

Board of Okanogan County Commissioner Notes
11/27/17

Present:

Chris Branch, BOCC (CB)
Jim DeTro, BOCC (JD)
Andy Hover, BOCC (AH)
Lanie Johns, County Clerk (LJ)
Perry Huston - Director of Planning and Development (PH)
Josh Thomson - County Engineer

These notes have been taken by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Represent Okanogan County (ROC.) The notes have been taken as close to verbatim as possible, with any writer's comments or explanations in italics. Some summaries have been added due to complicated nature of the budget discussion. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Summaries:

Continued ATV/WATV Hearing, District 3: Ordinance on opening of roads in District 3 to ATV's is approved. 2 roads are removed due to citizen input. It is anticipated that about 800 signs will need to be posted in order to clarify where ATV routes begin and end and to inform drivers that they must remain on roads and of penalties for riding off-road. County is hoping for help with funding from DOT.

Lake Management District: Resolution of Intent approved to form Lake Management District, 198-2017. Public Hearing, Dec. 16, 6PM in Oroville.

ATV/WATV roads in Districts 1 & 2. AH wants discussion of how we proceed with the other two districts now, considering that the Comp Plan is coming up. PH delineates the process and suggests getting maps done before end of this year. Discussion as to whether to combine mapping for District 1 and parts of District 2, due to continuity of some roads across district boundaries. Huston directed to just put road mapping on the Public Works' radar for now.

Administrative Updates: Dec. 11th is public hearing on cannabis moratorium. Dec. 4 - Planning Commission meeting on Monday. Draft of fee schedules, consideration of resident vs. non-resident.

Planning Commission Membership & Meeting: Branch points out that there have been letters of interest submitted for membership on the Planning Commission: Bob Clark, Gina McCoy, and George Thornton. How will this be dealt with? Districts 1 and 2 are each short one representative, and the At-Large position is not filled. There is one person interested in each of these 3 open positions and currently only 4 of the 7 positions are filled. PH says these letters of interest will be discussed next week in his session on December 4. The next Planning Commission meeting is that evening. *(It will be necessary for all of the 4 members to be present that night to constitute a quorum.)* PH enumerates topics for discussion. It is discussed that Planning Commissioner Schulz still needs a packet for the meeting.

Continued hearing on 2018 County Budget: BOCC discusses in detail expenditures and revenues in past years, accounting process used, and needed improvements in procedures. 30,000 from the Auditor's election fund will be given to Public Health for very important cross-training. Expenses have been cut this year in legal costs for employee negotiations and litigation. Relationships of Therapeutic Court, Public Defense Improvements, Public Defender, Legal Services, Current Expense, & Revenue to each other discussed in great detail, need for changes noted, and need for consistency in the process from year to year emphasized by Hover.

1:00 - Continued Public Hearing - District 3 ATV/WATV roads.

PH - You have closed the record. You are considering the ordinance in front of you. 3 attachments - County roads, Dstr 3, Map , Attachment C - MDNS

JT - Exhibit A has list of roads, minus Eider and Van der Sheldon roads.

PH - Special interests, discussed on and off during hearing. What conditions re signage.

JT - Needed to be consistent with MDNS.

JT - 175 individual road segments. If we are looking at 4 signs per road, 700 signs. Counting intersections, about 800 signs. I have a current proposal. Submitted to DOT to see if they would fund it. The person retired that I got answer from before, so I am hopeful. A little different. Last time we asked about signs saying they need to remain on road. But DOT may want to fund something a little different for over 800 signs.

JD - Asks if there is public comment . (No one in attendance but note-taker, and handout says no public comments would be taken.)

AH - Moves to approve. JD seconds.

AH - In talking with sheriff's office, they know it is their responsibility to hold to the laws of the State of Wa.

All vote yes. Public hearing closed.

Lake Management District

PH - Resolution of intent to create Lake Management district. Extended boundaries down to dam and constricted boundaries to form secondary parcels which do not touch the lake. The primary parcels are the lines included. Because boundaries have expanded, the proponents wanted to increase then(?) to 230,000, but because of the increase in # of lots, reduced the assessment from 160 to 150. Each assessment is smaller.

