

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
October 15, 2019**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)	Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)	Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)	Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)	Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)	George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)
Angie Hubbard – AHu (Interim Planning)	Tony Hawley – TH (Sheriff)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)	Randy Clough – RC (Central Service)
David Gechas – DG (Civil Att.)	Larry Gilman – LG (Assessor)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)	Annie Lyons – AL (Noxious Weeds)
Shelly Keitzman SK (HR)	Charlene Groomes - CG (Clerk's Office)
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)	Susan Speaker - SS (Clerk's Office)
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)	Arian Noma – AN (Prosecuting Attorney)

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.

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Summary: **Civil Attorney:** Interlocal for Sheriff's and Pateros, French Creek Brief, Fire District 10, **Interim Planning:** Grizzly Bear comment, Aspect, **HR & Risk:** Planning Dept. Director, Fair Events, Flu shots, **Prosecuting Attorney:** Public Hearing on possible supplemental, **Finance Committee:** Payroll at 1.6 million each month, Sewer & Water fund, Investment Fund, Funds for Fair premiums, Paying off a loan, Roads Interest, Carry over into 2020, Levy Shift, Liability insurance bills, Timber tax revenue, **Public Works:** County behind on chip sealing, Maintenance & Roads, Bridge Inspection, Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6, Statler Bridge, Salmon Cr. Rd @ Cowan's, Public Works Building window replacement, Barkely & MVID ditch project, Similkameen Trail, Citizen Comment: Stuart Pearl, **Jim Brown, WDFW:** Possible land acquisition in Methow, PILT, Additional O & M, Deer herd changes, **Sheriff's Office Budget session**

BOCC: JD, CB – AH absent. Staff: AHu, DG, LJ

9:00 DG (Civil Attorney)

- **Interlocal for Sheriff's and Pateros**, the contract has the Pateros signatures for BOCC approval. Pateros received the materials a while ago and it got waylaid in their papers. BOCC approves.
- Working on **French Creek Brief**, hoping to get done soon.
- **JD: Fire District 10.** Resolution with signatures turned into the Auditor's Office for a boundary adjustment to the District. Question to DG if the District can go forward without a ballot? The signatures represent over 60% of the land owners but not 60% of eligible voters. DG – need to look at the the conflict of two RCW's. Voters vxx. Land owners. DG feels it is OK to proceed. "Proceed" not defined. JD – with only two of the signatures (Allemandi & R & R is over 60% of thee area requesting annexation to District 10). The land under consideration is around Loomis and north towards Palmer Lake.

AHu (**Interim Planning**)

- New draft on the **Grizzly Bear comment** on introduction.
- Received info from **Aspect** for review.

SK (**HR & Risk**)

- There are 8 applications for the **Planning Dept. Director**
- 2 applications already for the **Fair Events**
- An inquiry from the Okanogan Health Dept. if the County is interested in providing **flu shots** to employees again this year. BOCC moves to approve, passed.

AN (**Prosecuting Attorney**) Public Hearing on possible supplemental

- All EDEN lines are maxed, will need a supplemental. JD – understands, AH just want AN to check on the situation. Budget for Prosecutor's Office is largely wages, little wiggle room.
- AN was sked to look into budget, did not find any additional funds to avoid a supplemental.
 - o Had hired a new chief Prosecutor at a higher than normal step due to experience. This has added an additional expense.
 - o CH relates funds are available but cautions against more requests.
 - o AH is on the way, continuation of Hearing until 11:30 CB moves to extend hearing until 11:30, passed.

10:00 **Finance Committee** (LM, CH) October Finance Meeting. End of Sept. balances

- **Payroll at 1.6 million each month**, current expenses fund at \$2.2 million. Cautions that this could be a squeeze at there are always end of the year costs that come in.
- LM inquiries about **Sewer & Water fund** that is part of Solid Waste in Public Works budget. Maybe move back to Current Expense? CH & JT have researched the fund and probably originated from Current Expense. Could be used on any Sewer & Water related (Edelweiss?). Just need to keep on the radar and do something. CH suggest passing the issue by the State Auditor for advice.
- 3 Funds; 143, 160 & 195 have high balances, just be aware. Total of 1.2 million to be considered.
- Currently **Investment Fund** is a big number, includes all investments from around the County – school districts, etc.
- CH points out Depts. With high revenue may need to consider reviewing their budgets.
- **Funds for Fair premiums** that are not claimed go back to Fund 112, but needs action to allow.
- **Paying off a loan.** Budget amount is \$39,000 short of needed for paying off. LM accepts responsibility. Total for the payout requires a supplemental. LM has prepared the resolution. CH – Funds to cover would be from excess revenue from Public Works investments – roads interest. On another loan - \$13,150.45 for December 1 payment, if BOCC wants to pay off early would be \$38,000 to cover June & December next year. LM does not recommend payoff at this time.
- **Roads Interest:** When we go into an election year the interest rates normally drop. Currently at 1.9%, was at 2.35%. LM does not see going lower but needs to keep track, this could affect overall revenue. As fund investments come due – rolled over the funds for a longer period (18 months) in order to capture higher interest rates.
- Expected **Carry over into 2020** is now looking at 1.3 million. Need to monitor – possible overtime from Jail & Sheriffs can be a problem every year.
- JD: 2019 carry over from 2018 was 1.8 million, had budgeted for 2.3 million. General average is 1.25 carry over. Hope to be above that this year.

