

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
December 28, 2016

**Present:**

Jim DeTro - JD, BOCC  
Ray Campbell - RC, BOCC  
Sheilah Kennedy - SK, BOCC  
Josh Thomson - JT, County Engineer  
Lael Duncan, Community Action, (and others working with homelessness, including Nancy Nash-Mendez)

**Content:** Continued Public Hearing on speed limit changes for W. Chewuch road and Gold Creek Loop Road from 50 mph to 35 mph.

**11:00 - Continued Public Hearing, W. Chewuch Speed Limit**

Staff report:

**JT:** Recommends mile 5.300 to end of road (6.773) be lowered to 35 mph. Middle section is consistent with other roads at 50 mph. Keep it that way.

Hearing Open to Board

RC - Concurs with engineer's finding.

SK - Mostly along the line of safety?

JT- yes.

SK - It was said we were considering because of ATV's. Am I right?

JT - Yes

SK - thank you.

RC - This was brought to my attention by a citizen due to an accident there, not because anyone wants to use for ATV's. I would move to approve 2016-7 and a 35 mph speed limit on this section of road.

SK - Mileposts correct on ordinance? (Lanie checking. )

RC - No.

SK - With correction, seconds motion to approve 2016-7  
Approved. No dissention.

JD - Public hearing closed. 11:06.

RC - Next hearing at 11:30.

## **Community Action/Homeless**

JD - invites Lael Duncan's group to come back up. *Lael Duncan (Community Action) is not able to be there, since her morning is booked up and she had to leave when the previous public meetings was held.*

SK - Does everyone have a copy of the agreement I'm referring to? One person says yes.

Woman on end of table near Jim DeTro: Contract bet. Ok county and Community Action. I and no idea it had not been updated in 12 years. Kind of continued through the years. I know Community Action has an audit. Not sure if audits are shared with you. I can share with all the contractors.

LJ - There is a requirement in some of the other contracts the county has required that all contract audits be supplied to county. I agree it needs to be updated. Community Action has done excellent job of distributing funds. Apts in Twisp and others - remodeled using those funds. I agree...

SK - I want the record to be clear. I am not saying anyone has done anything wrong. But any time the county has responsibility with state and county auditors, it is opening every one up to mistakes, so I am not saying anyone did anything wrong. Needs to be clean and clear enough, though. We have another committee, the LTAC - submits requests right to county. So that is another part of the discussions. Since everyone on the coalition applies for funding and everyone on that board is approving funding, Now that funding is building up and we have several opportunities for funding, should we talk about changing that?

Should the requests come before board of commissioners and we approve? That way, the housing is here, the responsibilities are here. If there is an emergency that comes up, it would take less than a week where you'd be able to get approval from emergency funding. I was surprised \$20 some thousand with the supporting invoice not coming in, just requesting a certain amt. We have nothing to help back up why the figures are the way they are - other than the outdated contract. It opens up - is it being housed? invested? is there (??) trying to get things back in a row? All of this is accountability. I'm not saying anyone is doing something wrong.

Woman on end of table - this should be up to commissioners as to how they want to work this.

This year, going through Community Action...I'm in the same situation where I have 25,000 and must show where it is spent. More difficult than to bill someone monthly.

Another woman (Nancy Nash Mendez of HUD?) My fund. Historically, my agency has not been..... we are looking forward ...(no mic. Too hard to hear. Soft voice. Lenders are always looking for a local match. If you have not driven by, it is beautiful. Those are the matching dollars we need, so that when the ethos goes to the next step they will have that .

Young woman with black hair Reality is that....(too quick and fast to hear.) She seems to represent Methow Valley. First project is affordable housing. We have no emergency shelter in the Methow either. Good opportunity to have some funding for long term. Mendez (?) clarifies - emergency shelter.

If we distribute for good work,,,,.....Originally set up for quarterly reports.

JD - It's a missing link that needs to be fixed. Auditors always look for this.

RC - when you do year end report.....(mumbles, can't hear.)

JD - Only talking about updates and compliance.

Nash-Mendez - having the chance to meet with you quarterly has been very helpful.

SK - Helps us so this board has good reputation with state level folks. With these quarterly meetings at least, we get info so we can provide the info rather than saying we will get back to you. So the quarterly reports are important.

N.M - We have been working with churches. We have a church per week that will open their doors. We help between 3-6 homeless every night. Those funds can be used on local terms...

SK - But homeless funds can be used for homeless like this, but also for for the Methow. We will have funds for short term.

SK - Concerned that (reads a sentence) ...has no introduction to bring the Methow on in this updated contract. Woman at end of table - those were the people providing shelter.

