

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
Feb. 19, 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)
Randy Clough (Central Services)

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: Discussion on Wolf Advisory Committee call, Admin & Fair Maintenance: Sewer Bids concerning far lower bid, Repairing of bridge to Treasurer outside door, **Fair Events:** Propane refill process, **Civil Attorney:** Tonasket Mayor Recall, Contract with OBHC, French Creek case, Small Works Roster procedure, **Planning & Admin:** WRIA 49 update, **Finance Committee: Treasurer:** Cash on hand, Discussion of effects and process of closing SW fund, Residual, Current basis points, Revenue for February, State PILT, Champerty Shores bonds, **Auditor:** budget allocations to match current reality, filling open position, Added expense, handling of recent election, Bill sent to State for ballot boxes, **State Transportation Commission, Public Works:** Discussion of needed bridge replacements, Bid Openings, **Engineering:** Maintenance & Roads, Network Connection to PWorks Bldg, Yakima Nation coordination, 2019 Gravel Crushing, Hwy 7, Tonasket Bridge North, Riverside Levee, Similkameen Trail, **SW & Admin:** Computer Fiber Network, Apple Maggot Update, **Executive Session on purchasing of property, Public Comment:** KBTC - filming and interviewing of County Watch, Encourage BOCC to encourage citizen participation, Social Media consultant, **Central Services:** Fiber to Public Works Building, Temporary and long term fixes, 196 Fund Usage for Patrol Car Computer Upgrade, **Sheriff:** Financial Records Clerk, **Dave Greveling: Uncollected Funds & Finder's Fee, Miscellaneous Admin Business**

9:00 BOCC: JD, AH & CB present. Staff: PH, JP, SC & DG.

- AH – Relaying a **discussion on Wolf Advisory call** that has discussed removing grazing permits from some F & W lands to avoid wolf conflict. UW study using “Scat Dogs” hints at “a lot more” wolves. CB feels mere discussion of grazing on F & W lands to avoid conflict is in and of itself not a problem. Feels examining issues in a free discussion should not be avoided. AH feels F & W might have done more ground work before discussing.

JP (Admin & Fair Maintenance)

- **Sewer Bids concerning far lower bid** from last week's opening of bids. JD & DG discussing the low bid from last week being nearly half of any other. What level of questioning can BOCC

do to ensure completion of the project. LJ – County bid policy does allow not taking a lowest bid if the BOCC has a reasonable belief to support that decision.

- Ensuing discussion points: Does Small Works Roster require bid bond – doesn't appear so. CB – difficulty is in the bid policy for Small Works, it has weaknesses. Ah – working through a State online tool to decide eligibility and process to use a no bid process. If choose to use bid must follow proper procedure, can go to a minimal bid on a formal bid process. If minimal then can just get simple informal bid for projects or services less than \$40,000. This does not match current Okanogan County policy to be used. What to do?
- LJ - County policy does not cover a “service contract” so rely on RCW & MRSC guidelines.
- CB asking if DG can see if a County policy follows State Guidelines. Wants to have a sit down with the winning contractor to see if when given details of the contract they may “overlooked” something and want to withdraw bid. JP is to do this. DG to review RCW online tool AH reviews online tool.
- AH – does the use of the word “bid” in an ad force use of a formal bid process? Is asking for a Quote a better use of language or Competitive Quote better use of language. Looking at exact estimate provided vs. the description of the work needed and sees discrepancies. CB suggests it is better pathway to sit down with the contractor and go over demands of description of contract. JP is aware and will check with contractor.
- JP (Continued) Questions if a rooftop HVAC failure would fall under the previous discussion. Would be an upgrade as it would not be an identical replacement. Would need to call up possible supplier/installers than can perform and then get phone bids and bring to BOCC for approval (From Small works Roster?)
- LJ – Current policy does not cover well what “Public Works” defines and then leaves out language that State applies. A lot of gray areas and needs to be revised to make County policy easy to use and match State & MRSC guidelines. In common usage there is confusion between “Public Works” and what the “Public Works Department” does.
- CB - Define Bid Bond requirements, when cannot choose low bid under what circumstances. PH will work on it.
- JD – passes on that Treasurer would be OK with not **repairing bridge to outside door** at her office. Question if exit requires use for fire code. JP will need to check.

SC (Fair Events)

- **Propane refill process.** Call from propane supplier went to County admin. SC questions that it would best be through her as she is more aware of needs. AH – County has quotes for propane that are taken monthly due to fluctuations in pricing. Need to have a conversation with whoever gets the “call” and makes sure SC is in the loop. General rule is not to go below 20% on a tank. SC will work on the issue.