We have submitted notice of public hearing at Dec. 18 at 6 PM in Oroville. Adoption of resolution completes statutory requirements for forming lake management district.

198-2017 - Branch moves to approve.

All approve.

Perry - Budget discussion is at 2:00 . Do you have anything else?

WATV/ATV - Districts 1 and 2

AH - Question for other BOCC. We have gotten through this section for WATVs. When does everyone see going to Branch's district? DeTro - we are already there. All laugh.

AH - Do we want to wait for a little awhile? Identifying roads, meeting with agencies - it took a long time this time. We now have Comp Plan moving along, etc. How do we proceed?

PH - We need to create roads, then create a map before we bring agencies in. We could do that at any point the BOCC are comfortable.

CB - Will be pretty limited road...

AH - Probably a few roads in my district because my district cuts off just south of Okanogan, so there will be a few roads over on this side so they are continuous.

CB - Are you considering considering some of the roads in your district at the same time?

AH - Not in the Methow, but in southern part of Okanogan valley....

DT - All 3 roads come together (describes a situation where 3 roads come together, note taker did not follow location.)

AH - Might be some roads in my district, so want to be able to inform people.

CB - Will be a balance of roads on the flats...

PH - Maybe create map for both Distr 1 and 2 now.....all paths lead to Public Works creating map of eligible roads.

CB - Some roads may be more relevant than others in this procedure.

PH - In putting public meetings together, agencies had to do their own schedule. If we can do mapping by the end of the year, that makes more sense. The season (*Christmas*) is challenging.

CB - Outreach to agencies is going to be (*cannot hear - difficult?*)

PH - Depends upon where you draw the line.

PH - In previous run (District 3) , they asked for roads on the reservation to be excluded. They recognized that the ag land owners have ability to operate on their land and around their land. Tribal council talked about roads that need to be accessible to fairgrounds.....

PH - Should I ask Public Works to start maps?

AH - Just put it on their radar. They are trying to work on their budgets.

(Decision is to get things going more seriously after the 1st of the year. Just put on PW radar screen now.)

Upcoming dates

PH - Dec. 11th is public hearing on cannabis moratorium. This Wed they are meeting for an extra hour. Trying to come up with enough of a refined proposal to adopt as an interim control. We are not there yet. I told them I would put it on the agenda for 1:30. Hearing is at 3:00 - so I can touch bases with them with a progress report before the hearing.

Dec. 4 - Planning Commission meeting on Monday:

- 1) Water Availability Study Area proposal, add new Chapter 17A.400
- 2) Proposed amendments to OCC title 17A.270 (Nightly Rentals)
- 3) Proposed Revisions of Capital Facility Plan 2018

Fees Schedules

PH - These are the highlights. I sent a rough draft adopting a fee schedule for facilities, etc. The track is unavailable for now. Took out references to negotiating fees. There is provision for creating a tier of fees for locals vs not locals. If you live here and already pay taxes. If you brought this into current expense, there would be some accuracy. Library fees - found a few legalities on this.

LJ - We have a resolution that says county departments can rent for \$75 .

PH requests she send that solution. We should take note of it.

PH - last time it came up, Horticulture had their meeting and paid \$75.

[

CB - I understand that \$75 is something, but wanted to see how that shakes out.

PH - anything else for me?

Planning Commission Appointments

CB - We do have some letters of interest for Planning commission beyond what we have here. I don't think any of the folks that recently expressed an interest are from my district. I am short 1 in my district.

PH - Says short one person in Hover district (2)

CB - Bob Clark is interested in my district, but will have time away. And we got one from Hover's district (Gina McCoy.) George (Thornton) is from DeTro's dist. George could be at large, and Clark could be in my district.

PH - We will put this on next week's study session. George - are we waiting for a letter? Clark - had a letter on the record. Submitted awhile back. Do we still have letter on file? It has been 3-4 or more years.

JD - is he still on the (???)

CB - No, Conservation District.

