

BOCC meeting notes 10/30/17

Arrived 10:30 AM

JD- Jim DeTro

AH- Andy Hover

CB- Chris Branch

LJ- Lalena Johns

This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Represent Okanogan County (ROC.) Any writer's comments or explanations are in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Subjects addressed:

- **EMS agreement with Aero Methow Rescue Service**
- **Perry Huston Planning Dept report: Budget, Comprehensive Plan Comments, WATV ordinance, Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC), Forest Service smokejumper base letter, Douglas County solid waste letter, Title 20**

Notetaker arrived at 10:30. Commissioners were at their own computers, no conversation going on. AH was in union negotiations in a different room. Notetaker worked on personal project until scheduled presentation at 11:30.

EMS agreement with Aero Methow Rescue Service

11:30

Cindy Button (Director, Aero Methow Rescue Service), Mike Worden, One other Sheriff dept individual (maybe Frank Rogers?). Re: Emergency Management System (EMS) agreement.

Cindy Button report:

EMS agreement with AMRS expires 10/31/17. AMRS wants to make some changes to future agreements but need some more time to work out the specific language. In order to meet the requirements to have a legal agreement, the AMRS board would like to renew the existing agreement for a shorter term than usual and meet with the EMS board to work out the

details in the next several months. The EMS district was audited and state auditor thought that some changes should be made.

AMRS proposes renewing now with current language so that all legal requirements are met and will satisfy any future audit. Intent is to work on proposed changes so that next renewal can incorporate them.

Sheriff agrees that 1 year renewal would be OK, as opposed to the normal 5 years agreement.

CB- Asked if the issues of concern are addressed in the renewal.

AMRS- indicated that it is not, but the intent is to work on new language that would be adopted at next renewal one year from now.

CB- Asked about including in the “recitals” of the agreement the reason why the renewal is only for 1 year, instead of the normal 5 years.

Short discussion about this, and all agreed that it could be done. Sheriff’s rep said he could get the BOCC a draft agreement in a week or so.

AMRS departed at 11:40.

Sheriff and Mike Worden remained and engaged in casual conversation with CB and JD.

Adjourn for lunch at 12:00.

Note-taker returned from lunch at 1:40 pm.

Planning department reports: Budget, Comprehensive Plan Comments, WATV ordinance, Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC), Forest Service smokejumper base letter, Douglas County solid waste letter, Title 20

PH- Perry Huston

2 members of treasurer dept. (Leah McKormick and ?)

Planning dept. **Budget work session.**

Discussion of detailed nuances of budget issues, etc.

PH- 2018 budget. Voluntary Stewardship Council (VSC) budget item is adjusted to reflect actual costs, rather than projected costs.

Interdepartment sales and services. Mentioned salaries of mapping personnel and how they are shared with other departments.

LM- I have a question about expenditures – repair & Maint. What is that?

PH- that is computer software repair and maintenance.

PD is not asking for any capital this year. Regarding additional legal services, based on prosecutor's comments, we have adjusted our budget for that. (Discussion about whether legal fees are going to come out of planning dept budget, or the prosecutor's budget).

AH joined the meeting at 1:45.

AH- Are there any legal issues to discuss?

PH- No, all I have is that we have something about transporting municipal green waste from Canada through OK County.

AH- We need to make sure that any mitigation is done at FOB. It's very risky to transport untreated or uncomposted green waste from outside our area. Apple maggots, and other pests could be introduced. Discussion about whether US Border patrol has inspectors that will be looking at the trucks.

AH left the room at 1:50.

Discussion returned to Planning Dept Budget

PH- We will double check on application fee revenue numbers for the budget. Fees have changed due to new permitting rules around water.

CB- We need to move towards having fees pay the actual costs. Can we do something that will help to have the applications that consume more time pay more?

PH- there is nothing in the law that says we can't have a tiered fee schedule. We can look at that.

Treasury dept personnel left at 1:57.

PH- We can revisit the issue of Similkameen trail funds. We address maintenance issues as they come up. We don't have a definitive maintenance schedule- as people bring things up we address them.

PH- We have some recreational property scattered around the county. They all require maintenance, and we don't have an ongoing maintenance program.

JD- Some of it is volunteer (cited back country horsemen).
Short discussion on specific groups or individuals who volunteer regularly.

PH- Sooner or later we will have to have some kind of budget for maintenance of those areas. We have on the books now the Parks & Rec commission. Cited history of the Fair advisory committee, the proposed Methow Parks district vote, and how it resulted in the re-arrangement of the County Parks & Rec board a few years ago. Although the board exists legally, there are no members currently appointed. If we filled those positions, it might be a way to have some oversight of the County owned properties and apply for grants, etc. They could be the entity that monitors the properties and keeps track of maintenance.

PH- For example, the MV Trails Assn. operates a trail system in the Methow. Some of it they own, some of it we own, but nobody monitors it. They take care of the parts they use. Nobody has oversight of the whole thing.