- **Levy Shift** – looking at \$150,000 (Road Levy Shift). Was \$300,000 last year, larger the year before. Having to set up the Building Dept. as an enterprise fund for 2020 (State Auditor) showed the problem. Need maybe \$350,000 for doing the set up.
- Need to look at the various **Liability insurance bills**. Various departments pay for their own, may be less expensive to bundle.
- **Timber tax revenue** – may be a bit higher this year but not by much.

11:00 AH arrives. CB out running an errand.

- JT (**Public Works**) – weekly update
 - o AH – **County is pretty far behind on chip sealing**. JT – yes, a lot of the County roads are on the edge of falling apart. A bit better in the main valley and east county. AH – On pit deal, language in CUP compared to language from Planning has caused some problems. Duration of crushing work time in the pit was extended to allow for weather delays. Also blasting will be at a couple of places for the access roads but in wording just says blasting.
 - o **Maintenance & Roads**: hauling sand & grading
 - o **Bridge Inspection**: about ½ done, a BIA bridge is a problem.
 - o **Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6**: Convert a temporary M-2 position to permanent – **possible action**. Move to have JT create a resolution to convert to permanent. Only 1 position out of 2 temps. Passed
 - o **Statler Bridge**: Footing in with rebar, first concrete pour this week.
 - o **Salmon Cr. Rd @ Cowan's**: Waiting on hearing back
 - o **Public Works Building window replacement**: A 2nd quote, needs to follow up on a few questions on the quote. 1st quote is for large window and needs more work (\$), 2nd Quote is for same size as current so cheaper. Could use REET (Real Estate Excise Tax). Need to be on capital facility fund to use REET. Need an answer to JT before JT can issue a contract award.
 - o **Barkely & MVID ditch project**: AH - land owner is doing a land swap, need to clarify. Today is the deadline to proceed.
 - o **Similkameen Trail**: Possible to apply for funds from NPS as trail system is a National Trail under the NPS.
 - o **Citizen Comment: Stuart Pearl** – feels dirt roads adjacent to bodies of water contribute to alkalinity under some conditions. Dust abatement alongside water needs to be considered.

11:30 **Continuation of Public Hearing (Prosecutor's Office)**

- CH: refers to one position in the department was hired at a greater cost, but now using an unfilled position's line to compensate.
- Only other area to look at is supplies, relatively small and not excessive.
- AH – earlier this year the Prosecutor's did a \$25,000 supplemental for outside attorneys. Does not see where the new supplemental funds would go – wants a more itemized detail.
- CH – Looking like Prosecutor's is over now and raises risks, depending on other departments, possibly locking up the whole budget.
- AH would like a full budget analysis on the Prosecutor's Office before approving. CH – would be able to analyze by this afternoon. AH – continue for how long? LJ – time next Monday or Tuesday? Monday @ 10 am. Oct. 21, 2019

1:00 **Jim Brown, WDFW – possible land acquisition in Methow.**

- **2 purchases**, early in the process and providing early info and chance for input from BOCC. Relatively small projects. Explaining the process, several steps and would return to BOCC if proceeds to final consideration.
- **PILT** if currently fully funded for this biennium. Need to lobby to support full PILT for next biennium. BOCC support for WDFW is contingent on full PILT funding.
- Seeking **Additional O & M (Operation & Maintenance)** for WDFW properties from the legislature. Still, if acquire property need to properly fund the O & M of lands
- Each purchase has value in terms of conservation, recreation & administration.
 - o Miller property near the town of Methow. ¼ mile west of Methow. Purchase from County gravel pit property. This is unnecessary property for pit operation. Mostly shrub – steppe. Native bunch grasses, ceanothus & bitter brush all present and good mule deer forage. Day hiking area, hunting, wildlife viewing. Some Hungarian Partridge – significant adjacent public land to ease administration.
 - o County road from County pit would provide access and lower WDFW costs for access.
 - o County request for pit CUP is a contingency for WDFW moving forward. Several steps to getting funding from RCO. Purchase would offset county costs for purchase of pit property.
 - o Northern part of Methow: 3 parcels, 2 ownerships.
- Possible to get Scott Fitkin & wildlife person to talk about possible **Deer herd changes**.

2:00 Sheriff's Office Budget session

- Sheriff
- Jail
- Communication
- Line by line review of lines in the budgets and adjustments as agreed upon.

Notetaker leaves at 4:20