

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
Nov. 21, 2017**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)

Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)

Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)

Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)

Debi Hilts – DH (HR)

Perry Huston – PH (Planning)

Lanie Johns – LJ (Absent – Substitute Clerk)

Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)

David Gecas – DG (Deputy Civil Att.)

Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)

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BOCC Session: Energy Project evaluation, Comparing Health Plans, Benefits Fair, Planning Update: County Campus and Planning, Historical Records, WSU Extension, Other, Therapeutic Board, USFS Letter, **Public Works:** Maintenance & Road, Petition to change Road Name, Mobile GIS Application, Consent Agenda Items, Inter-fund loan for fair grounds, Open positions, Recycle Buy Back, Other, Public Works Exec. Session, **Public Comment:** Shorelines Re: public access and setback provisions, Fair Fee Schedule, **BOCC:** Budget Hearing Continued, Budget Adjustments, Sick Leave for Significant Other, Phone and email updates, Odyssey upgrade, Consent Agenda, Misc. Items

9:05 General discussion, greetings, communication from 09:00 while waiting for AH & JD to settle in.

9:16 AH – in union negotiations until 11:00. DG – Letter was sent out about roads and road closures – French Creek in particular, a specific hearing is set for Dec. 2 (?). There have been a variety of Public Records requests: concerning Jon Devon, from Wenatchee World & a ballot title question.

Energy Project evaluation. Joe (Supervisor for Courthouse and buildings (?)) PUD energy project, talked with Kurt & Ken about hooking up equipment for testing. Will need to wait a year of operation to work out bugs and fine tune. Then will begin a year of official monitoring of energy usage to determine actual savings from energy conservation project. So official monitoring will begin in October 2019. Will compare readings to pre-project for savings comparison Goal is to show energy savings from project one year out from installation & fine tuning.

Comparing Health Plans. Debi Hilts (HR) – Currently working on a comparison of PEBB (Health program most of court, BOCC and some other employees) to other available programs (versions of Premera). Also looking at the Union units under BOCC decision – these are separately negotiated. PEBB has only a 4% increase compared to around 13% for Premera (DC, law enforcement & Pros. Att .) This does not reflect comparison of coverage or base cost, only % in-

crease. Considering what costs would look like if all went on PEBB. Premera Opt. 2 is the most cost efficient (not considering coverage – higher deductible \$250 vs \$1000). Closest coverage comparison is Premera Opt. 3. PEBB by far least increase, all others going up significant %. She will email BOCC spreadsheet of comparisons.

Benefits Fair DH – Had a Benefits Fair to share retirements, additional optional benefits, other options available to county employees. Provided snacks and speakers. Only 5 people showed up despite advertising (later a few complained of not hearing about the event). Purchased cookies and drinks. Forgot to arrange reimbursement or payment ahead of time and wants to know procedure to get reimbursed. LJ gives procedure and mentions that this normally needs to be cleared ahead of time. BOCC members agree to reimburse and remind to get approval ahead of time. Currently are in an Open Enrollment period, other options are ID theft insurance, Legal help.

Planning Update: County Campus and Planning PH – discusses possible location of Criminal Justice “stuff,” Juvenile Hall, where to develop? Whether to rehab current or find a new location and build new. There are a set of nearby houses adjacent to county building “campus” that are derelict and unused, a current hazard. Possible asbestos hazard complicates the issue. One suggestion is to bury onsite – possibly pave over for a parking lot. Possible shifting of a variety of county functions in process – Emergency Call Center, Juvie, etc. are examples. CB – is there a current comprehensive site plan & review? LJ – maybe done in 2009, includes Court House complex and moving Public Works to the campus. PH – there was no traffic flow plan as part of the study (vehicles, information, people?) LJ – all work was on costs & current possible moves. PH – feels that the discussion needs to get on table and to get input from concerned. CB – if County has a preliminary plan then take it to a Wenatchee conference next fall where a variety of state and other planning and funding agencies panel would look at the plan and give feedback and suggestions. Involves a 30 min. presentation then the panel goes over and responds with questions, concerns and input.

10:04 Historical Records PH – wants to keep on screen to not let it drop off the radar. We also need to consider historical records storage and how to manage retrieval & review for various purposes including public records requests. LJ – auditor has already required setting aside a budget line of \$9000 - \$15,000 for digitizing and storage. Currently if not used goes back into the general fund. Currently this is not used much. Suggests using this fund to work on the records issue. JD – maybe need to look at one department (Planning) and try out the process. LJ – Funds are set aside for historical records and should be take advantage. Need a discussion, set a side resolution, and look to moving forward. Fund is already in non-departmental. BOCC needs to allocate funds and utilize but it currently goes back into General Fund at end of fiscal year. LJ & PH will work on a presentation. Rocky is already working on the project. In general we are talking about historical materials, recent records are already scanned and electronically filed (about 10 years worth). Maybe set a goal of doing X number of boxes of archived materials and add them to the electronic files until get caught up. It might take some time but would be good to get started.