PH- In summary, the 2018 budget is pretty squared away, I'm not aware of anything looming that would upset the apple cart.

Comp plan comments update:

PH. We have received comments, and Angie made a summary for you.

CB- Over the weekend I looked at Chelan County's update. It might be worth looking at that.

PH- In the beginning they had some challenges and had a lot of legal issues. Yakima just finished theirs, and it was not appealed.

CB- I would like to refer to some of Chelan counties ideas.

PH- the comments we received focus on water, wildfire protection, some suggestions about text changes. All paths lead to density (lot size). Those are discussions we have had on and off since I've been here. There are still a lot of 1 acre lots out there. We could create a cluster ordinance in subdivision code, Could require larger lot sizes. There are many ways of dealing with the issues.

CB- Have you had opportunity to review an issue brought up by Isabelle regarding cost of community services. I conveyed to the MVCC that rather than focus on what you believe they should be, make the outstanding costs something to focus on. We have to avoid creating a situation where we make costs for ourselves that we can't sustain.

PH- That's what I've always tried to do. In Kittitas County we had some issues, etc. etc. We did do a study of residential development and how it impacts the county budget.

CB- There is the part about the right density in the right place. When you get in to particular locations, that's where you get some real impact. You have to have specific rules for specific locations with regard to costs. Where is the housing needed? There is a big housing shortage.

PH- There is no doubt that there is a big gap between housing in the Methow and housing over here. It's the San Juan Island situation. The people who work in the Methow can't afford to live there.

We will get you the summary of comments today, and next week we will discuss in detail. One of the comments suggested a timeline for the public to know what the process is going to be. The only time restraint is what we have agreed with the Yakima's.

WATV ordinance

PH- We have issued a final. Hearing will be Nov 13th

Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC)

PH- We provided maps for them, and they are working among themselves. They are all in agreement that there is a better way to locate the operations than the current arrangement. Problem is that the infrastructure that is needed for operations are where the population density is. Dec 26th is deadline for making a presentation.

CB- On the pre-existing sites that are problematic- have those been addressed?

PH- Everyone agrees that enforcement of existing code is appropriate. There is a question of vesting – who should be allowed to continue as is, and who should be required to adhere to new regs.

CB- Seems like some of this is something that the State Alcohol and Cannabis board should be addressing.

PH- The local enforcement officer has been working with us and will enforce the state laws and write reports when appropriate.

Discussion about an individual cannabis grower who drilled a well that nobody knew about. Don't know if it is legal, if an application was filed, if it was registered, etc. Only heard about it from a neighbor.

JD- Cited a place near Riverside where he thinks it is a marijuana grow going in. Questioned whether there is legal access from the highway.

PH- In summary, MAC is moving along.

Forest Service smokejumper base letter. Sent letter to mayors of Twisp and Winthrop.

JD- asked if Hannah MacIntosh at TwispWorks got a copy.

PH- said he would check.

Douglas County solid waste letter

PH- we talked about that. *(Note-taker thinks that he is referring to the earlier conversation about the green waste being transported through OK County, which was apparently going to end up in Douglas County)*

Title 20

PH – I went through 8 applications yesterday, and approved them. I am growing increasingly uncomfortable with the liability we are taking on. The folks who are submitting building permits I'm not worried about. Even the subdivisions I'm not too worried about. There is public review and analysis.

We are getting more and more of “we just want to know”. That indicates that they are getting ready to sell. I'm concerned that our letter is being used as a guarantee that water will be available to the buyer. We need to create some kind of disclaimer. We can't just say “we think there is water, but you are on your own”. I'm trying to figure out language that recognizes our responsibility, but has some provision that allows us an out.

We are giving a certificate without even having them put in a well to see if there is water. I am drafting something and will run it past several people to see what they think.

PH We have an administrative item. I ask you to convene as the Tonasket EMS.

CB- Moved to adjourn as BOCC, and reconvene as Tonasket EMS.
Seconded. Voted and carried.

PH- Invoice vouchers for volunteer Firefighters and reserve officers (EMT's). Ask for motion that requires chair and secretary to sign for payment of hospital bills for EMT's that were injured on the job.

Necessary procedure was carried out to make sure payments are made.

PH- Short discussion about the difference between "closed" vs "executive session". Made me wonder if that isn't a tool that we could use in this situation to allow for more detailed discussion without the constraints of minutes, notes, etc.

Adjourned as Tonasket EMS and reconvened as BOCC.

PH- This concludes my agenda.

CB- Asked a question about the marijuana situation.

PH- There was one application where they wanted to convert a barn to a greenhouse, but it is outside of their licensed footprint area. I have decided that they will have to wait for the moratorium to expire, then apply for a CUP. Just so you know in case the question comes up.

PH departed the meeting at 2:40. Notetaker left at that time, as there was no more public discussion scheduled.