

**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 Gechas – 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:** **Civil Attorney:** Nespelem property sale, Call from the Auditor, Response to lawsuit, TV District, costs of Tonasket recall, **Fair Events:** FAC meeting last Thursday, Hort Assn., Sunrise RV, **Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance:** Jail kitchen drain fixed, Thermostat in Agriplex Annex stove, Colors for painting, Floor drain, **Admin & Planning:** 2 bills - affordable housing & timeline for permitting, Road signage, Airport Development, Possible apple maggot catches, **Treasurer:** Home taxes, Treasurer's Conference, Back-entrance bridge, Tax statements going out soon, Champerty shores taxing district, TV District, **Auditor's Office:** Ballot boxes, Voter Registration drives, Tonasket Mayor recall, Ballot bills, Open position in Auditor's office, **Public Works:** Liquid Asphalt bid, New apple maggot, Soil Stabilizer bid, Surface Water problem, **Public Health:** Citizen's Comments: NVH losing OB services, Process of permitting an OTA, Maternal & Childhood grant, Community Health, Environmental Health, **BOCC:** Juvenile Sewer repair bids, HR & Risk Management, **Emergency:** Report on Water problem, **Emerging Opportunity Grants**

JD, CB present, AH snowed in on West side. DG, SC & PH present

**DG (Civil Attorney)**

- **Nespelem property sale** – family member of deceased owner interested in purchase. Has deposited funds with Treasurer. DG has prepared a resolution for BOCC approval. Resolution approved.
- **Call from the Auditor.** Some residents of Tonasket are inquiring about recall procedures for their current mayor. DG has researched and feels he now knows the process and has discussed with the Auditor and the Tonasket resident. Steps 1) Initial filing of petition, 2) Ballot proposition written, 3) Court hearing to determine sufficiency, 4) If ruled sufficient – possible appeal, 5) In no appeal or has a Court upholding then signature gathering begins, 6) Need 35% of total voters in election of the mayor for revote, 7) Time limits for process.
- **Response to lawsuit,** Risk Pool has Oked DG to proceed. If need outside attorney Risk Pool would cover costs. Discussion of process, 14 days to respond after filing. Property foreclosure case.

- **TV District** – has contacted CCT Attorney, exchanging correspondence. Also to KSPS about upgrading of facilities. Trying to find cost of needed upgrades. Possible to meet later to go over details.
- JD – who would cover **costs of Tonasket recall** if it goes ahead? DG – doesn't know and is doing research. There have been recalls in nearby communities – Bridgeport & Coulee City. Will look into. Might be as much as \$8000 for recall election.

#### SC (Fair Events)

- SC has been in “hibernation” the last 4 days. Has been ill and the weather have been interfering.
- **FAC meeting last Thursday**. One person wants the minutes more available, asked for them to be read out loud at the meeting. Working on getting the minutes posted to the website.
- Visiting Stampede Royalty have traditionally stayed at Fair Grounds RV park. The cost has been paid by a donor. This year the donor was hesitant to pay fees but has now decided to help out again.
- **Hort Assn.** reported that they were satisfied with Agriplex usage. It was warm enough during the cold spell, and it was good for them to follow up after NW Wholesale usage. Some confusion with portable heater usage that needs to be followed up and addressed.
- **Sunrise RV** is putting on a RV display on the weekend and has moved in already as no usage during the week. PH – wants to remind Sunrise of damage done to the large rollup entry door from last year.

#### JP (Admin & Fair Grounds Maintenance)

- **Jail kitchen drain fixed** – worked like clock work
- Elevator inspection – some water in the main elevator room. Metal roof needs repair. Have contacted Mallet Sheetmetal to do the work.
- Kyle (Fair Grounds) working on the **thermostat in the Agriplex Annex**. Very old, 1989, GE model. No longer able to get parts. Warped grill also, needs some deep cleaning. Suggestion to use white wine on a preheated grill.
- Trying to match **colors for painting** – found a neutral whitish color.
- Need to install a **floor drain** for a mop bucket. Maybe \$300 if Maintenance able to do the work. Has a place to install. This would make a much more convenient for customers.