10:10 WSU Extension Many young people are not able to enroll in 4H due to costs. They had a fundraiser where they collected \$700 to help out. Kiwanis has also signed on to help. WSU has not assigned an interim replacement until a permanent replacement has been found (Current Agent is retiring Dec. 1). Concern is who is to oversee and sign off on payroll for Extension Office Manager. CB – moves to have set in motion a process for a temporary sign off. LJ will follow up on covering problem. Passed.

Other CB – having knee surgery and looking for a replacement at a Risk Pool conference. LJ suggest new Dep. Civil Att. David Gechas, will pass that on.

10:25 LJ - letter is going to **Therapeutic Board** to remind that there will need to be a supplemental budget request to cover the rest of the year. \$ is in the bud to cover get and just needs to be moved into current. Therapeutic Board oversees assistance program for employees.

10:25 Working on computers, cell phones. AH arrives at 10:40.

10:40 AH is updated on WSU Extension decision on signing of time sheets until a permanent is assigned.

10:50 BR drops in to prepare for 11: am. BOCC members are still working on computers & cell phones. Various. Quiet, no discussion. JT shows up for 11:00 am update.

10:55 **USFS Letter** AH asking about how to get a large variety of logos onto a letter inviting USFS Regional Pena & other USFS to a meeting. Need a signed letter of agreement from each entity – cities, etc. LJ will organize a collection of logos & sign off each entity to compile letter.

JT – asks about how to work with County having an electronic signature process. LJ says not OK for BOCC to use Electronic Signatures and need to talk to IT people.

11:00 am Public Works Update BR – Solid waster Master Plan meeting went well, should be done for a while.

JT – **Maintenance & Road**: 20 hours overtime was spent on a culvert replacement on Toroda Cr. Rd. was caused by a last winter freeze up issue – blocked up and clogged. AH – intersection of his rd is dangerous in winter – sanding is not effective. Could use de-Icer? Talks about possible liquid de-Icer to solve winter icing issue. JT – generally don't use de-Icer as it generally too cold in the Methow. Will ask about trying out and seeing. Grange Rd – there was a big push to hurry last week by private party, they did not get started this week.

Petition to change Road Name. Squaw Creek Rd name to Hunter Mtn Rd. AH – says whole Squaw creek area is changing to Hunter Mtn by state. BR – need a public hearing? JT – yea. BR – points out a need for public disclosure and being careful about perception of improper procedure. AH – anyone can bring in a petition for any name change? JT – yes. JD – what about con-

sidering “Custom and Culture” and some requests? (*Whose custom & culture?*) JT – can’t ignore any petition do have to respond. Not required to act positively. Need to consider all factors. CB – depends on a tribal member if “Squaw” is a problem. Is not used now, is not appropriate any more. AH – does not want a “cuss word” but also want locals to have a strong influence. In this case locals are driving the petition. BR – state decisions do not affect what county does. That’s a separate issue. JT – 80% of locals have signed petition with remainders having not responded. No local opposition.

JT – **Mobile GIS Application:** Some countries using more electronic GIS establishing request for driveways, drainage, etc. Also sees current inspection status. Wants to move to this process to include more mobile, real time application. It would be OK to use with QGIS (Quantum GIS) for this GIS application – it’s an Open Source and does not require licensing fee. AH – asking about how new tools are added to QGIS in an Open Source environment. GISmo is the field application for the program. Its on the horizon, maybe 3 – 4 years.

Consent Agenda Items were discussed last week. AH – asking about flood control \$ and use of Real Estate Excise for funding for flood control – can it be over 1 or 2 years? JT – one year. A few mechanics are discussed about short tem time shifting of \$ from one fund to another but need/best to be done in one year.

11:30 AH & LJ look at how current **Real Estate Excise Tax** is being allocated to see how much is available for flood control. Could cover the \$120,000. Match would be from \$540,000 current unallocated in Real Estate Excise. LJ – need to make sure the 2018 budget has a place to transfer the \$ into. Normally from capitol improvement, so need to use that to transfer \$ from Real Estate Excise. (2 projects – Elmway & Mazama: Corp of Engineers, \$ is needed match against total cost).

BR – An **inter-fund loan for fair grounds** is not in Solid Waste budget. Cannot get done today will tomorrow. County not passing overall budget yet so solid Waste is OK as long as get done soon.

Open positions: All Winter temps filled. One summer employee will be put on call to use for a medical fill in that is coming up. Engineer Tech positions will be interviewed on Friday. Feels that there is an adequate pool. Solid Waste mechanic position is filled but want to start at Step 3 due to previous experience and familiarity with county (this was discussed last week). AH – just wants written support for decision for precedent & comparison and official record.

Requests an executive session at end of his agenda. Two consent agenda items presented last week – any questions?

