

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
December 30, 2019

In attendance:

Jim Detro - (JD) -Chair, BOCC, District 3
Chris Branch - (CB) Vice-chair, BOCC District 1
Andy Hover - (AH) BOCC, District 2)
Lanie Johns - Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
Pam Stevens - Veterans relief Board
Ed, Dale, Dave - Members of the Veteran's board, along with one other whose name was not mentioned.
Cari Hall - (CH) Auditor
Leah McCormack- (LM) County Treasurer
Tanya Craig (TC) - Risk Management

Notes were taken at the meeting by a County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. Note taker comments or clarifications in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official County record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS:

Vet's Relief Board: Official composition and operation of Board clarified, Home Outreach greatly improved; **Emergency Management Director:** Technical details reimplementation of salary increase for EM Director Goodall; Contract discussed; **Methow Interim Control Public Hearing, Jan. 27th:** AH determines it should be at Barn in Winthrop rather than Twisp; Planning Commission meeting changed to another date. **Vaughn Jolley Short Plat Application:** Will be affected by Interim Control, but Jolley still wants a hearing. To be arranged. **Veranda Beach:** They now want more home sites instead of a lodge. **Microphones:** After note taker complaint in re sound, it's discovered that mics are going on and off in a totally inconsistent manner. Branch suggests that electrical spray be tried. After lengthy experimentation and discussion, that seems to work. **Highway 153 plowing:** Public Works and BOCC very concerned about safety issues with current changes re ice, plowing & sand at state level. DOT has been contacted. **Fire Assessments in re "No Man's Land"** - discussed; **Employment Agreements:** Kelly Ross, Josh Thomson, Tanya Craig.

9:00 AM - (Pledge of Allegiance Scheduled, Note taker not present yet.) Discussion of Commissioners' schedule, etc.

9:30 - Update: Veterans' Relief Board scheduled. - Pam Stevens.

9:35 - Note taker arrives. Conversation in progress.

Veterans' board members - They cannot figure out who is on their board. Recently, some of the members took over the organization but didn't make changes in by-laws.

AH - Was the Veterans' board created through a BOCC action?

Board members: Yes. Also created under RCW.

Spokesman (Dale) : Biggest issue - Omak/Okanogan vs Tonasket - No representation for certain areas. . We (Dave and I) never belonged to American Legion. Ben got involved with Board until Ken Lee joined. Then, a difference in opinion.....objectives changed. We are not really legal. In the past, contacted Brewster, Methow, & Pateros. They were not interested, so we didn't re-create by-laws. There is someone from Oroville who really represents someone else. R. Cleveland represents the tribes. Two of the people here now....you could consider us representing Brewster, Pateros, & Methow as a large division. We want to bring Eric on due to technology, etc. We want younger people. We need Eric on this board. How do we do it? There are 3 members of the "board" here today and would like you to create 2 or 3 large divisions that should be represented.

(Another individual) - We are looking at the at-large positions according to state. We have a lot of people out there who do not belong to any organization - typically female veterans, ...under-represented and under-helped. Then we have different organizations that used to be here that are no longer here - like VFW. If (?) represented them. Then I went to the "other side" because the VFW moved to Chelan. So there isn't a VFW post up here. I am also a member of AMVETS. Only one - I'm not a life member down there because they cost too much.

AH reading from RCW's or WACs. "In 73.08.035 - The county legislative authority must collect members from ...either vet's community at large or vet's organizations. No fewer than a majority of the board members shall be members of nationally recognized service organizations. So it does say that no fewer than a majority of board members.

Ed - So like Dale was saying, I am a member of (names a number of recognized Veterans' organizations.) But we don't have those organizations in our county anymore. But we (here) do belong to those organizations.

Jim D. - How about Gary. Does he belong?

Ed - He is an Am Vet, and maybe another one.

JD - Thinks he believes in Tonasket.

Dale - Explains problems he had, went to Oroville to represent Oroville. But then we didn't know who would represent AMVets.

JD - And Eric? Eric is American Legion.

JD - So you have a majority right there.

AH - Reads from RCW or WAC which organizations count. We need to

CB - Reference to "040" in bylaws.

AH - I haven't looked at bylaws yet. Says copy of annual statement....etc. in 2005. So there have been changes.