DG (Civil Attorney)

- Processing **Tonasket Mayor Recall** steps. DG has reviewed RCW and now up on steps. All papers have been delivered as needed. Needs Sheriff to process and return to Auditor. Right now just a matter of following steps. Next step would be to arrange a Hearing with a judge to rule on sufficiency of charges.
- **Contract with OBHC** – one part needs examination and an Exec session
- Same with **French Creek case**. More in Exec Session form Ms. Kuhler, Attorney. Will have a 1:45 Exec session.
- Any rewrite of the **Small Works Roster procedure**, JT (Public Works) would need to be involved.

PH (Planning & Admin)

- **WRIA 49 update.** Still waiting on hearing on funding. Meeting with DOE rep, Craig Nelson 0 OCD, GT – Working Group Chair & PH on Thursday. Operating procedures done and membership list is available. Preparing a presentation on buildable lands analysis for the March 7 meeting.

10:00 Finance Committee (Auditor & Treasurer)

- LM (Treasurer)
 - o **Cash on hand** almost 1.3 million, even though payroll is 1.2 million ensures that all is OK. Current Expense account is receiving funds on a regular basis and actually in good shape for January/February.
 - o **Discussion of effects and process of closing SW fund.**

10:15 JD receives a phone call and then leaves

Finance (Continued)

- o **Residual** – not a fund, but a collection of all “left over” money, a catch all at the discretion of the Treasurer for investment at best available return for the time period the funds are available.
- o **Current basis points** return is greater than budgeted amount – it is a positive for the County but fluctuations make this undependable, consider as a bonus but don’t rely on it continuing.
- o Discussion of **revenue for February** is not reflected until the end of the month.
- o AH – A bill has been filed that would affect **State PILT** (Payment In Lieu of Taxes). Currently Counties can opt to take either PILT or F & W Fines & Forfeitures. Bill would allow County to receive both. County would need to know what amounts are in question to comment on the bill. Currently it is difficult to predict State PILT. Difficult to budget as State funds PILT at different levels each year.
- o If **Champerty Shores bonds** the cost of connecting to the Eastlake System who pays the bill? CB – County Does no know what Champerty might do, wants PH & Treasurer to be involved in conversation.
- CH (Auditor)
 - o Brings up the need to work to get **budget allocations to match current reality** as progresses. Asking about **filling open position** and need to get work done in a timely fashion. Position would be about 85% in current expense allocation and 15% historic catchup. Licensing and Elections is another task. How to fund this position from different sources.

10:42 JD returns

- o **Added expense** this year due to changing over a variety of forms and documents from previous Auditor. Will try to keep under control but might need a supplemental.
- o Very happy about **handling of recent election**. Another small couple of elections coming up in April – Pateros & Lake Chelan (Small area in Okanogan County) school districts.
- o **Bill sent to State for ballot boxes**. CCT box in Admin Center but CCT could ask for other sites.

CB – **State Transportation Commission** will be in Okanogan County. Field trip to the Methow and East County. May 14 & 15. AH will have an opportunity to meet.

11:00 Public Works

- **Discussion of needed bridge replacements** – Omak City Bridge, Methow bridges, etc. JT – some bridges have creek/rivers are affecting the piers/foundations due to normal meandering of the currents.
- **Bid Openings**
 - o Slide in Water Tanks (3). Two bids. Apparent low for \$89,100 (No Tax) – Idaho firm
 - o Pickups. Apparent low is Jess Auto.
 - o Grader/Packer Roller: Only one bid at \$44,690.92 JT – within range.
 - o All low bids will go to Public Works for inspection and recommendations
- **JT (Engineering)**
 - o **Maintenance & Roads** – next week is predicted to be colder than normal. AH – need to look at a long term fix for surface water just north of Mid Valley Hospital. Omak City put in a temporary solution.
 - o **Network Connection to PWorks Bldg.** – Randy is working on options. A long time out & PWorks is losing productivity. Looking at a temporary link using Wireless. Central Services will present in PM.
 - o **Yakima Nation coordination** – Mazama Levee: looking at some sort of structure to restore water to flood plain, Mazama Suspension Bridge: Erosion around footings, maybe fish project by Tribe and will do some protection work. Beaver Creek Reach 5 Project: Upper end by “Lester”, no road impact, if anything will protect road.
 - o **2019 Gravel Crushing:** will put out to bid, looking at needs. Will do some at Green Acres pit.
 - o **Hwy 7, Tonasket Bridge North 2R** project – widening, overlay – all State funding so no match needed.
 - o **Riverside Levee:** got final go ahead with signature of person and now moving forward.
 - o **Similkameen Trail:** Reminder, need to find a way to fund monitoring
- **BR (SW & Admin)**
 - o **Computer Fiber Network** – see above
 - o **Apple Maggot Update** – WSDOE Grant: Not processed yet, interpreting process going on now. Clean Air & SW groups involved – might need to construct a large leachate protection system. Possibly \$100,000 cost if required. Will look at a temporary stockpiling in a gravel pit and then hauling to Central in winter. Methow group looking at a compost process. That group would want County to run the program but County cannot find a way to make such a program pencil out. Kent working with the group on issue.
- **Executive Session on purchasing of property**, gravel site. 10 minutes – JT, BR & BOCC. Done at 11:53

Lunch

1:30 Public Comment.

