

Notes on Okan. Co. Com. Mtgs 10/26/15

JD - Jim Detro
SK - Sheila Kennedy
RC - Ray Campbell

9:00 : Briefing Among Commissioners: Reviewing outstanding email, sharing of correspondence, incidental discussion

Truck Issues at Landfill

JD - discussing truck issues at landfill. *Apparently there is a need to repair/replace a truck that hauls the various refuse container to and from the transfer stations.*

SK - we don't have the luxury of tax payers \$, They are asking for a new truck @ \$185,000.

JD- Outside group was at fair looking to buy old corrugated metal for decorative indoor. *Just an incidental remark*

Greeted me - will through emails, other business then budget meeting later (10:00 am).

Miscellaneous Topics

JD - discuss recent funerals and specific Bob Jewett & his family in Chesaw. He then got a phone call from some other entity about the operation of Team Rubicon and referred caller to Emergency Svcs. Director.

SK - letter about mobile home office at fair grounds and intent to surplus, - letter asking for public comments.

Cougars - Inslee

JD - concern about cougars, Gov. Inslee squashed order increasing kill permits in areas where there are wolves. Complained of increased sightings, incidents, Gov. ignoring wildlife commission and using executive power to go around local officials and needs of people. This after making statement that Inslee overruled due to procedural errors on the part of the commission. JD concurs and goes into a discussion about Inslee is catering to the liberal voices and ignoring locals and problems. JD - wants to look at emergency order issued years ago about cougars to all open taking of cats. Need to show governor. Asked clear to research past process.

Wages

SK - discussion of wages issues of Acct. Clerks & cross training between departments. Need to change job description and take risk mgmt out of description. Person will start Nov. 3. Need to make sure person reviews before start of job with risk mgmt removed and get OK.

RC - there is a lot of whispering at times. No context to know if discussion is pertinent, county business or other in any way.

Job for Laid off Person

SK - Bruce Smith is going to be laid off at "Granite" at Okanogan near fairgrounds. Is just short of retiring. Extended explanation that maybe a job or contract can be offered to use his experience to help county Public Works on budgeting, work efficiency, road construction. RC - always good to have another view. Ok maybe to offer a contract. JD - how to structure such an offer. Smith would have no experience with fed. funding or other government sources. RC - private person would've experience. SK - contract officer could support Bruce Smith in such areas. Look at changing staffing time and more efficiency would also be part of job. *(seems to be trying to find a way to get the guy a job. RC seems amendable, JD less so. Maybe is a real need to be fulfilled, hard to tell)*

SK - complaining that funding will only allow buying of company not wages.

Question - is it place of county to find "make work" for acquaintances? Or is this an effort to bring on board a quality person to fulfill a legitimate need? No good way to tell.

Comment re Mitch Friedman and population control/dam removal

JD - reads quote form/about EarthFirst!@ founder concerning dam removal and wishes that earth population be drastically reduced and there be a lot more wilderness. Claims "Freidman" was co-founder. Discussion with RC about need for similar people to volunteer to lead pop. control by being first to be reduced.

10:00 Budget Hearing - first of several, two more tomorrow according to weekly agenda. Big Spread sheet and go through specific budget items.

Discussion of 2016 budget - \$1,500,000 adjustment of 2016 from carryover from 2015. SK - unsure if that carryover is really there. (Removed from proposed 2016 budget). Deficit of proposed 2016 currently @ \$2,319,767. There working on it., that's what this is about.

Listed current budget requests:

*Prosecutor: new position, staff salary increase

Coroner: salary increase

Veterans: raise "Erik" , increase total budget from 60,000 to 80,000

*Clerk: deputy clerk position

*Auditor: cross train a couple of clerks. Pub. Works will fund some of the cost

*Sheriff: 4 cars, deputy

*Juvenile: car, Functional Family Counselor, budget increase

*WSU agent: increase position to 80% of full time

*SK - biggest request is from tax payer to not increase anything.

Comment from Treasurer office that need to focus on things that must address and see where that leads.

*SK - talk with "Rocky" to get everyone cross-trained so people can't complain that people aren't

working outside job description (Union Issue ?)

