

Commissioners' Notes: 11:10, 12/7/15

RC - Ray Campbell, Commissioner District 2

DT - Jim DeTro, Commissioner District 3

SK - Sheilah Kennedy District 1

PH - Perry Huston - County Planner

LM - Leah McCormack, Treasurer

Contents:

AM

Budget Discussion - Building facilities (line by line discussion)

Pubic Hearing, Supplemental Fair Appropriation (11:30.)

Side Conversation on Climate Change

Discussion of PEBB insurance for employees

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Fire District 15 funding/FIREWISE

PM

Executive Session

Voluntary Stewardship Program

Budget Discussion

Fire District 15/Firewise funding

New Fire Strategy Discussion

Landowners Wildfire Protection Act

Methow Trails and Trailhead Discussion

I arrived when the Commissioners were involved in a continuing budget discussion. This part was about building facilities.

11:10 - Budget discussion

Leah McCormack, Treasurer

Another woman - talking about building facilities.

RC - will be nice to have things available to utilize

Woman - auditor will look at this.

RC - interruptsbut maintenance - the resent has to justify all of it. If the 75% can be moved...something else could jump up at you.

Woman - very quietly ...something

SK - Something about the clerk. We know a lot depends upon who the coordinator is. We know the clerk - even if it will be part time. We know that ground maintenance worker - I think what happened.

Lanie - I believe the BOCC did away with ground maintenance workers at the fair - full time clerk/maint and changed it to part-time personnel.

SK - for full time personnel

Lanie - with 2 maintenance workers...this could also be where the office workers are paid as well. It's so high, I think that's where the others are paid.

Leahe - definitely.

SK - is it more or less confusing... do they have to be identified by line items, or can we ...it would line up with time they were hired.

LM - do not have to separate out.

Woman - Important to separate because we will be charging the fair

Lanie - Right now we have maintenance part-time. Do we need to also have clerk part - time

Woman - regardless of what fair is doing....

SK - Why don't we call facilities part-time personnel instead of maintenance

LM - Yes. Take out the maintenance.

Lanie - and then we find...well.. probably this and that....

SK - those are actuals

Lanie - I imagine the benefit...

Woman - something about medical/dental

LM - Will you include overtime?

Sk - a response. Woman, sure we will calculate that.

Office supplies - \$2,000.

SK - Facilities . we need to go at least 10. Part of this is because we had the fire crew. Put in 8 instead of 10.

LM - Supplies? Lock? Mop? Brooms? a lot more.

Woman - \$13,729 - makes me wonder.

SK - they have a rental.

DT - don't know if tractor rental in there.

Lanie - office supply - trash, etc.

Kitchen tires, racket, water leak , water pipes, shop supplies, water system....

LM - Bump it up from 5. Go to 10.

DT - But. Didn't we buy variable speed pump? One of the reasons it's 13?

SK - was probably with the water system being updated?

DK - the fire too.

Lanie- so \$5,000? all - yes.

LM - Based on history, 3,000 bad. but why 7?

DT/RC - should have gone down from last year.

Lanie - propane bill for Jan was over \$2,000 - For April, another \$2,000.

RC - we are subsidizing tenants.

LM - put \$1,000 in this spot to give 4 total.

SK - Might work, because if its Rocky Mt as rental...?

LM - that might work.

(All this is under "Edit Revenue" under "Total Fairgrounds.")

Lanie - Professional services - printer, toner, scanner, staple guns, plumbing supplies. garage

LM - Bump it by \$1,000.

Lanie - we also paid for Security. Quincineras pay for it when they pay for rental.

Sk - Advisory committee to go to fall conference?

SK - Part of this was when people were temporary at fair were changing mileage to go back and forth to courthouse until we told them to use the vehicles.

LM - Advertising at Agriplex? put in \$500.

Mics not on, very hard to hear.

Fair advisory committees - advertise if there is a change or special meeting?

LM - \$500 will cover that.

Woman - anything the facility itself rents? all -

We have a tractor under lease.....

LM - keep at \$1,000 or bump up by \$1,000. Put in \$3,500. Insurance?? . .

LM - why is there no actual in there?

Woman - impossible to understand her.

"It's 11:30." everyone starts packing up.

Public Hearing, Supplemental Appropriation to County Fair

While waiting:

Climate Change conversation

DT (to RC) - Listen to this “inconvenient fact” about polar bears - this year, the bear population is up by 1,000. They are still trying to say “save the polar bear.” RC - mumbles things about climate change.

DT - Reported the worst midsummer ice conditions in 20 years in Hudson’s Bay. He laughs.

Lanie - I don’t record the supplementals.

Hearing Open to public on Supplemental Appropriation - Fair Fund 112

No public comment.

