

Board of County Commissioners Meeting
3.14.16 - A.M.

Notes in italics are note taker's comments

Monday March 14, 2016

Present:

Jim Detro JD (Board of Commissioners)
Sheilah Kennedy SK (BOCC)
Ray Campbell RC (BOCC)
Lanie Johns, LJ (Clerk of Board)
Albert Lin, AL - Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Content:

Wolves; Fire Issues; Tree fruit; BOCC minutes; Oly-"coordination";
OCBH/Emp'ee Asstnce Contract; Pub Wks Update.

9:02 -

We introduced ourselves to people - LJ took our names down - Tanya Craig here from Risk Management

Executive Session

09: 05- SK moves to go into executive session for 10 minutes re: litigation
Seconded 09:07

Have not approved agenda yet

Briefing Among Commissioners

09:13 returned- *talking amongst selves and looking at computersTanya has not returned (multiple side conversations and topics all over the board)*
For clarification - this is when they review all their emails and meetings and discuss what has happened over past week.

JD - talked about Quad County meeting/notes re: wolves; notes copied and passed out to commissioners

JD: Quad County passed a resolution re: DFW (Dept of Fish & Wildlife) on their failure to act - Problems with DFW sharing data regarding collared wolves. Nathan, a new county commissioner in Ferry county signed up and has been able to receive collared wolf data - he got "two pings" from two wolves in a cage in the back of a pickup in Republic - *hard to hear all of this*- SK asked if these were wolves are to be released. *They keep talking amongst themselves and can't hear due to heating fan. Lanie is not in room*

Wolves

Lots of talk about re-introduction of wolves- RC states once something gets to a certain size you can't control it. JD says it's there now. It will wipe out jobs, businesses - small businesses, cattle ranches. SK makes comment- somebody is going to get killed Looking at computers...

RC to SK - talking about need for facilitator to get together- problem is everyone must agree on solution and facilitator is making \$8000/day -Facilitator talked about another meeting over here (east side?) to bring sides together. No solutions yet. RC commented it's frustrating to sit here and wait to see what they will throw out at us.

Basketball/\$\$ for fencing, Nat'l guard

SK - Lanie has written letter of support/ congratulation to both boys and girls 2B basketball team from the county who won state tournament in their division.

JD - Governor has vetoed 30 bills - All commissioners are concerned whether monies for fence rebuilding and national guard payment for fire-fighting were included in any of these vetoes.

At some point in here Lanie turned on microphones as I stated I couldn't hear stuff

Fire Issues

SK - had a mtg Wed with Melissa from governors staff - two dates they are looking at are Friday Apr 8th or April 29th at Brewster High School - trying to find how to combine and address issue of Spanish speaking people not be-

ing notified of fires - SK says there were interpreters at the emergency operation center - they were 24/7 -in Okanogan -Quad County meeting on April 29th as well. SK- Our biggest goal at that meeting is to have Governor here to listen to impacts on the community. Wants him to hear scenarios of how DFW inadequate management impacted the safety of volunteer firefighters in county and out of county and others and to hear people's stories so we can truly find some solution to this. Many people on Governor appointed committee hope to have solutions by June -all BOCC feel this is too late as fire season starts in June.

All - More discussion about fights between governor and legislature re:budget....

JD - meeting in Conconully with Bureau of Reclamation - going to have to do NEPA process and rebuild cabins. Hope to have RV park will be up and running for this summer season- funding and special team - do an EA not an EIS for FEMA. Hope to have cabins up by recreation season 2017.

SK - expressed to Melissa (governor rep) that we were disappointed Okanogan BOCC were not invited to the Wenatchee panel on fires. SK gave some suggestions as to who to invite to talk with governor re: fire impact on community- she gave a long list of people Melissa can contact to testify for the governor re: aftermath effect of fires. SK also notes DNR has not sat down with BOCC or affected people to see what happened or what people need in spite of making a large money request from state.

Misc.

All are looking at computers and emails....chatting amongst selves

A lot of chatting about interactions with people

SK - worried that State has not yet matched the FEMA funds at 25% so the county hasn't received any reimbursement yet.

Ann from the county extension office -update on extension office programs, i.e. 4H, master gardeners, job posting. Introduced new tree fruit agent Tianna DuPont

Discussion - Tree Fruit Agent WSU - Tianna DuPont

Tianna DuPont - started in November as new Tree Fruit Agent. She is working on pest management, organic growing, working with new and Latino growers, irrigation management. Asked the BOCC what their perspective is regarding her work. SK was concerned re: apple maggot control, wheat board certification, getting burned fences replaced to protect orchards. *BOCC seem supportive of her work.*

BOCC mtgs online

Lanie talked of Probation officer vacant positions -? One or two

BOCC Minutes

JD talked about posting online a recording of BOCC meetings. Lengthy discussion re: pros and cons. Conclusion was this has been discussed before and ultimately this will be more labor intensive.

