

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
Feb. 5, 2019**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)
David Gecas – DG (Civil Att.)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)
Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events)

Debi Hilts – DH (HR)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)
Perry Huston – PH (Planning)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)
Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)
Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)
Tony Hawley – TH (Sheriff)

Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker.

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Summary: Planning & Admin: Champerty Shores, Legislation on increasing communication tax, WRIA 49, **Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance:** Proline to cut concrete jail floor, Bids for jail/admin sewer repair, Adequate heat in the Agriplex, Arena tear down, Removal of 4 big cotton woods, **Civil Attorney:** GT about TV District progress and issues, Nespelem property, Exec Session @ 9:55 on pending litigation, **HR & Risk Management:** Panic Button” system, Capital Improvements, **Public Works:** Fiber/T1 line from Admin to Public Works building, **SW & Admin:** New Office Mgr, SW Grant, **Engineering: Maintenance & Roads,** Elmway Levee, Riverside Levee, Similkameen Trail, Discussion with BOCC on funding from OCOG, **Public Comment:** Okanogan TV District, Phone in comments, **Emergency Services:** public health issue of measles, ice dam, **WSU job re-classification, Discussion of salary / wages of various County positions**

9:05 JD, CB & AH. Staff: LJ, PH, DG, SC, later JP.

PH (Planning & Admin)

- Has received a response from **Champerty Shores**. They have new board members, are re-organized and made contact with PH. Re-starting talks on the sewer project. Currently only one resident is a permanent resident and available.

SC (Fair Events)

- **FAC meeting** Thursday next week, at Jones Hall
- Trying to decide on how to redo the **Annex floor**
- **Website** is basically done and updated for this year’s Fair
- AH – North 40 has **cattle ear tags** on sale, could look into some for the Fair
- SC concerned about having a **backup** for her in case she need to be gone for a while. Daughter is ill. But it is important for someone to be able to pick up in case SC needs to be gone – illness, emergency, vacation are examples. BOCC supports and will work on the issue.
- JD – **Agriplex staying warm?** There is a big event there now and upcoming. SC – yes, except when previous group had the big door open when setting up.

PH

- **Legislation on increasing communication tax** would be authorized in a levy. Could provide additional funds if passed locally. Does BOCC want to comment? Yes, doesn't see any local legislator on the sponsor list, JD felt there was local legislator support.
 - o Will work with **Mike Worden on wording of the comment.**
 - o CB will meet next week with legislators in Olympia. Will work to make sure share BOCC position.
 - o AH wants to have a resolution on results of possible increases at various levels of a proposed communication tax so people can see the impacts on what can be done and costs per 1000 valuation.
- **WRIA 49** wants a specific seating arrangement for the Thursday night meeting. They have preliminary language for SOP for the process
 - o **County required to charge** for new planning applications by DOE - \$500, \$350 goes to state for the process. There is not a procedure as of yet for transmitting the state portion. Wants BOCC to be aware in case there is push back for not sending the state funds.
 - o AH asks about **mitigation goals for water availability.** PH – wants a broad brush approach not specifics. AH has a surface water issue in the Methow, while WRIA 49 is directed toward ground water as well as adequate surface flow. Timing of melt/rain during the year passes through the drainage. PH want to try to put on a quality expert presentation.
 - o AH – **Possible metering on new wells?** Any concern over metering of old wells brings up concern about taxation. PH – also a concern that money from taxing water from exempt wells would allow DOE to be independent from legislature oversight. There is no effort or plan to do either taxation but the fear is the concern.

