would standardize process for in County determining sole source status. County would be on better ground in case of a challenge with a standardized process. Also the various departments would know what is necessary for a vendor to be sole source and for what the department needs to see. DG – MRSC (website that gives a lot of feedback on municipal affairs). AH – asks DG to develop Okanogan County form that would make available to departments for submission back to DG for recommendation to BOCC. Wants a uniform process. AH asks LJ to disperse to various departments, when final form is available. Where does this fall in county policy – to TC? TC – within admin. code on

purchasing. PH says he had put reviewing this on his list. Now in personnel policy and needs to move.

JP– safety concern about a need for a new gun locker for Courthouse for public and others who come in and need to leave weapon under safe keeping. RCW requires a locker somewhere. Currently some in jail lobby but not lockable (keys lost). JD & AH – can they be re-keyed? Seems would be more cost effective to repurpose and/or rekey. Courthouse security requires a place to safely stash personal weapons to allow access to secure areas. Some modifications would need to be done to allow for better security TC – need to allow emergency exit and still have safe/secure entry. Very difficult to obtain total secure areas, always a compromise between cost, convenience & security. CB brings up security system at DNR Olympia. JP has completed report.

TC (**Risk Management**)– Needs an Exec session regarding a contract situation but will finish staff report. TC has been working on Website update possibilities, website needs to ADA compliant. (PH also wants an exec session – ongoing litigation). TC has a review of needed website changes, a job analysis, etc from EVOgov.com. This would also include a big redo of the site. CB – mentions he wanted to do this but didn't want to leave another hassle on TC. TC gives the EVOgov proposal to BOCC. EVOgov.com website has many examples of work the firm has done for other governmental entities. TC will continue to look for other vendors for an update with the bottom line making the County site ADA compliant. CB – MSRC has examples for “Request for Bids – RFB).

DH (**Human Resources**)– looking into bringing public safety training in house. There are a lot of positive responses from departments on the concept. 14 people took the dispatch test, only 2 passed. Very disappointed. Will do more research, concerned parties would like a roundtable to discuss the whole public safety issues; sheriffs, jail, DG, BOCC at least would be participants. A grievance is at Step 2 that is working its way through the process, DG is also involved . . . just a heads up.

DG (**Civil Attorney**)– various items being worked on. Excess funds from foreclosure sales – can they be used to pay off other liens, i.e. water, sewer, etc? Yes, but need to look at case-by-case. Looking into when a 21-day appeal window begins, i.e. window begins at point of reconsideration motion or when the ruling is made. Looks like when the ruling is handed down on the reconsideration motion. DG is also working on SB 6091 interpretation. Also working on a Sheriff forfeiture case concerning property.

9:55 PH – DG, PH & BOCC Exec. Session – **current litigation**. 10 min. 10:05 out. **BOCC & TC – Exec Session – negotiating a contract, performance of a public employee**, in at 10:07, out 10:16

LJ – **Miscellaneous Admin**: needs an Oroville EMS voucher approved. Adjourn as BOCC, open as Oro EMS – OK Voucher, adjourn as Oro EMS, open as BOCC.

CB – wants a representative about collaborative forest project in Wenatchee area to come and talk to BOCC and share. There might be a possible application of concept in TRD. Discussion of milling ability in County – down to one operating mill, Zosel’s in Oroville. They prefer Douglas Fir and Larch. Most logs go out of County – examples are Cle Elem, Kettle Falls, Darrington and Snohomish.

LJ is scheduling the roundtable with BOCC for next Tuesday morning.

Next month AH wife is out of town for 2 weeks, it is possible he may be late for some sessions.

AH – maybe move Noxious Weed & WSU Extension to PWorks Bldg (Old USFS Building) to allow consolidation of Justice, Sheriff and have better security. PWorks bldg has a lot of space and also better connectivity.