#### PH (Admin & Planning)

- **2 bills** in the legislatures. One on **affordable housing** – looks good generally but over simplified, needs to cover more details. Currently would apply to GMA Counties, could be extended to all Counties.
- Another bill on shrinking the **timeline for permitting**, probable able to meet in put in place if extended beyond GMA Counties.
- JT & PH have just started discussing **road signage**. What they look like, standards and such.
- Other than that will be looking at Nightly Rentals (OTA – Overnight Transient Accommodations). Some issues raised in article supplied by GT. Reviewing some of the issues.
- CB – **Airport Development**. Omak Council might want to do the same process as Tonasket Airport. Planning is planning to do the Brewster Airport then Omak.
- JD to DG: Concern over the 10 mile setback in the Cannabis Ordinance. The recent Federal Ag Bill made Hemp growing a normal ag. product. This would conflict with County Right to Farm status. Planning Commission Board has asked the BOCC to consider this issue and give direction. PH agrees this is a problem as is written and needs attention. DG – If it is a complaint some people might be using this conflict as a tactic against Cannabis industry.

- Possibly hemp being grown on CCT lands on experimental basis. Need to check current status.
- Right to Farm defends normal and usual practices. Unsure if it would apply to a new production or operation.
- JD – a couple of **possible apple maggot catches** in Oroville area. If verified would greatly change issue with Methow maggot quarantine.

#### 10:00 LM (Treasurer)

- Some **home taxes** have gone down compared to 2018 - McCleary consequence. No one knows about 2020 hard to say. Feels good about this years – may not hold.
- Relating booking issues at Sun Mtn. and nearby for an early summer **Treasurer's Conference**. LM is arranging the event for the state organization. Will arrive June 10th and leave the following Friday. Has made done a lot of planning. Sessions on tax foreclosure, mobile homes, investments, macroeconomics, ethics, investments and more. Have about 120 people so far with a waiting list. Looking forward to a really good conference. Discussion of the other various locations where conferences have been held. Sun Mtn. completely filled with overflows to Paterson Lake Cabins and another location in Winthrop.
- Treasurer's Office has a **back-entrance bridge** that has cracks and unsound. Doesn't really need the usage of that bridge. Would not miss it if taken out instead of being repaired or replaced.
- **Tax statements going out soon**. Friday or early next week.
- PH – **Champerty shores taxing district** for sewer connection is in process
- County tax has actually gone down – other assessments may have increased.
- **TV District** – is going to bill. Treasurer objects to fielding a lot of calls when from users. Users have very limited service and complain about situation. TV District is working hard to remedy the situation but needs to communicate with the general public and provide a formal statement for usage by the Treasurer's Office.

#### Ch (Auditor's Office)

- CB – **ballot boxes** on reservation? CH – has to have a secure installation as required by the State, CH is working on this. Feels CCT can put them wherever they prefer. Has sent a bill for costs to the State to cover installation, maintenance and other upkeep during elections. CH wants to install more boxes where not currently available. Does not need to be at a governmental location but needs to be easily accessible. CB invited Auditor accompany him to next CCT Community Development meeting for a discussion on official ballot boxes.
- CH wants to look at **Voter Registration drives**. A bill in legislature right now. CH wants to get ahead of the situation.
- Did get a call on a possible **Tonasket Mayor recall**. Reviewed of the discussion with DG form earlier. Does not know who is responsible for paying for a cost. Will inform BOCC & DG as soon as they have an answer.
- **Ballot bills**, watching 6 bills right now. One would require County to put on the due date outside of the envelope. This would require up to 12 separate envelope printings. This would be a greatly added cost as there is a price break for volume and would make a lot of smaller printings. Another bill, would have some voting dates consolidated where they overlap between the mailings and due date. Another on streamlining reports to State – in some situations the detail of reports would endanger anonymity of the voter. Can't consolidate precincts for reporting purposes even when a very small number of actual voters. A positive is that votes are not subject to FOIA laws.
- Did AH discuss filling of an **open position in Auditor's office**? Really needs a decision due to workload and allocation of work. AH will not be able to make it in today due to conditions.

## 11:00 JT & BR (**Public Works**)

- **Liquid Asphalt bid** opening. Idaho Asphalt apparent low bidder - \$1,023,029.06 for a variety of mixtures for different purposes. Will send the bids to engineer for examination and recommendations.
- Discussion of **new apple maggot** finds in the Oroville area and the possible impact on current plans for the Methow Quarantine order. There will be a meeting on Feb. 28 on the apple maggot in Yakima.
- **Soil Stabilizer bid** opening. Environment Services out of Greeley, CO apparent low bid at \$180,914.46. Will send the bids to engineer for examination and recommendations.
- **Involved Surface Water problem** – North of Mid Valley Hospital a natural spring is overflowing and creating a minor glacier and threatening homes and roads. One resident is deeply engaged in trying to divert and control. Asking for County involvement. Various efforts and possibilities discussed. MG (Emergency) asked to look into the problem.