JP (Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance)

- Called **Proline to cut concrete jail floor** to get to blockage. Working on it now – hopes to done today.
- Concrete on one **walkway bridge into courthouse** has delaminated from rebar, needs complete replacement. Discussion of replacement possibilities and need to inspect all walkway bridges for similar problem. The span is 7 ft. and could be an easy precast drop in replacement.
- **All bids should be in for jail/admin sewer repair.** LJ – best to schedule a bid opening for the repairs to make it official.
- JD – had asked SC about **adequate heat in the Agriplex** and SC said it was OK. JP – there is a portable propane heater available as a backup as needed.
- SP: If a Swap Meet or other revenue generating event for the Fair is held at the Agriplex would the funds go directly to the Fair or facility? AH – no goes to the general fund but there could be a comparable raise in the Fair budget for facilities. BOCC controls.
- JP: **Arena tear down?** Ah – will get all documents from PH on the PVC install. Needs specs on installation, check clearance on light poles. Then JP can take the tractor over and start the tear down. AH – be sure to reserve any wood/materials that could have re-use value. Also look to save cost wherever possible. AH hopes to have all prelims done by the end of the week
- **Removal of 4 big cotton woods** are by the propane tank, a well and a transformer, considers problematic. Wants to remove all 4.

DG (Civil Attorney)

- Will want an Exec session to bring CB up to speed from Monday meeting. One new property tax foreclosure issue, likely an upcoming court case, plus the ongoing similar case and French Creek case.
- **Talking with GT about TV District progress and issues**
- Working on a **contract with MW (Dispatch)** about monitoring Enloe Dam.
- Preparing a draft resolution on **selling Nespelem property** that did not sell at auction. Needing to get at least the minimum value that was at the auction. Will hold up on the final resolution until money is deposited with County then bring the resolution.
- **Exec Session @ 9:55 on pending litigation** – 2 property foreclosure, French Creek and 1 other. 30 minutes. Ends at 9:34. No decisions.

TC (HR & Risk Management)

- Current “**Panic Button**” system in need of repair and expansion in Courthouse. The current system is obsolete, not capable of expansion and vendor no longer has replacement parts. Only place for parts is via E-Bay for used. WAVE (Vendor) was asked about an update – roughly \$16,000 and there are various options. “Walt” is working on this, want an OK to continue research. CB Oks as this is a security issue and continue doing research. TC does not know of a possible source of funds in the budget. Ensuing conversation on possible budget lines that would support the need. Outside of current Trial Construction Improvement Fund – would sacrifice other needs. AH – possible Safety budget? TC – Courts have asked for new features that exceed the current scope of the Panic Button, so not strictly a replacement but an upgrade. “Walt” is going to come down to explain details.
- TC discussed infrastructure needed to be upgraded.
 - o Walt – Court wants more buttons, reprogramming. 2014 the current system was discontinued and no long supported from Vendor – no replacements. Also can’t expand the number of buttons due to limitations of the current system even if could get parts. Buttons send a RF message to a relay or central dispatch directly and Dispatch triggers an audio alarm. Each button sends a code that identifies its exact location – that feature is not working anymore. CB – one comment is to shop for competitors that have a long product life. Walt – tech changes are now fast to ensure a very long life – maybe 10 years is best to be expected. Not bad stuff, just vendor no longer supports and is outlived. All money issues. Options for IP based for using internet. AH sees full wireless company with a quick internet search that will respond via phone? Walt – no problem with current vendor but could look to a wider variety of suppliers. AH – need to look outside of current vendor, call other counties and see what is going on. Look for lower costs. TC goal was to start conversation.
 - o Looking at capital expenditure document – a possible source for funding is REET (Real Estate Excise Tax). Due to size of fund balance @ REET more reasonable source.
 - o Will need three bids on a panic button system regardless
 - o Possible ability to have a mixture of physical and virtual buttons as needed. TC will press ahead.
- Current **Capital Improvements** ended in 2018. This was brought up last week and needs to be redone
- Walt – no shortage of possible vendors

Public Works (BR & JT)

- **Fiber/T1 line from Admin to Public Works building** is down and needs to be replaced on an emergency basis. Need to get a quote – NCI is at \$20,000 – might be a sole source issue but

needs to be looked into. Out of town vendors would charge a lot more due to travel. Central Services has tried to get current line up but not successful. The line carries phone, email, network and internet. Simply not workable as is.

