

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
March 26, 2019**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)	Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)	Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)	Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)	Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Debi Hilts – DH (HR)	Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)	Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
Perry Huston – PH (Planning)	George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)	Tony Hawley – TH (Sheriff)
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)	Randy Clough (Central Service)
David Gecas – DG (Civil Att.)	Larry Gilman (Assessor)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)	

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: BOCC: Declining medical services, Juvenile/youth job opportunity, **Admin & Fair Ground Maintenance:** Juvenile/Admin sewer line repair, 2 temporary Fair Grounds maintenance workers, Litter @ the Fair, Permanent irrigation system, **Civil Attorney:** Executive Session: FutureWise and French Creek issue, **Planning & Admin:** Comprehensive Plan review schedule, Review of the budget process, Delisting of the wolf, Primitive road's resolution, **Assessor:** On time & keeping up, Done with field inspections, Loss of field devices, **Admin Secretary:** Methow Valley Watershed Council, Veterans Assistance Manual, **Bid Opening for Gravel Crushing, Public Works:** Maintenance & Roads, Network Connection, Solid Waste summer hours, Apple Maggot, Maintenance Manager discussion, Washington Transportation Committee visit, Similkameen Trail, **Public Comment:** Jim Brennan via call-in - Adequate, affordable housing, Especially for low income, limited income and disabled, **Department Heads Quarterly meeting:** ID cards, Capital Facility Plan, AED, First Aid & "Stop the Bleed" kits, 1/10 of 1% sales tax addition being considered, **Miscellaneous Business**

JD, AH & BR present. Staff: PH, JP, DG & LJ

- General discussion on **declining medical services** in the County. Preparing a letter to legislature on need to fund Medicaid.
- Discussion of intervention in **juvenile/youth job opportunity**, helping students & youth in County with viable jobs such as having a computer coding program. GT mentions need for across the board social support for many County youth.

JP (**Admin & Fair Ground Maintenance**)

- Started digging for the **Juvenile/Admin sewer line repair**. Found two pipes at the location, one sewer one storm drain. Storm drain not on any plans. Figured out which is which.
- Working up the potential cost of having **2 temporary Fair Grounds maintenance workers**, would be about \$23,000 - \$25,000. Normally would have one or more jail trustee but not likely

to be available this year. There is no budget provision for temporary people maintenance positions at the Fair. Apparently overlooked by JP in the budgeting process.

- Picking up **litter @ the Fair** is a constant problem. Need to have everyone on the site involved in picking up as they move around the grounds.
- LJ – there is a temporary Facilities position line in the current budget, there are no funds in the budget line.
- JP looking at \$12.03 per hour for the temps at the Fair. Jail is currently down about 60 inmates so there are no available trustees. Need to talk to Prosecutor about the situation – trend or cause?
- AH – if down so many inmates need to have a conversation on how affects the budget and use of trustees in various functions (Fair, Solid Waste, County road litter control as an example). Need to talk with the Sheriff & Prosecutor to see if the County can take in low risk inmates from other Counties. If this is the trend in Okanogan County then need to look to fill beds to help the budget.
- Need to research about the cost of the temporary Fair positions.
- Met with Mark Egerton (Nulton Irrigation) on **design of a permanent irrigation system** at the Fair. Concern is a filter for sand in the system. Two possible designs for a filter – wafer and cyclone. Cyclone only removes the heavies not fine sediments, simpler install and maintenance.
- Egerton would do the design at no cost if Nulton's got the install job for the whole system. For a job of this size the work would probably would have to go out to bid so cannot agree to an arrangement like that. Nulton needs to bill for the design work. AH – piping for the job probably would not exceed the bid threshold. PH - the County could do the install in stages over time and sections to keep in a manageable budget.

9:30 DG (Civil Attorney)

- Needs an **Executive Session** on pending litigation concerning upcoming **FutureWise and French Creek issue**. Return at 10:10, no decision

PH (Planning & Admin)

- Planning Commission was briefed last night on the **Comprehensive Plan review schedule**. A reminder that the Comp Plan is a policy document not a specific proscription of what to do where.
- Meeting with the Finance Committee on **review of the budget process**.
- Preparing a **letter supporting the delisting of the wolf**.
- Working on a **primitive road's resolution**.

10:10 LG (Assessor)

- **On time & keeping up**. Still down an employee but just hired an employee from the Auditor's office.
- **Done with field inspections**. Will mail out on time about May 31.
- Now at full staff, had 40 applicants, 2 great candidates to choose from.
- A reminder of the **loss of field devices** – is working with 5 Counties to get a good solution. Problem is when out of cell range no online service so must use paper forms and enter data manually at the office.
 - Looking for a device replacement, no solution right now. Replacement cost is priced into the budget already
 - CB – wants info on a possible Land Council purchase near Crumbacher
 - LG looking to make a visit to Waterville to see how they are operating.
 - New hire will allow for some shifting around of positions.

LJ (Admin Secretary)

- County Vouchers – approved
- Received a letter from the **Methow Valley Watershed Council** – 2 new appointees. BOCC usually acknowledges and recommends. Other partners join in to approve. Appointees are Dick Ewing and Travis Thornton. The planning unit initiating partners are the County, Twisp and Winthrop. Comparable to the WRIA 49 group – initiating partners in 49 are County, Omak city and OTID (Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District. Need approval of the 3 partners, unsure what happens if only 2 of 3 approve.
- **Veterans Assistance Manual** – OK changes, CB abstains – has not seen past manual or changes to compare.
- BOCC approves agreement between Sheriff's Office and the Non-Commissioned Officers.
- BOCC approves Public Health Vouchers.
- Letter from CH (Auditor) outlining the State Auditor's scope of work and requirements on upcoming State Audit. Need to have BOCC chair to sign the receiving the material on the upcoming State Audit. Approve.