Interesting that this has been brought up

SK/JD states putting the review of minutes right in meeting will speed up process in getting them online.

Decision was to continue with current process.

Some talking amongst themselves.

Misc.

SK left room 10:20

JD and RC chatting - Spokane and wolf plan - tribes and conservationists - what will tribe do about wolves - JD states tribes said if the wolves affect their ungulate population and sustainability of that - they will kill them all.

JD very demeaning about conservationists - feels they turn stuff around to fit their scenario -mentioned something Nancy Pelosi did as well, in this respect

JD and RC looking at computers ,emails etc.

SK back in - 10:26

She states she was looking at the meeting for tomorrow night and is it a "special meeting" - she is talking about the Juvie detention meeting at 6pm Tuesday. PH planned these, and they will ask him.

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Olympia: Coordination Meeting

SK - going to Olympia Thursday for Lands Coordinating meeting -hopeful to be home at 7p to go to awards ceremony at Casino - for Worksource - awards for employers and employees

SK - DNR's Highlands District - will get 3 new engines, total of 10 - 6 of which will be 4 person engines. Will be full time fire investigator added - 3 permanent full time employees. As well, will be 15 additional seasonal fire-fighters, bringing total to 39 seasonal staff and 3 full time staff.

RC and JD revisited issues of Carlton Complex fire.

SK noted the contract firefighters need a contract representative at the aforementioned governor's meeting.

RC comments we need a DNR person in charge who understands fire and what is happening on the ground

Seems they want to have many people meet with Governor- I get the feeling they are really not happy with Governor's management of our fire disasters of the past two years, and also with DNR's management.

SK left at 10:40

Sheilah has given us two handouts so far. All are very cordial with us.

Behavioral Health and Employee Assistance Program:

SK - wondering if Albert is coming to talk about some stuff.
Need to make decision on Okanogan Behavioral health and employee assistance program. SK feels they really don't utilize this service as it is kind of double coverage. SK states they have a full time HR employee who should be able to provide this and we have insurance to cover any employee costs we incur. Feels staff has reported that only one employee may utilize this service maybe 3X year. SK -makes motion to not renew the contract between Okanogan Behavioral Health and Okanogan county. Motion seconded and carried.

Not sure how this will affect employees. Does this full time HR employee have a counselor available for troubled employees? Not sure what is in place already...

Misc:

SK and RC discussing something - not heard.

JD - wanting to know if they are up to date on minutes? Apparently Mar 2nd not there yet on website.

SK -Senator Murray's Washington DC staff member will be here on March 23rd (*Is this a sporadic or regular occurrence?*)
All are looking at computers except JD who is drinking coffee and staring into space.

SK - asking Lanie about Change order on the agenda for the Landfill groundwater probe. Lengthy discussion - bottom line is PVC pipe failed in well at 270 ft - need more time to fix it - 7 days at least - no financial impact to county budget.

Lanie left room at 11:25

Okanogan Craft board - ? not sure what this is. JD and RC talking about this.

Update - Public Works Administration

11:26: Ben Rough

New on job - good first week. (*Ben transferred from Planning Dept to Public Works.*)

BR- has revised agenda - requesting executive session for 10-15 minutes for performance of a public employee - SK formally announced they were leaving for this session at 11:30.

Back in at 11:47.

BR and BOCC discussed forest service road repair and re-opening for 2016 as weather permits.

BR brought up issue of long term plans for landfill expansion or relocation. Discussed updating department policies and procedures and rewriting job descriptions and other administrative need updates. BR will sit in on preliminary union negotiations. Discussion of a mechanics position posted and whether to have CDL (commercial drivers license) as a requirement. Much discussion - suggestion was to hire mechanic without CDL but put time requirement for person to obtain CDL. Side discussion of county pay for mechanics. BR notes difficulty attracting mechanics as pay is low - SK asks low in relation to what? BR states low in comparison to other govern-

ment agencies and counties. RC doesn't like government to government comparison, would rather compare local government rate to private sector rate in that area. BR recommended filling the position now utilizing an agreement worked out with the union. SK wants to know if position needs filling now - BR said bigger projects being sent out to Wenatchee and costing more than hiring additional mechanic.

JD - Has to leave for court - left at 11:50

Albert Lin (Deputy County Prosecutor) in..11:55

Lengthy discussion re: tech position. Positions were posted for a tech 3 and or a tech 4. The posting listed the position as having contract administration responsibilities. BR would like to repost the job without that stipulation to allow more latitude in the utilization of that employee - i.e. to be cross trained in a variety of tasks. Board feels positions were not posted as they stipulated and asked they be reposted with a corrected job description.

12:30 - Albert Lin passes out packet of papers to board and has inaudible discussion with them.

Executive Session

12:35 - Board states - going into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation for 15 minutes.

Notetakers left.