- Can have a temporary working line through PUD fiber at \$1200 plus \$180 per month while installing any new line. Getting a new circuit would take maybe 2 months.
 - There is little recourse at this time – is weather related. The short term cost is within the Public Works budget. The large sum would be a capital upgrade of at least \$21,000. Long term question is if County wants to keep building. This line would only be of use to County as it would directly connect to main network and not the outside.
 - Will look at wireless point to point that is used already in a few cases but this building uses a much larger bandwidth and may not support need. Need to investigate but not likely.
 - CB wants to move ahead now. Need to consider if most cost effective to pay monthly fee of \$180, or pay big fee of \$21,000 (8.3 years for break even on cost). No one in the area has the equipment to diagnose where the problem is in the current line. Probably was an issue in the original install as the problem has cropped up since the beginning.
 - JT work/need is trending to more and more bandwidth need as tech usage increases
 - Leaning towards a County line not using PUD long term as the capacity of a PUD line would have a much high cost as the bandwidth increases.
- **BR (SW & Admin)**
 - Fiber line – see above
 - **New Office Mgr** – Present to BOCC for authorization, wants to have on the Consent Agenda for next week. Will hold off on another position and monitor the workload.
 - **SW Grant** – OK, Special money from the legislature for chipper & heat source for Apple Maggot mitigation
 - **JT (Engineering)**
 - **Maintenance & Roads** – ice and veg control, no wind issues
 - Network for Public Works – see notes above
 - **Elmway Levee** – moving forward, waiting on the title reports
 - **Riverside Levee** – still playing phone tag. JD will contact Jason Hubbard.
 - **Similkameen Trail** – will be on the agenda until a decision on monitoring the trail and bridge.
 - **Discussion with BOCC on funding from OCOG** (Okanogan Council of Governments) of RTPPO (Regional Transportation Planning Organization?) funds. Concerns funding to County for work on behalf of OCOG. Making priorities for funding. Possible tying up of County resources for non-County projects. Funding for some County Public Works capital projects difficult under current process. Difficult to find grants to build shops to replace older, outdated regional shops.

1:30 Public Comment

- GT reported on recent efforts in the **Okanogan TV District**. Two new TV Board members have been appointed – Ernest Rasmussen & Marcus Alden. The District now has a full contingent of Board members. Efforts are being made to secure a legal lease on Omak Mtn. When finalized that will allow the next step of installing new equipment on the mountain. This will restore full power to the transmission and bring all the old channels back on line. The delay will also depend on weather and access to the summit of Omak Mtn.
- GT also spoke on behalf of a **proposal to allow phone in comments during Public Comment period**.

MG (Emergency Services)

- Reported on **public health issue of measles**, none now in Okanogan County but Public Health is keeping vigilant
- As of Monday night there was an **ice dam at the mouth of the Okanogan River at Lake Osoyoos**. The lake had risen 1.5 feet before the regulation dams in Canada were moved to lessen the water coming down the river. The situation is now stabilized, the water level is below flood level and the situation is being investigated.
- Asking about BOCC action on salary. Wait and see.

2:00 WSU job re-classification. Kayla Wells-Moses (WSU Extension)

- Presented on reclassification of current office secretary to Office Manager to better match current duties. Provided a rewrite of the job description that matches those duties. KWM provided a cost analysis of the potential wage changes. Also a comparison of other counties with similar positions all receiving more than Okanogan County position.
- AH – auditor is looking at the numbers on this and 5 other requests.
- Does not cover a 1% wage increase for local 4H position mandated by WSU. KWM has written/communicated to WSU 4H – waiting on a response.

Discussion of salary / wages of various County positions. Looking, at longevity, job description and work load. Includes Extension position, Asst. Weed, Emergency and others.

2:50 Notetaker leaves for another meeting.

Consent agenda to follow.