Ed - So we just write up our request and send to you?

AH/CB - Yes.

AH - Doesn't say anything about reps from Foreign Legion posts, etc.. Should just be positions, not representative positions. If you have a lot of vets in Okanogan who want to serve on board, that's great, but if you are tying it to places....

Ed - One of the problems of the past was stacking the board. Do we need to send the request re. (couldn't follow.). They have a request for Eric, so we don't need to repeat that one. Will you amend by-laws by request, or can we write them?

Dale - in the past, we went to Board and say that the bylaws need to be changed, and we would come in and write the by-laws and send it in to you guys, and you say yay or nay.

AH - Let's use that same process.

Lanie - I don't think the Veterans' Board needs to approve the draft until the commissioners have made any changes they want.

CB - Can do the same thing with a cover letter that says we recommend the following changes be made.

Older gentleman - One reason the county board has gone so well, is that Dale was a Beta's (?) rep to the feds. So has Mr. Stuart (Ed.) Makes sense to keep people who are knowledgeable there. We only meet once a quarter now, so the budget isn't involved. None of these guys will take any money, and the others of us just get mileage.

Appreciate the \$20,000 in the budget. How do you want to start this process?

AH - And we have the ad velorem (?) tax up to \$100,000.

Ed - We have others who will help.

AH - When we reviewed the veterans' budget, to keep on the path of having enough carry-over, a part-time person is all you can afford. So right now, the position is authorized for a full-time person with 50% payroll from Work Force. So, what we need to do is to rescind that resolution to say it's a part-time/half-time position. (The 2nd person.). Rather than Work Force. Had to do with Pam coming in and having to show where the \$\$ was coming from.

To Pam - how many hours for part-time person? 20. Hours per week?

Pam - Probably. To get them in and get started on being president.

AH - A part-time position is best in case they have another job and are getting other benefits, etc. Best.

Ed - Agrees. How do we start the process?

AH - Nothing. All we do is get HR to draft a resolution to rescind and make the option half- time, then send to Pam, who gets it to you.

CB - You might think about something for participation over telephone in case people can't be there to make a quorum.

Thank-you's all around.

Discussion - volunteerism is gone. Thank you for wanting to include young people. We used to All work as volunteers. This is gone. Young people are too busy with kids and computers.

Dale - If you read the report (I'm sure you have) I'd like for the record to comment in re Pam spending the work she's been doing so far, sometimes under adverse conditions. She has taken Home Outreach to a whole new level. Currently serving 9 people as of tomorrow. Most of them were in this area. She traveled to their homes, then went back to office, finished up everything and mailed it off to the VA. Excellent job as far as I can tell. Most of the people I talk to really like her. They aren't afraid to tell her their problems. Doing a great job, earning her money, hope she continues on.

Ed - One last thing - we have come up with 3 wheelchairs on a riser. We have a lot of guys who can get their chairs to the VA. If you hear of wheelchairs that need repair, tell me.

Dale - The non-service connected, who didn't serve in Korean war, aren't eligible. And now there is an income limit before they can get a pension. When I was running the office a number of years ago, I used to get calls from widows whose husbands had passed away, and wanted to give away the wheelchairs, canes, walkers, etc. The VA will not take them back.

CB - Those who do not have national defense medal cannot get them?

Dale - Correct. They are not eligible.

(9:55 - Woman enters who appears to be an employee, asking about a position she is still working on. Cannot hear the details.)

Thanks all around - they leave at 9:54.

10:00 - Maurice Goodall, Leah McCormack, and Cari Hall. Emergency Management Council Recommendation.

JD - OK.

AH - Am I leading discussion? Yes. What we asked about was that.. so the EMC made recommendation back in April to raise EMS pay. We did not take action on that until recently. At the last EMC meeting, they made a decision to pay him retro back to April. There is enough carry-over in that budget to do this because whatever he is budgeted, we put in 60% and the cities 40%. If we know about doing that, what is the easiest or best way to do it?

Cari Hall - Based on what your budget says, it could be supplemental.

AH - Do supplemental to take out of any fund and then put it into wages?

CH - We send memo (*too rapid, too soft.*) Don't know if there is a resolution needed or not. Ask Tanya. I assume it will be.