LJ - Did you get a letter of interest? (JD has it, so does Branch.) LJ asks for copy.

PH - Will put it on next week. George also has a resume submitted. PH leaves.

Note taker speaks up, says Dave Schulz is still waiting for his packet for the next Planning Commission meeting, as she saw him at the gas pump on the way over to this meeting. He wants to have time to read it before the meeting Monday.

Lanie tells note taker that she should have told Perry while he was here (he had just left.)

Note taker says that surely the BOCC or Clerk has communication with Perry and can tell him that Schulz needs packet?

Branch says he will send Perry a quick e-mail & does it.

2:00 DeTro - Continued Public Hearing - 2018 budget

2:02 - a man enters for hearing and appears to be county staff member. No parties are there to comment.

This discussion was difficult to follow, although a section of the budget was projected onto the wall. Terminology was not known to the note taker, and the discussion had been ongoing - there are references to previous decisions and questions among all commissioners, county clerk, and others who were called in to answer questions. Keep in mind that note taker is not familiar with the process and some terminology and the numbers went by quickly. The BOCC and Clerk are going through past budgets and deciding upon expenditures and allocations for 2018. They are paying careful attention to whether or not the methodology is appropriate to truly understanding all transactions or whether changes need to be made. They are rebalancing certain items due to their improvements in employee negotiations and legal expenses (particularly litigation) which has translated into savings this year.

202 Departmental. chart put up on board for expenses according to department.

Public Defense Improvements, Legislative Services, Public Defenders

This seems to relate to important and necessary improvements regarding Public Defenders and/or other issues related to public defense:

Legislative services - \$11,460

Public Defense improvements - \$120,000

AH - Legal services - \$100,000 for legal services but Tanya and I have been doing negotiations ourselves (*rather than hiring attorney to do it as in recent years.*) I think we should cut it down by \$50,000. I want to get through base budget to see where we are at. Ins payments will go up. May affect levy shift. I seriously think that with us doing the renegotiations and the way we are cutting down on litigation, we could get by with \$50,000. When I look back to 2014, only \$74,000 were spent there. 16 on the 352. (?)

Detailed discussion of amounts, impossible to follow without the details. We have a few outstanding numbers and could talk about what could cut out in future. We also have a \$350,000 loan payment. Public defense improvements - what is Current Usage? Could cut by \$5,000.

CB - Where does the money come from for Public Defense improvements?

JD - \$40,000 out of Therapeutic Court.

LJ - It does support public defenders. We also get a grant that helps with both defender and improvements.

AH - \$40,000 from therapeutic? Wouldn't that be (???)

Lanie checks

CB - It would justify your deduction if there was not anything pressing and because we pay at least part of it.

LJ - Do not see anything coming out of that budget?

DT - Will check with Tanya to see when that will be.

AH - Would revenue from Therapeutic court be (?)

LJ - could be in current expense reserve.....143 is not a current expense budget. If you go that way to 143, you will see revenue at the top.

AH - That is what I am wondering.

LJ - At the top, and each dept is sectioned out.

AH - I thought part of the money up there....

LJ - Current expense receives the \$40,000.

AJ - if expense to Therapeutic, our fund, it should be in a revenue line...to offset \$150,000 budget.

LJ - Probably in a miscellaneous line in current expense? It will be mixed with.....

AH - Want to make sure that...

LJ - There is a revenue line for the grant

Questions about "task force." Note taker could not follow.

Other Items - Vehicle Transfers, Public Health, Election software for Auditor

AH - Vehicles transfers: we will have \$12,500 (??) for the assessor to ask for a car that was 25,000. In the account, there is 1/2 of the ___ that the assessor has put in . 2 sheriff's vehicles for 32,000 apiece. Total of 72,500.

Public health add 30,000. Took out 30,000 election reserve for auditor. Will have to figure out how to fully fund this at some point. There is a software change - they will have to do within 2-3 years - that will cost 120,000. We have 30 in reserve....if we can pick these off one at a time and get them done. Public Health has stated that this is a one time deal. If we take it on the

next year we will not have another 30,000 extra. Instead of picking away at things, figure out how to fund these things, look at your timeline, prioritize, etc. All nod heads.