## Lunch

## 1:30 Public Health

- **Citizen's Comments:**
  - o S. Bull – concerned about NVH losing OB services. History of seeing NVH having a OK enter. When in crisis Omak is too far relates personal family example of crisis.
  - o A. Gunn & Thomason from Pateros. Operate an OTA for family enterprises. Several concerns about process of permitting an OTA. Consider process expensive, cumbersome, has criminal penalties, little notice and opportunity to remediate. Works against entrepreneur endeavors overly restrictive. Sees some process difficulties that could sue over in code and permitting. SEPA not done correctly for process.
  - o Confluence not advertising for an OB in NVH area. Oroville clinic no more OB
  - o Confluence would need 2 more OBs with Caesarean ability to consider.
  - o OB delivery is a foundational service for keeping patients coming to a clinic. Patients tend to stay involved with that clinic or system.
- Approve Maternal Childhood grant.
- Approve Treasurer report
- Revenue good as food permits generally biller in the beginning of year and revenue coming in now.
- **Community Health:** Pertussis might be winding down - hard to tell as often unreported cases.
  - o No measles but any case would be a huge financial burden on Public Health. One unverified case being looked at. Okanogan Co. is ripe for an outbreak due to low percentage of vaccinations.
  - o Partnering with FHCs on Opioid Project.
  - o Very upset with OBHC dismissal of CEO. Great praise for his performance. JD – a great deal of concern across industry.
  - o 1 Flu death being investigated
- **Environmental Health:** Discussion on Construction requirements on OTA (Overnight Transient Accommodations). Wants an advisory committee for revisions. Does BOCC want a representative? Cities?
  - o Got correspondence from an OTA customer – refers to railing regs for OTAs. Code calls for vertical railings while building code allows horizontal. Causing a conflict.
  - o IOD regulations (Inorganic Contaminates) – metals, chemicals – Harm generally needs long term exposure. One Board member sees Okanogan Co. is a high risk areas and needs

- to watch carefully. D. Hylton had tried to synchronize the two regs but Building did not amend to agree with Public Health.
- C. Andrews – Insurance inspections for an OTA will do a lot of the enforcement for the industry. Generally require an inspection each year.
- Thomason recommends using a plexiglass sheet on railings as a retrofit. Mentions a possible legal payout in a suit of up to 2.5 million, makes plexiglass cheap.

### 3:30 BOCC

- Looking at **Juvenile Sewer repair bids**. One is quite different in the extreme from the others – quite a bit lower. JD – need to heck with Civil Attorney about large discrepancy in bid.
  - Need to look into details of low bid
  - Two bids have specific details of repair project
  - Will need to co-ordinate with Juvenile and Admin as facilities will be shut down for the duration of the repair.
  - Call into the Civil Attorney regarding very low bid. Small works roster. DG will advise.
- TC (**HR & Risk Management**)
  - Met with A. Lyons of Noxious Weeds. Some positions need to be reclassified, seriously out of class. Hard to find comparable jobs in other Counties. Funds for reclassification already built into the Weeds budget.
  - JP working on a reclassification of Fair Facility position. AH had not finished an overall budget analysis for the impacts of several position additions and reclassifications. CH has sent data to AH. Item pulled from Consent Agenda until checked by AH.
  - Is meeting with SW over contract

### MG (Emergency)

- Has taken pictures from drone of water problem north of Mid Valley Hospital. Images in C Drive. This a natural flow, no human cause. Will put a temporary pipe in a catchment basin and direct water to drainage ditch. Omak City has the pipe and given OK to go ahead. Take a couple of people and put pipe together.

Economic Alliance – asking for financial support to build a website on **Emerging Opportunity Grants** coalition for NCW – called North Star Opportunity Zone. Includes Okanogan, Douglas, parts of Chelan and Wenatchee. Okanogan has 4 regions – two in CCT reservation, Pateros/Brewster and Tonasket areas. Economic Alliance will be submitting application. Many separate communities in the area. Investors would get capital gains waiver when investing funds into development. Development intended to help low income, poverty areas. Will also need to modify local Economic Alliance webpage to take advantage.

- County usually does a resolution
- Collaborative model of self-help is supported by Feds.
- One proposed project is a co-op Vet Tiny House development – work and communal garden and grounds would be involved.
- CB concerned that many of the investments in the past weren't getting to poverty areas.
- Smith & Nelson warehouse in Tonasket being re-envisioned as a "Pybus"-like, small business incubator.
- LJ – there are funds available to cover this request. CB moves to approve & have staff prepare a resolution. Approved at \$2500

3:45 Notetaker leaves for another obligation.