

Okanogan County Board of Commissioners

2/2/2017

JD - Jim DeTro (BOCC)

CB - Chris Branch (BOCC)

AH - Andy Hover (BOCC)

LJ - Lalena Johns (Clerk of the Board)

PH - Perry Huston (Planning & Development, Admin officer)

Potts - Commissioners' lobbyist in Olympia

AL - Albert Lin

TC - Tanya Craig, HR Director/Risk Manager

Josh - New fairgrounds manager?

LM - Leah McCormick, Treasurer

SR - Skip Rosenthal, Ok County Behavioral Health

LT - Laurie Thomas - Auditor

HR - Judge Hank Rawson, presiding judge

CC - Judge Chris Culp

DR - Dennis Rabidou

Summary of significant discussions

Update Lobbyist Potts

Lobbyist Potts noted that March 8 is the deadline for moving legislation from one house to the other. He doesn't expect changes to the Hirst decision or Kretz's wolf bill to move forward. He believes that representatives McMorris-Rogers and Newhouse will block funding for grizzly recovery.

Staff Meeting

A list of surplus items is being developed for sale on March 20th. In house repair of county vehicles as a cost savings measure was discussed and agreed upon. PH noted that this is a departure from the policy of the previous board of commissioners. Fairground and Agri-plex repairs were discussed. The commissioners decided that the lower part of the grandstands should be demolished and temporarily replaced with imported fill material suitable for lawnchairs.

AL discussed the use of email that is consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Based on information from LT, the commissioners decided to repay \$1 million of an outstanding loan.

Discussion Juvenile and Superior Courts

DR gave a Powerpoint presentation on Juvenile and Family Services, outlining structure of the organization within the Superior Court, and the services provided. He described the statewide approach to Juvenile Justice, dating back to the 90's, when the state decided to invest in programs rather than prisons. He also described the success of that approach within the county. The note taker was impressed with the obvious dedication and commitment of the staff, administrator and judges to the work described.

Olympia Update - Lobbyist Potts

Potts - Bills need to be approved by Senate or House by Mar. 8 to go forward (*to other house*).

Jim Detro - Public Defense funding needs to be maintained. Worth about \$166K.

Chris Branch - (*inaudible*)

JD - Did any of the WATV bill survive?

Potts - Not that I am aware of. Jack is more on top of that than I am.

JD - How about Kretz's wolf bill?

Potts - He got a courtesy hearing. The bill is not going anywhere. Got to get a lot of wolves on this side of the state before we will get anywhere. Don't see anything being accomplished this year. Cougars - when they started showing up over here, then people started to see what we are talking about.

JD - Same thing with the Game Department. When Donny Martarello got death threats. That is when they started to take it seriously.

Potts - Same thing going on with the grizzlies

JD - Think we can stop that. McMorris-Rogers & Newhouse on Appropriations. They won't fund it.

(*Talk about road conditions. Chris Branch going to Oly*).

Staff Meeting

9:05 Meeting begins - Fairgrounds/maintenance

JD - Josh (*Thomson*) is working on surplussing the pickup with the snowplow.

LJ - We are having a public hearing on surplussing on Mar. 20. Pickup is on list.

PH - (*mentions properties for surplus*)

CB - (*inaudible*)

PH - (*details procedures for surplussing properties*). We'll craft a public notice.

CB - Value of properties?

PH - *(too fast to record)*

Josh - As far as that building. Fire department will come over and look at it. Will take the building down and burn pile. Way cheaper. On another note - the Gazette Tribune wants to know if we want to do yearly fairground promotion. \$550, due by middle of April.

AH - Is that an insert?

(Discussion of the promotion. Too rapid to record)

Josh - Tow bill & shop bill - \$830-. Took quote to our shop. They can do it for \$300(?). With my budget, seems like an easy call.

AH - Need to make sure they have a way of billing it out *(they do)*.

PH - Just to let the commissioners know, that is a break from how the previous commissioners wanted it done. Will get a lot of requests. Need to formulate the policy.

AH - These have a county logo on them. Not willing to take away money from private sector for fire department vehicles. Who does sheriff's office?

Staff - County shop is not fast enough. They go to private shop.

AH - What do we have?

Josh - *(reads list)*

AH - Can county shop work on all that equipment?

Josh - Yes.