- **GT (County Watch & Citizen):** Inquiring about Tom Layson (**KBTC**) **filming and interviewing of County Watch** at BOCC. Possible BOCC participation. March 4. LJ – has already taken care of making arrangements for an interview room and passed all correspondence to Commissioners.
- **GT: Encourage BOCC to reach out and encourage citizen participation** – phone in opportunity for Citizen Comment Period and recognition of citizen involvement as appropriate.
- **CB** – Assoc. of Wash. Counties has hired a **Social Media consultant** and is working with Commissioners around the State and has offered a 1 hour consultation to each Commissioner on usage of Social Media.

1:49 **Executive Session: BOCC & DG. OBHC & French Creek** – contract and current litigation. 15 min., added 10 min. Return at 2:17

RC (Central Services)

- **Fiber circuit issue to Public Works Building.** 2 issues – temporary and longterm.
 - o **Temporary:** 2 possibilities – **Wireless solution** (65 Mb both ways), more reliable than current bad line @ about \$2500, relative quick install. May be weather affected. **PUD line**, V-Lan, 100 Mb both ways, months to install. – General idea is to do all phones on Wireless and computers to continue on faulty line as the problem did not crop up until the phone lines were added to the line. No guarantee this will work out.
 - o **Permanent: Wireless:** Big upgrade to Commercial quality dish system. Expensive, short life span on “radios”. Same possible weather issue. **Aerial Fiber:** Faster, only limited by equipment installed inhouse. 6 – 10 weeks to install – same as big wireless. Life span maybe 30 years and hardware upgradeable.
 - o **BOCC** will take permanent install under advisement but RC to proceed with Wireless temporary solution. AH wants full detail with numbers on permanent fix.
- **196 Fund Usage:** A fresh quote directly from Dell for Sheriff’s cars at about \$35,000 for patrol cars. \$22,000 was budgeted for partial upgrade but would prefer full upgrade of fleet. **Cronus** replacement: Cronus has a \$6000 annual renewal – Paragon would be \$12,500 upfront and \$5000 each year for renewal. All research was done 3 yrs ago. Does RC need to go through full procedure? Had gotten an unsubstantiated rumor that Russian held companies cannot be trusted and are on a “Do Not Buy List”. Cronus is a Russian company. Prefers the Paragon software system for a variety of reasons. Will send a comparison spreadsheet on computers & system and put together a request for a supplement budget request.

TH (Sheriff)

- **Financial Records Clerk:** Current clerk is moving to another County office. Wants to bring in a temporary to assist in transition to a new clerk. The person only wants to work 70 hrs a month. Hourly would be \$22.07 for the person over a 30 day needed for the assistance. Will need a resolution if Okayed by BOCC.

3:00 **Dave Greveling – Uncollected Funds & Finder’s Fee**

- Has come in 4 times in the past. Claims abandoned money that County could collect if they knew about the funds. If this were a federal situation like a whistle blower there would be 30% reward. So doesn’t see a 25% request for disclosing unreasonable. Claims there is more than \$100,000.
- DG (Civil Attorney) – Tips on whistle blowing to SEC are non-contractual, payment is a SEC option. Sees this is similar – but reimbursement is up to 25%.
- Greveling to claim “abandonment” if BOCC does not act and claim funds himself.
- Claims County could have the funds within a year.
- The situation has to do with a previous not current Prosecuting Attorney
- AH might consider if it would not take additional funds/time to claim the funds. Greveling claims no significant cost – would have to file on the money. Would take legal action to recover the funds.
- Board might be willing to if there would be a non-binding agreement with contingencies specified. BOCC would payout up to 25% if legal for County to do so but would need a non-binding contract.
- Greveling will to reveal under that circumstance: When Golden Phoenix (Old land & timber enterprise) went bankrupt there were permanent timber rights that would have County property

taxes owed. This was overlooked in the conclusion of the bankruptcy. Taxes and interest should be owed to the County. When Biles & Coleman sold and the mill and rights went through various owners the permanent timber rights remained. Treasurer has a right to collect on back taxes. Many unsold timber rights from this are out there. Some land owners bought back timber rights.

- County will look into situation and will see what possibilities might be. BOCC will communicate with Greveling on progress.

Miscellaneous Admin Business:

- Approval of Vouchers & Payroll – Okayed
- Approval of Vouchers & Payroll for Public Health – Okayed
- Special Liquor License – Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation Dinner at Agriplex
- Approval of Consent Agenda as presented – Okayed.

Adjourn