AH - So we need to do a budget supplemental. So that will ..If we were to pay mid-January for May thru December, basically, that would be the easiest way to do it? But in January you would need to do a budget supplement.

TC - You could also wait until June or July. Complete up to....

LM - It would not stop anything. Maurice would let me know in case of problems.

AH - Is there any line....where does L&I come out of? His budget ?

Yes.

MG - Should not change, because of no additional hours.

LM - Current expense would change.

AH - No, because (?)

CM - Not a change in salary .

LM - Does it make sense?

AH - No , no , no. We are not transferring \$\$ into that account. My deal was that we had already set a budget. We discussed last week. For 2019. We were not going to do anything for pay. Maurice's budget included city \$\$\$. But we didn't. Our motion is not going to change. We have been putting in 60% to that budget over the years, so it hasn't been spent. There is additional carry-over that is the county's portion - so we are not increasing any more budget.

LM - Comes out of any fund balance.

CH - Clarifies that it will not affect 2020.

MG - The easiest thing - doesn't matter if I get it now or in a couple of weeks? Asks for it to come out of 2019 budget, and then we wouldn't need to do a supplemental in 2020.

AH - We have to do supplemental anyway.

CB - Are you saying that professional services is under fund balance?

Yes.

AH - Asks about "ending fund balance."

CH - We would need to do a special payroll. It would still hit your payroll.

AH - Whether we spend at end of December or January, it will be the same act of money. No impact to current expense.

LM - Just wanted to make sure.

AH - Didn't mean you were asking about 2020 budget. Thought you were talking about the 60% being added to.

MG - Need to know the exact amount.

AH - Difference (?) for May - December.

MG- March 4th. April - December. Not specified elsewhere.

CJ - I will need to know the amount.

MG - Should be 7206.

CH - I do have a report as to what we actually paid, how much for salary, benefits, etc. Do you want a copy?

AH - Can you do that and create a (???) Do we need to have a hearing?

CH - As a supplemental, yes. So we can wait and do that.

AH - You just need directives on payroll.

CH- We are pretty sure we need a resolution. Then, I can do it on the next payroll About \$1400 per month.

JD - Do you have all you need on fire district 7?

CH - Yes. Corrected. No problem. I had all forms 2 minutes after your e-mail.

AH - So we are ready to go on to Supplemental.

CH - \$197 to transfer to new building fund. That is for amended budget. (*Other things - too rapid, too soft to hear.*)

AH - Wait. On summary, did it change?

CH- NO. not a current expense fund.

LJ - We have a resolution to adopt and then a budget amendment resolution?

CH - *More rapid speech.*

Compliments all around.. "It was great." Jokes.

MG - Contract?

AH - I think Tanya has your contract.

MG - We had a discussion as to (????) So I haven't signed.

CH - Any more changes?

(NO.) CH (Cari Hall) leaves at 10:18.

Emergency Management Council & Director's Contract

AH - On emergency Management council..... However it was created, it says the EM director serves at the leisure of the Council. If the Council votes to remove him, that's his term. I don't know what the contract reads as far as termination, etc. so that's something that should be thought out before....

TC - We can add caveats that the council can vote to review him. Far too contradictory to state law. But you are officially his employer because you supply sports space, a portion of salary and benefits, etc.

AH - If we are his employer, we need to terminate. But you serve at leisure of Council..

TC - In contract, Council is not mentioned. We can add that in there that the council can make a recommendation to replace.

AH - Maybe we should in those two contracts, because they are different. We need to capture fact that the Boards may (9) ?

CB - We need to follow up with other documents.

TC - LM and I have looked in RCW's, Star employment law, etc. an I must say the county is the employer.

MG - Doesn't matter to me. It just needs - to be cider.

TC - will add appropriate statements to the contract. Asks Lanie (too quiet, too soft.)

MG - Does there need to be a resolution?

JD _ The resolution will go in the contract, forward. For retro, we need a resolution stating we will pay retro April - December.

TC - taking notes.

All agree on resolutions that are needed. (Too quiet and rapid to follow).

TC - will also add caveat that council can make recommendation for termination when needed. Will send a copy to the council if desired.

AH - makes motion to approve the changes we made to veterans' board, etc. Motion passes.