10:45 Bid Opening for Gravel Crushing – Public Works.

- 3 bids, ranging from \$393,000 – \$449,500. DeAtley Crushing, Godbey Ready Mix & Super Tech Cottonwood, Id) – Godbey Ready Mix apparent low bid. Public Works staff will review and bring back a recommendation.

11:00 Public Works (JT, BR & Kent (SW))

- **Maintenance & Roads** – A lot of problems with spring melt. Different every year. Also working on a road hazard grant, BOCC might hear back because they need to remove two large pines that are in the road right-of-way in Aeneas Valley. They are appreciated by the neighbors but have been involved in two fatal accidents and are in the right-of-way. Road grader operator's training is in the works. Goal of a 4% crown to drain water off gravel roads, where too much traffic & speed need to use a super (whole road is sloped to one side or the other).
- **Network Connection** – still very bad at the Public Works building. Phone has been switched to the temporary wireless while waiting on the new fiber connection. This is much better but all computer work is still on the old fiber line and having the same trouble.
- **Solid Waste summer hours** - due to lack of use want to push back the opening of summer hours until June instead of April 1. Just too few customers to justify the expense. SW wants BOCC to OK summer hours from June 1 to August 31.
- **Apple Maggot** – Possible increase in grant funds by \$92,000 to help pay for steam heat treatment facility at Twisp. Other options are problematic due to air quality, monitoring and cost. A steam treatment plant could also be portable and moved as needed.
- **Maintenance Manager discussion** – Sent a memo last week. 1 of 3 head positions in Public Works in non-union. Position is currently at a wage scale lower than some of the employees under them. With reclassification would be at 84% of comparable positions in comparable Counties. Direct staff to create a resolution to change the position form a 31 to a 34. Okayed.
- **Washington Transportation Committee visit** – CB – pretty good itinerary is set, some new items keep cropping up so adjusting as needs change – i.e. the deteriorating road conditions in this Springs thaw and runoff.
- **Similkameen Trail** – now that the snow is gone need to get up on the trail and take a look at the culverts and any other issues. Still need to find a budget source for the work.
- Stan from last week attends to remind people of **road conditions in the Chilliwist**. Wants an opportunity for someone to go on a tour – AH will make arrangements.

1:30 **Public Comment** – in person and call-in (509-422-7100). AH, JD & CB + LJ

- **Jim Brennan via call-in.** Calling in from the Twisp area. Saw the County Watch video discussion about Air BnBs and affordable housing.
 - o Experience in County governments. Son and daughter both on disabilities – general difficulty finding housing in the area. For 10 yrs. daughter lived in Twisp Garden Apartments – HUD subsidized. Daughter has Downs and works at the local library.
 - o In Comp Plan, Alt. #3 it called for **adequate, affordable housing** – is a big supporter of the concept **especially for low income, limited income and disabled** - not just agricultural or service workers.
 - o Encouraging making sure to consider difficulties of some populations. Keeping more families in the County – retirees, handicap, fixed income also need adequate, safe housing.

2:00 **Department Heads Quarterly meeting**

- MG (Emergency) – has a form for Dept. Heads to filled out so that **ID cards** can be made available to employees. All in a Department will need authorization signature by Department Head. The one signature will be used for all employees in the department. Card has a QR code that embeds a variety of information. Only Dept. Name, First & Last of Employee, Title required – other information is for convenience – contact phone number, blood type are examples.
 - o Started emergency paging system – system will use the phone speaker and not need to be picked up. If someone is on the phone when emergency page goes out the person will hear an announcement, the caller will be put on hold until the page is over and the page will come over the handset speaker. The whole system is split up in zones and the page can be sent to as few or as many zones as needed.
 - o Okanogan Co. Alert System – employee contact info is needed in case of emergency. Need the Prosecutor’s Office and Sheriff’s Office & Planning.
- PH – **Capital Facility Plan** – For County to budget over the coming years. When sent to others outside of County is voluntary and many have felt it an invasion of privacy. But is good to know for Comprehensive Plan usage. That use will be updated and then circulated for review.
- Revise and Update purchasing and Contracting Policy. Looking at thresholds for single source, phone bids, small works list are examples. Goal is efficiency and streamlining but retain full accountability.
- Omak/Okanogan rotary has paid for and install AED devices in the Courthouse. Wants to find more locations over the next 3 years. Working with LifeLine to keep updated & servicing of the **AED, First Aid and new “Stop the Bleed” kits**. Would like heads to put location of all department kits on a list and make it available. Let all employees know where the various kits are located.
- A new **1/10 of 1% sales tax addition being considered** to fund Emergency Communications Center and radio network expansion/upgrade.

3:15 **Miscellaneous Business:**

- Passed a resolution to send letter to State regarding Medicaid shortfall in Okanogan County.
- Resolution on Roads Maintenance Head position reclassification – passed.
- Pull minutes from Consent Agenda & pass Consent Agenda.

3:25 Adjourn.