Open to board:

SK- Hearing was advertised. For areas to cover from judge to supplies and lodging, fair advisory committee. I have no questions.

(No further discussion.)

Supplemental Appropriation - 2015 - passed resolution - **Supplemental funding for fair, \$10,000.**

Back to Budget Discussion

Lanie - insurance line ...about \$2,600. We won’t know about worker hours until we do the calculations. 26 a good estimate for next year. 4 people.

Utilities - are all the different buildings SK - put 15 because we don’t have tenants in there.

Lanie - so did you say 25?

No . 15.

Lanie - irrigation valves, concrete bench repairs.

Water cooler comes on...can’t hear.

Lanie - for things that cost over \$,5000 will be in a 594 line. Other improvements already at \$300,000.

SK - We have to come up with a target to roll portable bleachers so they are in the shade. (All this is under Miscellaneous. would have been for 7700.

Lanie - water testing? Sales and use for RV’s and deductibles? So hotel/motel tax could be out of there?

4,200 for operating permit fee. We paid the gate ticket group from this.

DT - I thought it was on the ...the ticket collection comes out of the fair budget?

RC - We pay.

DT - Why is it in their budget then? \$4200 in budget for that.

RC - You are right.

SK - we were going to have everything under facilities so all they had to do was their budget, but that changed.

DT - my question - was it paid out of both?

SK - I don't think they had it in for the 2015 budget.

LANIE - I don't see it even in

(Quick switch to union issues on Health Ins.)

DeTro - Someone wants to set up a meeting time. (He gets this info maybe from phone or computer?)

SK - This needs to go directly thru Rocky. We have one union interested. Another doesn't want to guarantee. PEBB will come this Thursday and provide this opportunity for employees. At this point looking at plans. Planning Dept wants to go with PEBB. Building dept - we think they are too. Problem is if only one union goes to PEBB we will fall under the numbers that Premera needs. Will fall in higher category for cost.

SK - suggests we make the decision to go with Premera and then present that at (meeting on Thurs?) Employees could go to sheriff's conference room. Notify PEBB?

SK - Rocky will call PEBB. (This will put county with enough employees to get the lower rate.)

SK - moves that we move all non-union employees to PEBB program and allow any other unions to join as well.

RC he seconds.

DT - non- union PEBB and other willing participants to PEBB.

Passed the motion.

(Commissioners study computers.)

Temperature on Pass

DT - Stevens Pass is open. 56". Good start.

12:45 - Commissioners studying computers.

RC - whispering about discussion, with SK. Dave Schulz is mentioned. How did that discussion go? All are focused on computers, maybe the same subject ("discussion.") Looks like maybe they are on e-mail from other staff.

All focused on computers, Lanie typing.

Voluntary Stewardship Program

VSP - sounds like they may be looking at the Farm Bureau input.

SK - 11:50 - I asked what section of the law guarantees that our plans are going to be improved? He said really there is no guarantee, and the way they have the VSP built up is that you can't address the same things in VSP that you can address in CAO. CAO is more restrictive than the VSP, the push to go that way is because it has less regulations than the CAO. Everyone talked about the benefit that if anyone gets

sued, they will have to sue State Conservation Commission rather than OK County. I said, everything OK county does is being sued over, but just because of that does it mean this program is good?

\$150,00 first year. 120 for second - all dependent upon the funding from legislation, and they can (apparently they can change it?)

RC - couldn't hear -it means it could be unfunded.

SK - they will have to come up with money, no doubt.

DT - there are 3 meetings around the state. One in Moses, one in

SK - Some are going thru Cons Districts, some to WSU, and so me to....3 options. Up to county to do request for proposals because state conservation does not have a policy. State cons is giving \$\$ to the county. Up to us to do the RFP to get someone else to do that program. Would need to be really careful because of accountability of funding and be sure everything is working the way WE want it to work....uh... pauseson behalf of the people.

DT - if we get it all figured out, then they could change it?

Did you read the e-mail from Nikki? (I assume this is Nichole Kuchenbuch, representing possibly the Farm Bureau?)

SK - Thursday? - the statute says 8 or 10 years. There is confusion oneven if we.....decide to go out, i think it has to be under that time frame ...and then we'd need to go back under the CAO.

Niki's (Nichole Kuchenbuch ?) e-mail says VSP was designed specifically to get away from GMA, for which they have no trust. Is "Nikki" speaking for Farm Bureau, Advisory committee, or???

All looking at computers. Seems to be on VSP.

RC - would you forward Nikki's email to me?

DT - we will send.

SK - Other thing they made clear is that the BOCC does not approve the plan whatsoever. If we do, it opens up the whole lawsuit. We are the ones elected the closest on the ground. Why would we turn over our decision-making authority to the Conservation Commission? I asked the questions....