11:45 **Recycle Buy Back** County has currently suspend buy back program. Most other counties not doing buy back at all. Commercial recyclers fulfill need. BR wants to drop buy back lan-

guage and program. Will bring this up officially in a couple of weeks. Many commercial operators come and go depending on market prices. Also stock pile while waiting for suitable prices.

Other Next SWAC meeting will be on process, Parametrics will be on a conference call for meeting. There will be CDL training and will meet with union for arrangements & detail.

11:50 **Public Works Executive Session** – discuss performance of a public employee. A Settlement Agreement was approved after Exec. Session

1:30 **Public Comment Period** – AH, CB. JD @ 1:45. 1:30 **Public Comment Period** – AH, CB. JD @ 1:45. Isabelle Spohn (IS) – **Shorelines Re: change in setback provisions in subdivisions:** IS states that she did not bring up these points earlier because she was under the impression there would be a public hearing on the most recent draft.. She adds that during last week's BOCC discussion of the process, it was not pointed out that Ecology's decision can be appealed to the Shorelines Hearings Board. Branch (*who was out of town for that discussion*) states that he is very aware of that. IS - Has two comments on the elimination of the 200' setback requirement for subdivisions in certain designations. She understands the county's objections to the setback are: 1) It is an infringement upon property rights 2) Okanogan County is the only county with such a requirement. Her response is that landowners can still subdivide and purchasers would be free to select either a lot with or without access to the river, so does not understand the concern over property rights. She sees the fact that Okanogan County is the only county with such a requirement as a plus for the county's attractiveness and for tourism and recreation. She understands that Ecology is requiring public access to the river anyway in the recent draft. CB – generally agrees that he wants public access in general. But have to be careful around takings issues. 200 ft. is a jurisdiction, not a guarantee of public access. AH – not in favor of public access where none existed in past. Gives example of un-navigable waters having no public right of access. Property owner can own to midline of water.

Maurice Goodall – MG: feels **Fair Fee Schedule** should be modified to allow for reduced rates for poor and disabled. Cites where state constitution has an exception from gifting of public goods for the poor and disable. (A group wants to rent Agriplex to give away Christmas Baskets). Would be OK but need to set reduced schedule and policy. Motion carried.

Budget Hearing Continued: Discussion about access to preliminary budget, either online or otherwise. This is for public and all BOCC to see draft changes. CB – expresses how can there be a public hearing if the public has no access to what the budget looks like. AH – asks if current draft can be projected for all to see & 2) is the available draft the most current/
LJ – Laurie Thomas will transmit budget and when arrives she will put on the projector. AH – Auditor believes there will be a carryover from 2017 of \$830,000. Ah is concerned if this will cover until first quarter end and tax collection, with new construction taxes at 1st of year that would be about \$890,000 to work with. Probably will not enough to over 1st 3 months before new income. JD – need to look at self-insure for medical to reduce \$1,000,000 annual med pre-

miums. AH this is a future opportunity but not available in short term this year. There are some potential groups to combine with to have an adequate self insure bargaining position.

Budget Adjustments: various adjustments to draft budget on revenue side using conservative estimates to better tune up budget status. Getter closer, started at -\$1,400,000 and now at -\$110,000. Still need to look at expenditure side and see if additional income is on the horizon. Budget Hearing is continued to 11/27 at 2:00 pm.

3:00 Debi Hilts DH (Risk Manager): need to change Albert Lin to David Gechas. BOCC offered **sick leave to significant other**. Need guidance from BOCC on limits. BOCC intended that sick leave opportunity of employee would be available for sickness of immediate significant other not more.

Randy - IT Central Services: **Phone and email updates:** has started upgrade, began last Friday. There are some problems as usual and working on it. Asking if BOCC are forwarding county calls to county cell phones? AH – yes if to a county cell phone. Randy points out that it may not be working. Also may not send emails to phones. NO messages are getting through. BOCC members try out feature and note on personal devices get ring but no voice, need to call back to get voice. AH - Fair phone & email needs to get set up also. AH wants unanswered phone calls to get forwarded to his cell or office.

Also on court **Odyssey upgrade:** this will be ongoing until maybe summer.

Randy – next step will be to extending phone system updates down to Health & Public Works. There needs to be an upgrade on the Erickssen Card Swipe security system., upgrade will be maybe \$4500. There is a possibility of saving \$ on Public Health server upgrade. Might be able to cut off \$2500.

Misc. Items. LJ – Need a motion to transfer \$ in Courts to pay for jury fees & pay for equipment - total of \$25,000 (\$10,000 is jury fees). CB – moved and approved.

CB – move to sent letter, about SRS (Safe Rural Schools) & Fed. PILT, to various federal officials. Moved and approved.

3:40 Move to approve Consent Agenda – Carried.

Public Health 2018 budget to get \$30,000 to cover cross training. Possible fund raiser in Methow to assist Public Health.