TC leaves.

Microphone Issue:

About 10:20 - Note taker asks if mics are on. Lanie says yes. Notetaker says I could hear very little from any females at the front table. Then she says she will turn it up and see if there is feedback. Dramatically different when CB speaks. Also dramatically different when Lanie goes to speak with AH clarifying the necessary language on the resolutions. Can hear Lanie too. No feedback. Perfect.

AH and CB - Doing a lot of experimentation with the mics to see what the inconsistency is. They try the mics at the table. Lanie pulls out plugs, CB's mic goes off when they fool with mics at the table. Otherwise, he is loud and clear.

Lanie - its all re-set. I have no control over sound quality, on and off for mics at BOCC table and at front table. Totally unpredictable.

CB - sometimes when you learn connectors....

AH - When they work close but not far.....

They determine there is a problem. It goes off and on. Cannot determine why.

CB - The guy who worked at the ones at the fairgrounds....(cannot hear the rest.)

CB walks around checking mics again. Determination: Very weird.

(ARE THEY GOING TO TAKE ANY ACTION?)

10:35: BOCC STUDYING COMPUTERS.

CB I was in airport and Commissioner from Thurston county raps me on the shoulder. We spent some time. I told him that Thurston County was taken over by law enforcement. Two of the BOCC used to be in law enforcement.

BOCC continues to test mics, which came back on.

CB - I think if we cleaned all these things. At Mule Deer Foundation, they started cleaning the ends and they were fine.

All - there are electronic sprays.

AH - Checking mic again. They pull out mics, blow into them. Lanie checks CB's mic. Andy Checks his. Didn't make any difference to blow them out.

CB - we should give it a try - cleaning them out.

AH - makes motion to approve the changes we made to veterans' board, etc. Motion passes.

Tanya Craig leaves

Back to discussions: CB : Note taker cannot hear. About volunteers and budgets.

Attempts to solve Microphone issues.

Later - Lanie and Andy check all of Lanie's options for changing operation of mics. Branch experiments with touching a control at Lanie's desk next to him. His mic comes on. He confirms there is no consistency at all. Andy continues looking at Lanie's controls. He is looking for a switch that changes voltage.

Everything they try shows total inconsistency. Mics are off and on totally inconsistently. They go back

Lanie - Norman, who was the person with Broken Road - not available anymore.

AH - Maybe we should talk to the guy who came to....

CB - Did fairgrounds system. From Spokane.

Lanie - would have to have someone who knows how to disconnect from Broken Roads computer.

Phantom Computer in charge

AH - So there is a phantom computer that has control of our sound system?

Lanie - Yes. I can't get ahold of them. Tried last year. A number of e-mails on web, telephone numbers on web, I tried - some were disconnected, voice mail off or on.

Lanie - We probably have the agreement that went along with the system.

AH - Do we have the manuals?

LJ - Mmmmm.

CB - Broke Road Entertainment, or Broke Road....(on his computer.)

LJ - One out of the Tri cities . One is out of LA. not that one.

10:50 - BOCC still trying to figure out audio problem while reading computers.

AH - Looking at instructions he has found on his computer. AH and CB on computers looking for info.

Commissioners return to review this on computers.

11:00 - Pubic Hearing - Building Fund 423

Cari Hall here to answer questions. Dan Higbee - same.

AH - This resolution changes one transfer path, removes, and then changes that path to go into Bldg Dept. up to \$600,000.

No public comment. Resolution Adopted.

Meeting on Interim Control in Twisp, Jan 27th

At Watershed council, it was brought up something was in error. The date of Public Hearing. Doesn't need to be amended, just corrected. Resolution # 2019-11.

AH - Twisp is central in that valley. People are going from south and north. Would be appropriate to have hearing in Twisp rather than the Barn (now called the "Red" Barn?) Sound system is better in Barn. Most public meetings take place there. To Lanie: Can you see if the barn is available at that time?

(This makes it further for people to travel to Planning Commission hearing.)

Lanie - We will call and reserve for 5PM. It's 996-2117.

CB - Tell Methow Valley News?

Note taker comments to BOCC *that it will be even more difficult for Planning Commission members to get from the Barn to Okanogan on time for Planning Commission meeting than it would from Twisp.*

AH -Maybe the Planning Commission should change date/time of meeting.