AH - Don't want to put the statement out there that private is going to be more expensive all the time. But this equipment is not really part of a critical path. Can afford to wait. *(Josh agrees)*

AH - What was the policy?

PH - It is not written, but if it comes out of the mouth of the county commissioners, then it is policy. Bigger discussion - end result was that you take your equipment to the private sector.

AH - What does that entail? Do all the departments have vehicles? *(PH & staff give details)*

Staff - In a perfect world we should be getting quotes and going with the cheaper offer. Ex-tenuating circumstances like sheriff office's time constraints.

AH - Maybe we should have Josh *(Thomson)* over here to talk about it. I want to save money. Want to make sure the people who run the department have a say.

CB - Want a flexible policy that allows people to make the best decision.

Josh - Fairgrounds garbage compactor - in my opinion, it needs to go away. It has a blown up transmission. \$4,700. A ton of things wrong with it. Don't know why we need it.

JD - Reason for having it is, uncompacted garbage was costing us 4 times as much. It was saving us \$8,000 a year when it was working. Its useful life seems to be over.

(Agreement that it should be surplussed)

AH - Try to make a plan for efficient waste disposal.

Josh - Need to understand. Is that just for the week of the fair? (yes)

(Discussion of recycling cardboard, bringing in a 30 yard dumpster)

Josh - BIG PROBLEMS. Grandstands completely rotten. Floorboards falling in, seats falling off. What do you want me to do?

JD - Put a band-aid on it.

Josh - It will be a \$5,000 band-aid.

Staff - If I could put a red sticker on it, I would.

(Discussion of problems with grandstands. Everything at the bottom that is exposed to rain/snow is rotten)

Staff - To make it practical for the fair, he would have to replace all the wood on the bottom.

CB - What does it need? Is the framing okay?

Josh - Don't know until I look.

LJ - What if we take the whole bottom out, rent bleachers?

Josh - It is on the hill side. Will need to be leveled.

(Discussion of feasibility of installing temporary bleachers)

PH - Check with Fair Advisory Committee.

AH - Need to make sure that we don't do something with temporary bleachers that will make more work with future fix.

Josh - Another thought: remove lower part, bring in fill and make a place where people can bring lawn chairs. Top part needs some work, too. (discussion of repairs to top that are needed).

JD - That sounds like a plan. (referring to bringing in fill). We can tell everyone to bring their lawnchairs.

Josh - Next problem: annex kitchen plumbing.

JD - That needs attention, but when we go to work on the annex, I want to rebuild propane heater.

Josh - Need to redo floor, stove, drain. Agri-plex (inaudible)

AH - I think it is hydraulic pressure from grade above coming up through cracks in floors. It's in all three raceways. I think French drains may help.

Josh - Think we need French drain, bring a contractor in - so we won't have a slope pointing right at the building.

JD - Might just talk to Josh (Thompson). Bring him in, he is an engineer, ask him 'What do you think?'

AH - Is the power off? (yes) Bring in a shop vac. See if you can suck out those raceways, bring in a fan, try to get things dried out.

(rapid discussion)

Josh - What do you want to do about the wiring?

(more rapid discussion)

AH - Don't think it will be too bad, once you get it dried out.

Josh - last thing. We have so many problems, I want to do a lot of little things to improve the eye appeal at the fairgrounds. Would like to bring in a tree trimming service, give all the trees a haircut. They have been growing pretty wild for a long time.

JD - Do we need to put that out for bid?

(rapid discussion)

CB - Need to get somebody who knows what they are doing. If you do it right, they will be more healthy.

AH - But we have to stay within budget. Might need to section off, do priorities.

JD - Can PW give him a rental? *(Of snowplow truck that will soon be surplussed)*

PH - Need a rental agreement. Haven't had the discussion *(inaudible)*. Can't buy a rig and run it to death.

(rapid discussion)

CB - In the short run, I think it is a good idea. *(agreement)*

9:55 Josh leaves.

Electronic Communications/Open Public Meetings Act

AL - Just sent you an email on the OPMA (Open Public Meetings Act). Just about the unpublished section. Electronic communications. Telephone conversation where the board was with other boards. This was different. In order to violate OPMA, the participants need to intend to do business and to make a decision.

JD - Telling us that in emails... You told us not to cc. Is it okay to do that?

AL - I think you should avoid that.