AH – wants action on RFP for fixing **well at Fair Grounds**. When running full out it is drawing sediment. Motion for LJ to develop – pull pump, screen inspection – new full size screen, look to least costly fix. LJ has met with knowledgeable people and knows issues. Discussing if OK to just get over the phone bids. It is legal to call if 1) on small works list, 2) ask if appropriate provider then to get them on small projects list so can give a bid. Motion passed. LJ – timeline? AH wants bids back ASAP so can get a on a providers schedule (mid-February?). Current well sucks sediment when pressed.

11:00 **PWorks**: BR – **Admin**: **Open Positions**: Engineering Tech open still looking no time line. Lead Mechanic – currently have full staff, will promote within to fill with highest qualified. Lead Finance – new position. This is done with Union process so will not go through BOCC process. This will co-ordinate between treasurer, auditor & PWorks. **Drug & Alcohol policy**: DoT change in CDL drivers, random testing. Contractor wants to know “how about other employees?” There is a pre-employment test for all PWorks. Question is how far, if at all, to extend testing. BR wants to stay within current policy but will keep BOCC in touch. Extent of test is because of being around heavy equipment and other safety issues. Opiates now a big deal (even necessary meds), where is the threshold? DG – feel any field worker be screened due to safety issues, need to disclose legal usage while on job and may require temporary accommodation. **CDL Endorsement & Physical reimbursements**: Road crew & SW area reimbursed for CDL Endorse and required physical. BR wants to extend to any CDL endorsed person even in job assignment does not require CDL – mostly supervisors. AH – would need Union negotiation. Auditor says BOCC’s OK is important (11 employees would be affected. BOCC discussion is to pay for medical but not CDL license. Need for backup drivers in emergencies, sensible for supervisors, \$, those admin & supervisors would be natural choice for in house CDL training. **SW Leachate Pond Update**: ponds are filling rapidly, will start re-circulating soon, need to get going. Looks like will need to continue until evaporation season sets. **Snow Grooming**: back up and grooming, working every day so far this week A lot of melt last week. **Union MOAs**: have

been discussed in past, Union reviewing but there doesn't seem to be anything specific holding up.

JT Roads: **Maintenance & Road:** 31 hours overtime last week, a lot less than a normal winter week. **Gravel Crushing project:** contractor started showing up late last week. Some pits still froze up so will complicate. **Lost River Rd FLAP project:** chip seal on Rd will be put off due to delay as a result of a change in paperwork. **Elmway & Mazama Levees:** tentative meeting on Elmway Mar. 13, 6 pm at Okan. City Hall. Mazama : Yakama & CoE not ready to release report, do not have buyin from some property owners, might be 8 – 9 months. **Methow Trails easement for enhance parking:** DoT salt shed an issue. **WSDoT US 97 Okanogan River bridge deck project:** will need to close Hwy 97 for two weeks with detour from Stop light near Wal-mart through Omak, down Elmway south to Hwy 20 Okanogan River Bridge. Bridges in downtown Omak & Okanogan are too narrow in corners and width for turning. This will be a big bottleneck. **Consent Agenda:** 2019 Road Levy Cert. so can go to CRAB, 2017 Road Log Changes Cert. will be next week, Materials testing contract for Hwy 7, Bridge South. **SRS status:** BOCC doesn't know if SRS included in CR from Congress.

12:00 PWorks Done & Lunch:

1:30 (JD absent) **Public Comment:** GT brings up two items 1) FHC funding held up in Congress since Sept. 2017. Given the opportunity impress on legislature the impact of the harm if forced to cut back or close. About 18,000 individual patients get primary care from Family Health Centers in Okanogan County. This is a major portion of the county getting their health services through FHC. 2) Many administrative penalties go directly to criminal charges – misdemeanor if not dealt with. This is costly and cumbersome if it ever gets to that extreme. Consider working with a civil penalty if needed in the extreme. Currently is a seldom used remedy and would continue that way under a civil process.

CB asks GT about items on possible cooperative efforts on Mt. Hull USFS project. Proposals are around road closures, PNT rerouting.