11:15 - Public Hearing 2020 Budget Adoption Amendment, Jr. Taxing Dist. And Various. No staff comment, no public comment.

AH - Moves to adjourn and reconvene as Lake Management Distr #1. Res 001-2019, Adopting Lake Management Dist 20-21 budget. Adopted. Res 161-2019

CB - If we are moving into Lake District as BOCC, the resolution should say Lake District because that means there are two resolutions. Should say: #1 - Amended. Related 161-2019 - also approved.

11:20 - Update Public Works - Josh Thomson - Public Works agenda, passes a copy to audience (note taker.)

Maintenance and road conditions - not much. Things have been calmed.

AH - Comments on the condition of 153 with plow blade bouncing. Josh agrees. So icy they almost didn't make it up the hill.

AH - Surprised because there was so much slush that it was dangerous. I was coming back about 6:00 and saw a pothole there and wondered why they didn't do that while they were doing other things.

Josh - Also no salt or sand on the road. A lot of things have changed the past few months.

AH - It was flat-out dangerous. If you are talking about a 35 mph county road - a lot different from a 60 mph road that is the only way in and out.

CB - Had to say that HWY 97 has been good.

JT - We heard them when Dave and Terry Grounds are here, they have been overseeing some of the lower traffic.

AH - Something about 4-6 hours. I was tempted to take my phone and take a video. It's dangerous. I'm serious.

JT - I called dispatch at DOT.

Statler Bidge - Pouring abutment #1 right now. Have not seen much from contaco. In Jan, a week or two into Feb. doing more work - about a month late. Trying to get a better schedule so we can give accurate info, updated information.

Consent Agenda - FEMA A-19. - One of those is really small. Just closing out. One was debris removal. Most work at Chiliwist. One of the previous FEMA people.....we are getting paid for most of (???) Looking at 671,000. We should be seeing that. Will close out and make check in January.

Omak -Riverside Eastside Rd contract signing. Still working on purchasing policy, working with Gecas and Maurice. We will be doing an emergency. He has nothing that spells out in 1st paragraph. Needs to be spelled out at some point.

AH - If you have something about rip-rapping river in an emergency - what is the chain?

JT - Right now, there is nothing. If we can't contact two commissioners, there is no other route.

AH - *(Looking at poster on back wall behind him.)* Requirements can be saved under RCW's.

JT - Doesn't change who has authority to make decisions. Any deviations at this point must be authorized.

CB - I will stop in and see Roger Miller when in Olympia for advice.

JT - He is aware of the ones that happened in Twisp.

CB - I would ask if there is any government effort. Is it connected to the initiative?

JT - Have been some changes in Okanogan County. Some of the directives are coming from there. Twisp shop has been told to cut back on sand and salt - just enough to keep sandpile from freezing. They went to another method. Didn't work so well.

CB - We have a windy (?) road that has more attention than a narrow road.

JT - If their policy is to have a good road 4-6 hours later, they are not meeting it.

CB - *Talks about another road that got 4-6 inches recently*

JT - We probably had 6 inches by Friday AM. Was a normal work day anyway, so we don't call people out, if it's still snowing.

CB - I would rather drive in snow sometimes than having it blowed, Especially if warm.

JT - Names a day there was about 4 inches on Loup. I saw two plows coming up as I went over to the other side. CB says a wrecker helped clear road at one point.

Other chit-chat.

11:38 - JD and AH leave (for lunch?)

Note taker leaves to request public documents from Planning Department.

1:40 Angie Hubbard - Planning Update

Technical Planning - Jan. 9th and 10th. Portable recording equipment. Courtney will also take notes.

Veranda Beach - A. Lot of comments. Getting ready to issue the (?) decision by Oroville. This was a 7-lot development at that point. The failing slope was in a different area. This is a proposal for a long plat.

CB - An original Planned Development?

AHu - Originally it was supposed to be a lodge in that area. Now they want individual homes on the lot instead of a lodge. We are waiting for the comments right now.

Vaughn Jolley: "That" went out for comment, and I told him it would be affected by the Interim Controls. I said we would be willing to refund his \$\$ that he sent in for the application. He wants to go forward, even though he knows it will be affected by the Interim Control.