PH - If you are emailing to decide who is going to drive to the Cattleman's Association meeting, that is okay. If you are deciding how to vote, that is not.

(rapid discussion)

PH - Note that when I circulate documents, I never say that it is ready to go. Then you discuss it here.

(More discussion of email communications)

CB - Here is one. When someone is emailing all of us a question and I respond, I cc all of you.

(More rapid discussion)

PH - If everyone knows what the other said, that is one thing. If you are making a decision, that is different.

AH - I do not exchange emails (with commissioners). Period.

CB - The important thing is that we always continue this discussion.

AH - I usually call people on the phone or tell them that I hold office hours on Friday.

AL - Just keep it in mind: Is there a majority? Are you transacting business? Did you reach a decision? If not, you should be golden. Just want to err on the side of caution.

(Discussion of upcoming executive session with Mackie to address comp plan and zone code)

10:06 AL leaves.

LJ - This gentleman has a question about some down trees on county property adjacent to his property.

Wayne - Twisp River road/Poorman Creek.

AH - Can't give you an answer right now. Close to the river.

PH - Don't want to rain on your parade. Need a public notice.

JD - Can we put it on surplus list?

(AH offers to go take a look. Wayne describes specific location. JD describes surplus on Mar. 20)

AL - Do they present a hazard?

PH - We could save all kinds of money if we let woodcutters go clean up dead trees.

Human Resources Report

TC - Debbie.... Trying to hunt down a witness to accident on Cameron Lake Rd. Creating a spreadsheet of panic buttons, start a regular testing schedule. Pulling old plans for (?) building (*inaudible*).

LJ - Providing a quote for security measures that will be much more effective than single button. Lock-down system.

AH - Will that go along with Courthouse Safety Committee.

TC - First training in April. Public defense checks did not get cut for February. Cari will do a special run & will bring them this afternoon for approval.

JD - I read that ...

TC - We did note that we will be doing QCL training...

(rapid discussion. AH was not aware of email about meeting with QCL. About drug testing following accidents.)

TC - Want to make sure we are on the same page.

10:20 TC leaves

Treasurer Report

(Discussion of LT's trip to Las Vegas. Will be gone until 8th. How to cover everything until she gets back. Issues with bond issue)

LT - Once we go out for a bond, need to go to Standard & Poor's for rating.

AH - What is the best rating?

LT - Used to be Triple A. Then in the crash, everyone was down-graded. Now we are an A.

(rapid conversation)

LT - Want to make sure everyone is on the same page with the payback of the loan. Been crunching numbers for a couple of weeks. Think we can comfortably pay back \$1 million. To be super-comfortable, I could pay back \$650,000, with interest. Wanted to make sure we are on the same page.

AH - Want to be comfortable but want to pay back loan.

LT - It is looking really good for revenue. Having said that, if people are bringing you expensive projects, if they could hold those off until June, that would be helpful. Just keep that on your radar.

CB - Better to have what we need....

LT - I like the \$1 million *(describes interest savings)*.

AH - I want to pay it back.

PH - Whatever your decision, need motion & vote.

AH - I move to pay back \$1 million. *(seconded, passed)*

LT - Go Zags! It's a fun trip.

10:30 - LT leaves; PH leaves. Commissioners leave for courthouse.

Discussion - Juvenile and Superior Courts

DR (Dennis Rabidou) - Take opportunity to have staff introduce themselves.

Dependency program; drug and alcohol; probation; detention; administrator; court services officer/truancy; training program; administrative services; probation; dependency;

CC (Chris Culp) - In 30 years, I have never seen all 3 commissioners come down here.

Administrative services; juvenile court services; probation - reservation, truancy diversion; family therapist; deputy prosecutor; judicial assistant-scheduling

CC - *(thanks commissioners for coming)*

DR - *(Begins Powerpoint presentation. Shows Superior Court organizational chart and describes; Shows Juvenile Court org. chart & describes)*

Hank Rawson - Dependency proceeding involves hearing to remove child from home.

DR - Superior Court mission: the timely and fair resolution of legal disputes. Somebody is always going to be unhappy, but we want them to feel that they were treated fairly. Criminal cases are increasing. Civil cases appear to be decreasing.

AH - That's not a change in law, is it?

DR - *Correct.*

CC - This is why you saw the supplemental request for increased jury spending last year. I think we are going to see the same thing this year.