2:00 **Homeless Housing Coalition RFP:** Lael Duncan expressed need for RFP. Homeless Housing Assistance Funds – more available right now. They have cut back request and only asking for \$192,000. Coalition doesn't have much input on specific needs are relying on best practices as used in Washington Stat, goal of homeless assistance is to be brief and one time support. General view is that getting housing makes a lot of ancillary issues go away. Onetime users of Community Action seldom come back. Putting into a shelter, i.e. Oroville, is efficient and meets goals, if more assistance needed then a Case Management is used to help people move forward. Alanna (On phone) comments that she is just starting to read 3-year plan that Lael submitted. Lael (LD) spent much of last few months developing proposal. She got away from previous 10 yr. plan due to local change in conditions from that plan. Was cumbersome to repeat format. LD wants to coordinate the various agencies serving Homeless. Have just developed a

coordinated portal for better “sharing” and allowing a common access across agencies. AH – Have Homeless Coalition prioritized funding if a cutback is necessary? LD, no – all is important, admin. is least “emotional.” This is much of what LD does: keeps track of data, RFPs, general paperwork, looking for a more efficient use of funds. Many homeless if offered an “inconvenient” solution soon find another solution on their own. Vouchers provided historically, it has been found that they are not the most efficient use of funds. Often clients are working poor, but some not able to work due to personal circumstance. There is a current bill in legislature that would allow a small portion of sales tax to be used for Homelessness, definite need for more dollars. CB – is the coalition getting what it’s asked for? They have had to use capital funds for capital project for shelter housing. Before Homeless \$ - several different funds have been combined and now have been cut in half. County was also in a better economic position in the past so now have a larger cliental.

2:45 Okanogan County is highest level of homelessness, pregnancy and more in the state. Money for a permanent homeless shelter was returned to county. The money is still available homeless but there is not mechanism to access the affordable housing money the county has set aside. LD is looking into possible development of boarding house like arrangements for suitable population – private rooms, common rooms and some meals. Another arrangement being looked at are tiny houses by training in construction to help solve housing needs for some segment of population. There is 1<sup>st</sup> time homebuyers special money available. AH asks what kind of time frame the Coalition needs. LD – usually the RFP has been agreed to by this time. LD says there will be a stakeholder meeting of the Affordable Housing funds and will come back to the BOCC. They need to deal with Coalition contract and a funding budget to what degree. Right now there is a \$30,000 difference between Coalition and County. Suggestion is to go ahead and sign contract including overage with the intention of moving something over from the Affordable Housing money the County has. There will meet at Community Action tomorrow and go over bills in the Legislature that relate to Affordable Housing, Homeless and related issues.

3:21 Need to fill in JD about discussion, look at legalities of using affordable housing funds, then the BOCC can move ahead. LJ will send out contract to the rest of the Coalition for review.

BOCC minutes from Jan. 15 are up to CB as AH was not here on that day.

LJ – need to make sure Affordable Housing funds can be devoted to actually supplement housing. Affordable Housing needs to be a goal of the funds. BOCC has a general discussion of housing issues at all price points in county.

**Motions:** 1) HOTEL/MOTEL funds for Winthrop barn. Approved. 2) Professional services agreement with Oroville Housing, Approved. 3) Okanogan County/AeroMethow dispatch agreement has changes asked by Auditor – needs a specific specific termination date. Approved. 4) Approval to pay for meals at Noxious Weeds Re-Certification classes. Approved.

3:42 Motion to approve **Consent Agenda** – approved.

LJ – **Miscellaneous Admin:** TV District 1 had 2 vacant Board positions, now filled. Heather Findley – Pos. 4, 3 yr. term, Victoria D., Position 5. Entrance conference paperwork for Methow EMS audit – will look at contract compliance, supporting documents for vouchers or services, insurance.

BOCC needs to sign letter to seek participation in pilot program to allow ATV use on limited stretches of State highways.

General discussion of various grants and funding sources.

**4:30 Adjourn**