CB - Short plat?

AHu - Yes. They will be recapping that and sending out a letter to him.

AH - Went out for approval?

Ahu - Char will need to re-issue a comment period after sending out to the agencies.

AH - (*Looks thoughtful.*)

Planning Commission - We are having hearing on the 27th. Any way we can change the meeting?

AHu - We will come up with a new date for PC meeting so PC members can attend meeting in Methow Valley on Interim Control on Jan. 27th.

BOCC returns to reviewing the Consent Agenda.

(First 5-10 minutes missed.)

Contract - Omak Riverside Eastside Road. - Central Washington Asphalt, INC

BOCC is reviewing contract and commenting.

AH - Who is the Project manager? Is that Rodney?

Lanie - They chose ATRS. (At bottom portion of e-mail.)

AH - We need to know the dates, and the scope of work. There is some stuff in here that's not going to be in our (???) Scope of purpose is fine. Contract is made between: you can fill that out? (*to Lanie*). Purpose should be the same. Scope of work needs to be amended for Okanogan County. That would be Ronnie and (I forget who is the new representative of the Colville?) Matthew is the new one. He is noted further down. We need time frame that they put on the proposal. That may also have the scope of work. Branch can look at this. Why do I have an e-mail saying we are looking at the 2d or 3rd to negotiate the Scope?

(Lanie reading e-mail.) I don't know. She accepted the invitation. She sent out an e-mailing inviting people. So - but that was Jan 2nd, which is Thursday.

CB - A certain part of this is incomplete as far as I'm concerned.

Lanie - She attached Scope of Work and Timeline. That is what I need. \$57,000. Amount of grant plus the match. Total. Do you want this on letterhead?

AH - My opinion - be very careful with that comment letter. Because we are involved in both of those transactions. I'm not going to tell DNR. To get off my property when I buy the property..... I am going to say every single sale.....depends upon what they are doing. Like this one where they are trading a piece of property. All those details aren't the subject of what she really needs. The negotiation for scope of work doesn't happen until Thursday, so.....

(3 separate conversations at once. Cannot hear. DeTRo was on phone talking about this issue. AH talking with Branch, Then Branch with Lanie.)

CB - I'd rather say in the letter - thank you for consulting with us before you buy land in Okanogan County.

AH - If they feel the state is buying too much property, but that's their purview; I will tell you that last year, one of my constituents could...Well. Having US Fish & Wildlife has things going thatIf someone wants to get on the bandwagon, get on the phone with legislators about PILT.

CB - I'll see her and the others next week - will explain this to them.

(Note: unclear to note taker how the Eastside Road Project relates to US Fish and Wildlife and land acquisition.)

Paying for Hearing at Barn on January 27th:

Lanie - Last, rental agreement between Ok county and Barn for \$245. She said not to fill it out, because we are getting a special rate. 1/2 of the daily rate and don't need to pay deposit. I penciled it in. Funding?

AH - This was a commissioners' decision, a public hearing. Be sure it comes off the right budget line.

CB - It's a Planning issue.

Lanie - which budget line? If the Board moves, they can give Planning permission to pay from appropriate place.

AH - moves to let Planning pay for public hearing Jan 27, 2020. Motion passes.

(Person comes in talking about the iPads. Something about Search and Rescue).

Assessor

(Larry) - Has 4 iPads that can't be used with new software. Search and Rescue can use them - Sheriff's Dept.

Moves to create 2 separate resolutions, one transferring 2 iPads from the Assessor, and to surplus 2 iPads.

Motion passes.

AH to Lanie - be sure you visually inspect the iPads. Make sure the serials match with which are going where.

Lunch Break

1:10 : Executive Session: Under 110-(1) (G) Evaluate performance of Public Employee. **(Lanie Johns)** 10 minutes.

1:20 - Fire Assessments and “No Man’s Land”

Wildlife Advisory committee was to come up with a plan for “No-Man’s Land.” So everyone had those. If they assessed the 385,000 acres that is in no-man’s land at the current rate, the DNR Fire Assessment....they will be short that amount; The (Legislature?) wants to follow through on that.