Note; Sheilah is apparently reporting on a meeting she was at??

All focused on computers again - looks like VSP material.

End discussion of VSP.

DT - I've got SWAK at 4:00. So you will have to do the DeSalvo thing. Did you get the info in the inbox on DeSalvo? He passes around a couple of papers to RC.

RC - I did get that.

DT - The thing to remember is that on our discussions on the charter , there is no _____ use (lowers voice, puts face behind papers.) whispers something about changing our funding. Something about structures.

More whispering bet DT and RC about ownership and bank. Looks like Sheilah may not be able to hear them.

DT, RC reading from computers - Sheilah reviewing a document.

12:03 - DT puts on coat. Leaves.

RC - mumbles something to SK.

12:05. Have you seen info on funding request re commissioner _____ Mary someone.....Sheilah leaves, exits to offices behind.

Nothing said to public.

RC - Person in audience asks if they are adjourned for lunch.

RC says 12:30, actually. is lunch. Audience person askssince only one person is here....couldn't see anything on agenda as to when you adjourn.

RC - (Answers) One person left to get papers(Sheilah.) I usually take my lunch, Sheilah works through hers.

12: 06 - Sheilah returns. RC and SK whisper, pointing to papers.

Discussion of Fire District 15 funding/Firewise \$\$

SK explains to RC something about Dist 15 Fire Districts. This might be good \$\$ to offer them . other districts have few funds. If they want to designate that much \$\$, it would be nice if they could figure out how to support other fire districts. They are tracking around 1974 pickups that they have made into fire engines, and compared with DNR, how old are theirs? (Especially in re initial attack.)

RC - Whispering. Can't hear. points to paper again.

SK - And they got 2 million for Firewise. What will happen if so much \$\$ for fire wise and too many restrictions; won't be enough for people to work vs. the funding that is approved.

RC Whispering again to SK. Conversation about something to do with fire chief.

SK - 3 fire Chiefs were at the table. Two others, and the Emergency manager. Was the one for local.

Discussion about Quad County meeting

RC Whispering again. Talked about disconnect...how they include....DNR.

Note taker: I told RC we couldn't hear. He answered: "I' not talking to you. I'm talking to Sheilah."

Person from audience: "But this is a public meeting." Said we couldn't hear.

RC: I'm sorry. You can move up. Not to front table . To front row. (We move up one row to front.)

RC: We are talking about what happened at the Quad County meeting. All the things that we had with fires. All the things that have a disconnect.....

Asks person in audience who she is (Sharon.) Greets her.

SK - Re VSP, If they wanted county participation they wouldn't be having a meeting right now.

Executive Session

Lanie - Something about executive session. I see Sandy Mackie go by the door outside just then.

Lanie on phone. Calls for Perry. Could you send him back? We need him for an executive session.

Power was out

SK - Maurice talked with me yesterday about power outages . Said he'd keep her posted, heard nothing else.

RC - My power was out, I heard nothing else. More whispering. It's going to be awhile.

SK - talks about storm. It was a weird storm.

Tanya (Deputy Clerk) comes from back offices to talk.

Executive Session

SK - moves to go into exec session re performance of a public employee. Invites Perry , Clerk, Deputy Clerk.

They adjourn. 12:17.

DT: Returned from exec session at 12:32. No decisions were made.

They continue sitting there.

RC whispers again. Sheilah laughs, speaks audibly. You were out of power since Saturday?

RC starts to leave. No one adjourns.

Cattle Guards

RC whispers something about issue of cattle guards. We are in the hands of...(water machine comes on , so cannot hear.)

SK - does the city own cattle guards?

RC mumbles"After lunch." and leaves.

END

Dec 7, 2015 commissioners' meeting notes 1:30-4pm

Commissioners went into a 10 min executive session with PH and attorney to discuss upcoming litigation.

SK - Sheila Kennedy, Commissioner District 1

RC - Ray Campbell, Commissioner District 2

JD - Jim Detro, Commissioner District 3

PH - Perry Huston - County Planner and Administrative (Director?)

Voluntary Stewardship Program:

Long term Conservation District. Discussion on whether to participate. Commissioners want to have it but have lots of reservations. PH & Ben will attend a Dec 21 training session for county administrators about the Conservation District to be held in Moses Lake. A SEPA will be required as part of the documentation for the application to join the state's program for Conservation Districts. Discussion about who should do the SEPA. Apparently the county should not do it; it should be independently done through a contract. Who would be the county's partner agency? There is no exemption from the SEPA, but the process is not clear, must come from a public entity.

SK - County not supposed to approve it so must issue a Request For Proposals /contract.

PH - County can have an interagency agreement to complete this requirement. Discussion about who will be the lead agency. PH - If conservation district acts as lead, they can be responsible for the SEPA, this would be good for the county.