DR - Adult drug court. Capacity for Ok. Co. Felony Drug Court is 20; currently there are 13 active participants.

Staff - Used to be an 18 month program; recently changed to 2 years. Incarceration doesn't work; treatment does.

HR - One requirement is that participants either get employment or education. We have kids looking to go to 4 year colleges. Multiple issues going on - learning disabilities. Welcome to come and observe.

CC - Absolutely.

JD - See that mental illness has come down. Is that a result of (county health care services)?

HR - Could be. Co-occurring issues - mental health, learning disabilities. Can make adjustments in treatments. Am a true believer in drug court. There are individuals who have not been successful, but if you save one life. It is better than warehousing. Not a big fan of DOC. They need to be monitored.

DR - We know this works. Sometimes people need to go through a couple of times.

CC - Drug court is funded with 1/10% sales tax - \$600K. Lion's share goes to housing.

DR - Statewide system - Superior Court Case Management System. Legislators decided to fund a new system. Will roll out 2018. Huge project. Will be bringing it to you. Interesting, has caused some ruffles. We have all agreed that we are going to go to this system. Some components may cost additional money. We will be bringing that to the commissioners. Training will be provided. Recommendation that we hire a temporary project manager. Got court administrators on the committee. One big challenge is making sure juvenile system communicates with this. Huge, complex project.

JD - Is this going to affect social services?

DR - Yes. Talk to Randy about it. Decision to connect to this. That is where additional expenses come in. Juvenile and Family Services mission: partnering with our community, strengthening our youth: our future. In the 90's Washington State invested in programs rather than prisons. It has been working. Two and a half prisons haven't been built because of this. Reduced reliance on state institutions due to community disposition alternatives and local court programs.

AH - Have you compared Washington with other similarly-sized states?

DR - Not me. Research being done by others (*cites a couple of entities*). Meta-analysis. People are using us as a model.

CB - You could compare municipalities to adjacent states: Vancouver-Portland.

DR - Case Management Assessment process emphasizes: youth accountability, public safety, restorative justice, rehabilitation. Evidence-based programs: Functional Family Therapy; Aggression Replacement Training; Coordination of Services. Governor mandated cuts to DSHS, which affected our courts. Our cut was \$400K. Want to emphasize, we have a great relationship with RA. Legislature recognizes that investment has paid off. Stable, small reductions since the 90's.

(Discussion of DSHS' lack of services, lack of service providers, grant availability.)

DR - Quality assurance: monitored at the state level. If something is wrong, we get a letter and we get on it right away. Ensures we have quality people doing quality work, providing a quality service. They (*funders*) know we do a great job in Okanogan.

CB - Does Probation Service have a relationship with Tribal Court?

DR - Tribe doesn't have a juvenile code. We work closely with them.

(Discussion of the distribution of children under probation throughout the county and the role of schools/early childhood education in averting problems. 40% in Omak; none shown in Methow (actually 3 children)).

DR - Treatment Services - evaluation of needs. Substance abuse disorder - anger redirection training. CASA - volunteers investigate, facilitate, advocate, monitor.

DR - Detention (Juvenile Justice Center). Facility opened in 1974. On average, 6,000 bed-days per year. 36% felony, 35% misdemeanors, 25% probation violations, 2% from out of area. 55% male, 44% female. Average stay of 14 days.

JD - Does the tribe contribute monetarily.

DR - No. They are closely involved. Had foster grandparent program but lost that 3 years ago. That was unfortunate. They are really involved with the truancy boards.

DR - Juvenile Justice Center. Medical and Mental Health.

DR - Court Administrator. On 25 boards. Ensures courts are well represented. Important to have leadership roles at the state level. My focus still is to start focusing locally. Coalitions have very similar interests as we do.

(Discussion of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Lifelong impacts. Evaluation involves 10 questions. Any score over 3 is serious. Have recently started evaluating kids)

DR - Just got a broad perspective on who we are and what we do. We have 6 projects we are trying to get done in superior court; 27 in juvenile. I'm available anytime commissioners have questions. Thank the commissioners for coming down this morning.

HR - Also appreciate you coming down. Thank you Dennis and staff for putting this together. Open anytime you have questions.

CC - Come visit court anytime.

12:03 *Meeting ends.*