SK - Since 2004, we are growing.

End - Lael talked also about people in Grand Coulee.....

SK - and the tribe. We have partners we are not recognizing and we need to be able to do that. We will need to decide as a board and new board coming in, do we want to update the contract? Our legal folks have provided us with some suggestions in keeping this up to date. Do we want to have a contract where it determines who gets what funding, or do we want to take it as a board so it's more neutral?

Woman at end of table - No problem with the way it is now. Can can get me the money very quickly.

SK - Would there be a problem if the funds were housed by the county, and the recommendation came to the commissioners? Even in an emergency situation, we have mechanisms by which we could get funds to you very quickly

RC - but how would this work with the matching funds that are utilized? Sounds like these are part of the ground application.

SK - All we would do is house the funds.

N - M: - We...(hard to follow.) Partners do not know where that \$\$ is housed.

SK - That might be a solution because when our auditor gets our reports, it matches up with what we have. Our treasurer and auditor was surprised at that total because we list cash on hand,,,,,etc.

Woman at end of table - explains. Hard to follow.

Another woman, at left side of group sitting facing forward - I understand the concern and where things got fuzzy. Is there some sort of action you are expecting the coalition to take before the end of the year?

SK - It was just last week....

And I understand.

SK - Became relevant that we actually had \$208,000 that was not housed here at the county. People were wondering. May appear this was at the last minute, but it was just brought to our attention.

RC - questions come up at treasurer's meetings, etc which we attend.

SK - Cash we review on a monthly basis. Says affordable house has \$20 some thousand.

LJ - Nothing to indicate how...

.SK - No plan for that. If housed here, we could tell auditor that this is how we used the money - can show them the plan for the Coalition as to how they are trying to save. Then we could show them an actual plan.

Young woman with black hair (from Methow - ?) Affordable housing very poor across the county, state, nation, etc.

SK - You are the front line, helping us figure out how that \$\$ is collected, etc. The two fire disasters - from these it has complicated an already bad situation.

Woman on end - on spreadsheet, has....\$25,000, which would come to us directly from Community Action. Then it has \$27,500 from homeless funds which would come from county. How would this be different if you changed it so that Community Action is not....would I have two contracts with the county?

SK - It is 2 funding levels. Only difference is that the Coalition would approve the funding they get. Then an invoice would be sent.....

LJ - Process would be similar to homeless housing process. Invoicing could proceed with proper documentation. What complicates it - when we get spreadsheet, it also includes funds from Affordable Housing as if the BOCC has already approved.

JD - It's a big "no-no" to have one fund benefitting . Need to clarify.

SK - Something that truly does need to be cleaned up and cleared up. When/if there is another issue of mixing and billing, we jeopardize the longevity of those funds, which we do not want to do.

Woman at end: - Emergency shelter grant has been cut to almost nothing. It's one reason we asked for more from these funds for shelters. Homeless people are homeless for lack of funds. You are looking at many children being affected by this. We could not do without this. When state emergency shelter funds are cut ... it's terrible.

Woman with black hair - We helped 11 families this year in the Methow. All 11 families are still in their homes when they had already been evicted.

SK - You are all doing such good things, but without the quarterly reports, we can share with legislators and the state...this is what we used to provide, and this is what we can do now. They need to hear this in Olympia.

JD - We have another public hearing now. Thank you. (Thank you's all around.)

### **Continued Public Hearing: Gold Creek Loop Road Speed limit.**

Josh - Recommends changing from 50 to 35 mph on the whole Loop. Based on narrowness, short corners, rock cliffs overhanging road, so on.

SK - Have there been accidents?

J - No documented accidents in last 6 years.

JD - Thank you. Ends staff report.

Board deliberations:

RC - This is one I asked Josh to look at. I've been concerned about this for a long time, with cars going by at 50 mph at my place - we have livestock, dogs, kids. And it's the safest part of the road too. So it's indicated we have properties all the way through there. We have a portion along the river bank with a one lane road. I'm glad that we have reviewed it.

SK - Is this road ever used for a detour route from the highway (153)?

RC - Used when there have been ..... Flood in 70's out of Cow Creek. They are working on bridge this year too. Yes, it has been used for a time.

SK - So it would benefit safety when cases like this occur.

RC - Would move to approve.2016-6 for Speed limit change as specified.

JD - Moved, seconded, approved.

*(Posting of signs to clarify that ATV's are not allowed along those blind curves on this road even though the road is now 35 mph, requested last week by landowner who travels the road, was not discussed.*

11:35. END OF HEARING ON GOLD CK.

Note Taker leaves.