SK- Thurston and Chelan county are farther along in planning but have not submitted their draft to state. SK - If this is still a pilot project, why aren't more questions already answered? She is not willing to OK it without more clarification.

PH - if we are moving forward, we have to issue a contract and complete an inter-agency agreement between county and other agency, with compliance and project requirements in the agreement. Legal counsel vacillates on answering questions because this meeting is public.

Craig Nelson and Ben discussed their view and interest in being part of this new program.

Craig - this is a new and unusual issue/project because the state is not using its traditional processes, not much is clarified because of state's desire to make this much different than previous similar types of supported conservation activities. Deadline for application submission is Dec 23 to sign a contract with the state to be involved. Craig - his organization wants the county to be on board before they agree to move forward.

Clarke County/Quad County/ Fish and Wildlife topic. Brief 3 min. talk Once again coordination is a part of Quad County discussion. SEPA process on Columbia River.

Forest Service Coordination response. PH has sent letter to Forest Service and had no reply about better or different coordination than last summer. Discussion about adding legal counsel's name to bottom on 2nd letter and request for response. Certifying letter, etc., etc.

JD - wants a deadline for relief to ranchers. Permittee ranchers who butt up against national forest want FS to fence out grazing cattle from coming onto their private property. Apparently this is the private landowner's responsibility? RC thinks county has the responsibility to keep cattle off private land. Legal analysis on this position needs to be done . Rancher anecdotes - ranchers' lands were back burned after fire was put out around them without their consent.

Forest Management Plan. Forest Service/Okanogan County letter. County requested Forest Service input on forest management. Forest Service went out for input to their own sources and didn't use any of the county's resources. Discussion included ATVs and snow mobiles.

Administrative issues. Ben presented rough budget for remodeling one of the county buildings and costs for an addition to that building (name not mentioned). Remodeling cost would be \$40 K; addition would be \$48 K. Total of about \$100 K with 5% increase over time to start the process. Zimmerman developed the budget costs. Discussion about coordination with central services, installation of internet/new network hook up not in the budget costs. Discussion deferred to next meeting for Q&A from commissioners.

Another budget discussion, not listed in agenda -

PH called up "Chief". He did have a gun in a holster so he is probably the county sheriff chief. The budget and discussion was about upgraded communications county-wide, I think. State legislature gave county money for Carlton Complex Fire, \$400 K to county commissions to distribute and \$1.2 M for disaster reimbursement to be paid out within 30 days. First \$400 K for county will go to microwave equipment, stations in Twisp (McClure?) and one other (Ferry County?). Tunk power line is finished. Border patrol have to pay a portion of this cost but are vacillating. 2016 local budget coordinated between H, Chief and ? Emphasis on communication center - space analysis, IT, costs for a 20 year planning and operating window, design, finance.

Capital Facilities. Jail improvements are in the capital expenditures line item

DES letter. PH - no response from DES.

SK - it has been 30 days since their last response.

County's new fire strategy discussion. PH uses flip chart to diagram "Initial Response". All of the following falls under WA state RCW 4343960, state mobilization regulations

- 1) Fire response - policy statement, DNR wild fires will be suppressed. This requires legislative action and change in policy and attitude. Signal to DNR and fire agencies. This is fire suppression.
- 2) Coordination - state and feds thru code make effort to comply with this new policy
- 3) Creation of state fund for fire suppression. Fund is only available if there is a fire and the money goes to the county for the initial response (usually defined as first 12-24 hours of a fire's beginning). County distributes fund monies to a vetted list of local resources (local fire departments, smoke jumpers, equipment owners, etc.). Local resources could be vetted by fire departments or similar qualified orgs. Funds are only for the additional financial support the county needs to fight the fire until the inter-agency firefighters show up.
- 4) A local expert will be used as part of the inter-agency firefighting team. Commissioners and ranchers feel these teams did not listen to the locals in the last fires.

This initial response strategy will also require parallel new policy language thru DNR. Next step is PH to draft Initial Response Plan so commissioners can generate and propose amendments to state language to incorporate this strategy. Discussion on whether fire department training should be part of state fire suppression fund. PH thinks this pot of money is most likely to be adopted if it is only for one use, not a catch all for other related costs. DNR has provides training to fire fighters and may be able to broaden their scope of people eligible for their training.

Landowner Wildfire Protection Act. What can a landowner do to protect his property when there is a wildfire? Ed Lewis, Deputy Director of Emergency Management for Spokane County has lots of background on this and could give a presentation to the commissioners in the future. Commissioners asked PH to schedule it.

Methow Trails and Methow Trailhead discussion: presentation in re Walt Foster easements. Weather prevented attendance and note-taking.

END