Car bought without authorization

Auditor Office - car bought by Juvenile was without authorization. Need to use vehicle reserve money, but need to do a budget revision process to make legal. JD - memo sent by Auditor that Juvie needs to get funds out of their budget. Auditor says Juvie wants to use salary \$ but that would be a violation. SK - concern about what the problem is at Juvie. If Juvie can find a way to pay for vehicle it would solve problem. *(no discussion of need for or source of purchase)*. SK - pay for car out of reserve to avoid interest and to avoid Bad Marks. Clerk - Process will be to use a supplemental budget to use reserve vehicle funds. - need a public hearing. Work to have Juvie reimburse Vehicle Reserve fund. Already missed deadline to save \$ for early payment. Will be \$35,000 supplemental. Move left over Vehicle Reserve back to current expense. Now about \$150,000 -Just keep \$ there and supplant 2016 fund to meet normal needs.

Discussion re Budget

SK - Prosecutor request unreasonable. Juvenile car, wage increases not justified. Concern for producers and industry (logging, exports . . .)

RC - Tourism income hit by smoke and road closures. Can't ask taxpayer for more \$.

No on increases for now. But if cost overruns due to heavy case load (murders) they can come back for supplemental request. Same with other budgets. Eligible costs are reimbursed but what is eligible is being redefined.

Adjustments to Prosecutor more in line with 2015. All are minor to match to previous years actuals.

Veterans Commission - basically brand new last year, at memorial at Tonasket

discussion of wage increase for Vet. relief position. JD - county getting a lot for current work. SK - ran numbers to show that the request is about \$8000 for 2016. Big change to grade 18. *(Changes often being made without consultation of department or what actual cost are so far 2015 and if any outstanding big expenses. Later they send an email suggesting changes and fixes and asking for input from Vet. Commission).* JD - with adjustments is enough \$ in current budget to pay for asked increase salary. Email sent to vet board about details.

Auditor - correct empty position request to actual hire.

Coroner - need public hearing to discuss changing wages of an elected position.

This was a new elected position this year so didn't have a good feeling for actual work load. SK - skeptical if good policy to increase after only one year in office.

WSU Extension Agent. - WSU cutting back some support.

Sheriff

Discussion of **K-9 details**. A lot of Budgets areas scattered around (013, 024, 017, 027, 020, 109, 106, 132) Confusing as to what is current expense chargeable and what is specific budget item. Need to find way to clarify.

Drug Task Force - A lot of gaps in budget. Where are the \$ going and coming from? A lot of carryover from 2015 (\$400,000). Why need county money if not spending from 2015 budget? [Lanie Johns - Clerk of Commissioners a big player)

SK - need Task Force to go over budget to explain. Where funds etc, restricted funds, etc. Current request has a lot of ambiguity and blanks.

There will be a meeting with Task Force to clarify.

[As a taxpayer this is really loose. Seems like same 2016 expenses are adjusted to match revenue. No connection or documentation to justify. Asked for a lot of County money]

1:30: Planning Study Session: Perry Huston

Did not get to any of the agenda items. Time that I was there was consumed by other items that were not listed.

Discussion of Chilliwist Rd - DNR is not concerned about vacating road. - Chilliwist is appealed to St. Sup. Ct - Has been filed. Hearing on Nov. 20 on damages claim on part of Mr. Johnson. Speculation by lawyer that all claims will be dismissed in Sec. 1993 & 1998 claims that are still active.

Public Hearing for Coroner office salary increased as discussed earlier.

Lifeline contract with Oroville. Chris Branch will be coming to talk. Really no big deal. Will be worked out. Discussion of current ambulance services around county and how paid for and administered. Possible work towards single entity to ease working agreements.

Disclaimer for Admin Study Sessions

SK - wants to put disclaimer to allow Admin meetings immediately after conclusion of Planning Mtg.

RC - Only beginning of 1st agenda item and then all follow without any specified times.

Grainger Bldg update

Discussion of Granger bldg needing to be ADA compliant, installing vault, needing \$ estimate. Elections needs a secure space, Auditor vault and Treasurer a vault. Need to consider what modification needed to happen if a heavy vault is needed.

WDFW

SK - letter to WDFW to meet with Commissioners. Various items but only discussed new added items, 10) funding of wildlife manager plans, 11) grazing of WDFW lands to reduce fire hazard, 12) setting of dates for outfitters seasons (Blg Game).

JD - Repeat of cougar emergency and Gov. Inslee (see earlier discussion)

I left at 2:30

END