CB - Kittitas and Chelan CountyI’m doing Legislative Steering Committee....they want to talk about us three counties?

JD - Yes.

CB - So (Oscadiadacz?) She is proposing that Chelan and Okanogan /Kittitas join together on the DNR initiative. Wildland Fire Advisory Committee. They were commissioned to come up with a “fix” to “No man’s land.” If we are.....

AH - So we have parcels in this county with DNR fire assessment on them and some don’t?

JD - When they did the study, they didn’t have Okanogan county listed as a county with “No Man’s Land.” He said, “What are you talking about?” He said that Okanogan County has always dealt traditionally with DNR, everyone else....they always have honorary reciprocal agreements. We went back to legislation ...we will have to come up with \$63 million so everyone is covered. No more “No Man’s Land.” The report is 175 pages.

AH - So basically, within our county, we have our fire districts. Everyone in those fire lists pay their rate to fire district. I think some actually have to pay a DNR fee.

JD - You are right.

AH - I don’t think it’s fair, If you are paying for Fire Dist., you should not pay also to DNR. Josh was working with Angie on DNR parcel purchase, showing how many taxes we will not make. That taxes - \$311 and total assessments \$145. Current tax 43 and DNR tax - \$145 . They are paying to Fire Dist #15 and also the DNR.

JD _ There is so much of this land...they will expand Fire Dist onto so much Ag land, where the Fire Dist mainly does structures - so the DNR doesn’t do structures. Will protect, but not fight it.

AH - So do you think that for firefighting capabilities, if you are in the fire district, should you pay both DNR and Fire District? Where do you get the \$63 million? No one is paying for that.

JD - That’s where it’s heading.

AH - Even a white rancher. What if a combine comes out there (*and burns?*) Most likely, DNR. It's a lot of money.

Methow Gravel Pit comment by public discussed

JD - We told them nothing is impossible, some things just cost money. At noon I got stopped by a guy who wanted to know what was going on with that land acquisition in the Methow. He said, "DUH, do those people want their roads maintained, or what?? That makes sounds sense to me. I don't want to pay for them chip sealing in the Methow from here....."

AH - It's a business deal. It's a 2-generation (over 100 years) for 1/4 million dollars. An excellent deal. A good thing. If you look at the overall scope, a private individual could have come in and torn up the whole 500 acres. It's 20 ft deep, 80 acre max open...and selling it for habitat, public access into that. There is something we need to discuss....."

Employment Agreements

* **Kelly Ross** - AH - move to approve 171 - 219, issuing temporary compensation to Kelly Ross for working out of class. In employee manual, states that if a person is working out of class for 40 or more consecutive hours. She did it, so we pay her.

Motion passes.

* **Josh Thomson** Employee agreement with Okanogan County/**Josh Thomson**- Motion made. No discussion. Motion Passes.

Tanya Craig - We had interim director/risk manager ask us for a raise. She was at 77% of comparables. Asked for raise to over \$7,000 + put her at 90% of comparables. Extremely important position. Saves us lots of money in litigation fees, etc.

JD - The only one in financial system with (??) Has gone to same conferences for contracting issues (saves us \$200,000/year.) I think it's important that we try to pay commensurately with others - Bldg depart is getting raise, etc.

Motion to approve employment agreement. Will need to do a budget amendment for this position.

Discussion: CB - checks for comparison chart. AH - the high pay at 77% previous. Plus you cannot find someone who does.....Usually people pile stuff onto this position.

Motion passes.

Multiple conversations:

DeTro on Phone settling a financial question. "Mike? - I talked to Kent and he sent me the actual invoice. For \$91.19 from Umpqua bank? Etc. etc. Unfortunately, there is a person who....was there...who didn't return calls. That is a reason to rectify. I will make Kent aware. "

*AH, CB, LJ in other conversation.

Final Consent Agendas

Approving \$ Bill for \$1 million plus for vouchers/payroll.

Real sign-on deal for public health. Payroll, but no voucher here. Lanie - but you still have to pay the payroll. I have the motion. I move to approve Public Health Payroll.

AH - Moves to approve vouchers

LJ - Board had already approved Dec. 16th (Last week's minutes.) I didn't see it with the other two. Didn't know.

Meeting nearing end - Note taker leaves.