Cb - It's nearly the same as you have for that software.... *(All add comments.)*

AH - In all reality, it is saving for software for something unforeseen. Good to save over years, but next year we need to look at funding....It is election software. It is of benefit to the entire population.

CB - *(Cannot hear.)*

AH - We should look into capital project to see if that software could be also used for.....

CB - That way you can convert your \$\$ over to something that can be used...not talking current expense line.....

From screen: - Legal services - 74,271 (column D) 98,711 (column E) - 352, 413 (Column F) 200,000 (Column I) - 180,408. 100,000 this year - Column L and column N. *(headings of columns do not appear on screen.)*

Relationships of Therapeutic Court, Public Defense Improvements, Public Defender, Legal Services, Current Expense, & Revenue to Each other. Balance of all these in upcoming budget and need for consistency in the process from year to year.

(BOCC and Clerk are trying to decipher how some of these items have been accounted for in the past, what the expenditures and revenues have been in previous years, what improvements can be made in order to better track the financial situation, and what would be the best to budget for next year in each area. AH in particular very interested in scrutinizing the amounts and methodology in order to improve budgeting and administration of finances, particularly in view of current savings in attorneys' fees, etc. this year.)

LJ (enters) Cannot find depots slips over the past 3 years for Therapeutic Court.

AH - Judge line for 120,000 so there should be a revenue line that corresponds from expenses from Therapeutic Court into Current Expense.

LJ - It went back into expenditure line in 2015. We paid it. Into non-departmental Public Defender line. 2016 was not processed.

AH - That is not the correct way to process.....

LJ - Not a direct reimbursement in terms of exact amt. Have to expend it first, and then be reimbursed.

CB - from....?

DT - the money is still there in Therapeutic Court.

LJ - Yes, but got reabsorbed in 2017.

DT - Asks Lanie to e-mail Chris *(Culp?)* and ask him exactly what happened.

AH - We are not reflecting our income correctly because if we put \$\$ not an expenditure line.....

CB - I was wondering if some of it came in as grant \$\$....

LJ - We billed Therapeutic Court and we deposited to the (??) number...

AH - Thinking it through. If there is a budget set up for 120,000 of total expenditure and we are able to put 40,000 into that, it means our current expense is only 80,000. Need to be able to show it properly so we can spend that \$\$\$. It would be wonderful if we could appropriate 70,000 to Therapeutic Court and show it as a revenue line against the 120,00 line item.

DT - If we got 61 on the grant.

AH - Oh, yeah. If we only want to appropriate whatever rate difference is.

CB - Make sure the appropriation is matched.

AH - Grant is coming from somewhere else.

CB - if it's revenue, where does it show?

AH - Line 24, 61,000, revenue line. Not on expense, but on revenue. To make sure we are doing that portion correctly we need to know what the grant comes in at...61,000?

(Yes - LJ)

AH - So does it go against the 120,000?

LJ - We do not deal with investigative. Most related are public Defense improvements and Public Defender. The (?) is used to help with both costs. Thinks it's Public Defense Improvements.

AH - If it can be split, we can use the whole 70,000.

LJ - The 61,000 is a grant from the state specifically for what we applied for. The kind of costs that are being incurred. If public defenders are accusing a particular (?). Above and beyond what the judges, what special investigations, autopsies, etc. are - that needs an outside professional defender.

AH - it's a 100% grant.

LJ - We usually get the (?) amount for our jurisdiction.

AH - We get 61,000....we would need 59,000 to cover the rest off the budget.....

LJ - it doesn't go back into expenditure line. Are the Public Defender improvement expenses true? We are not depositing revenue

AH We should be able to back to 15 (2015?) And see what the numbers did. This is taking time, but to find 59,000 would be great.....

LJ - Therapeutic Courts - where drugs involved...

DT - Isn't that all of them? All laugh....

AH - Even if we didn't get extra \$\$, there was to be a revenue line associated with the expense line.

LJ - No negatives going into Public Defense improvements....Public Defender is exact same

AH - 2015 is the only year where we would see how it was done.....

Note taker's note: There is a lot of confusion over where the \$\$ comes from and where it goes, in re the Public Defense Improvements. Cari from Auditor's office is called in to shed light on the process.

LJ - In 2015, the 30,000 went right into Public Defender.

AH - Oo in 2015, revenue got put into Public Defender. What was the.....

LJ - Frustrated. Asks Hover (? Note taker lost track.)

JD - Biggest complaint against gov't - if we were allowed to use a double-entry system, we could keep track of everything. But by laws, we cannot. Let's make it not confusing.....

LJ - Auditor writes check to County Current Expense public defense line item.

AH - Why are there transfer in lines?

LJ - It's another way of showing thatusually when transferring in a line...Not sure why not do a transfer line.....

Cari, from Auditor's Office, comes in, having been called in to help them understand these issues in the budget. Says "I'm not prepared to....."

AH - We met last week on budget.

Conversation goes back to Current Expense revenue. They talk about how to enter current expense, new fund, etc.

Cari - There is a difference between transfer in and transfer out line items. Therapeutic court - - it is specifically used for RCW's - 143 RCW. There reason why you want this done - the costs associated withfunds are reported under Therapeutic Court funds rather than Current Expense.

AH - Either Public Defense needs to be cut down 40,000 and (given?) to Therapeutic Court. Bill sent from

Cari - agrees that this is how it should be done. She highly recommends they change their way of doing it.

Carrie says --Tanya can invoice Therapeutic Court up to 40,000 (for Public Defender) , then turn around and charge it to current expense. How Public Defender expenses relate to Therapeutic Court expenses and income: Increase Public Defender in Therapeutic court to 70,000 and then decrease Public Defender contract by 70,000.

(Complicated for note taker to follow.)

AH - Emphasizes the importance of consistency in the way you do things.

Carri - Need to lower Public Defense. By 40 or 70??

LJ : So minimum number, thinking out loud. When someone asks for our budget, the amount in expenditures for a particular entity (entry?) will be what people are seeing.

AH - I had to go through and teach myself about all this. For example, Public Defender has same (line?) as Public Defense.. Very hard to explain to anyone.

AH - Legal services - I was going to cut it down to \$50,000. Tanya and I are doing negotiations and we seem to be getting a handle on....we will have a 200,000 expenditure - she knows about this (??) maybe we should put that in now.

Carrie - I was asked to put in \$240,000 for next year.

AH - Thinks we are really going to add 200,000. So for legal services, AH adds 100,000 to request. So BOCC changes 150,000 for 2018 budget to 250,000 for legal services.

AH - So Public Defender we can cut back to 40,000 (?).

Public Defense Improvements - LJ says that is a number Tanya came up with from what she knows about case loads. They take off 5,000 for a totally in budget to 115,000.

Transfer of \$30,000 from Auditor election software to Public Health for cross-training.

AH - Add 30,000 for one year cross-training. Really important.

AH to Cari - you will hate this. We are going to take away your 30,000 (*for auditor election software.*) We are trying to pick things off and get them done. She says she understands.

Vehicles, Housing Rehab

Another weird thing. Line 31 vehicle transfer. Can all people actually buy their vehicles? Went one step beyond, so not putting into individual departments.

Cari agrees. it's double-budgeted. Cari says it doesn't calculate - she waits until people buy their vehicles.

Cari - Line 25 - Every year we write 500,000 for **housing rehabilitation**, when neither expenditures or revenues come close to that.

AH - it's grant \$\$, so we have to appropriate...have to get a supplemental if it's not budgeted. It will go down over time.

AH - Summary sheet

Cari - has suggestions on salaries and pay periods.

AH - Says Courthouse security is going to be difficult. They have individuals getting a lot of \$\$
You will not be able to just get rid of one of these people. Your empty jailer - take it out of the
budget. Put it onto courthouse security.

Note taker leaves 3:15.