

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners Mtg.
4-14-2017 AM

JD—Jim DeTro
AH—Andy Hover
CB—Chris Branch
LJ—Lalena Johns
LM—Leah McCormick, Treasurer
PH—Perry Houston, Director of Planning & Development
JCC—Judge Christopher Culp
DR—Dennis Rabidou
OF—Omak Fire Department representative
Omak—Omak city representative
AL—Albert Liu
TC—Tanya Craig HR & Risk Management for Okanogan County
Josh Friel—Fair Grounds
Josh Thomson—Roads engineer
Ben Rough—Administrator, Public Works

Summary—There was a discussion of proposing sales tax increases to pay for capital improvements & support for Juvie, enhanced first attack capability for wildfire response, emergency communications facility & operations, Fire Marshall position & Public Health District support. The commissioners may be able to raise some sales tax without it being on the ballot. Tanya Craig & Josh Friel discuss the Fair Grounds and strategy for replacing the grandstands. Lalena Johns & the commissioners discuss the contract for FiberFest. Josh Thomson & Ben Rough give the Public Works update, Roads Reconciliation.

Sales tax issues—

PH—County already collects taxes under:
RCW 82.14.340, for Criminal Justice
RCW 82.14.370 for infrastructure
RCW 82.14.460

The commissioners can raise these taxes without a vote. (The term for this seems to be “council-matic”) We already collect the maximum amount allowed (0.1%) for all three.

Sales tax increases available to put on the ballot include:

RCW 82.14.350 for Juvenile Detention
RCW 82.14.420 for Emergency communications
RCW 82.14.450 available for cities & counties both. Revenue is split differently depending on if it’s the city or county that levies the tax.

Juvie & Taxes

PH—Decision to keep Juvie in Okanogan County lead to need for more money to fix the facility. Also, fire people have asked for a county Fire Marshall.

JCC—The council-matic taxes max at 0.3% & we collect only 0.1%. I think there’s still 0.2% the council can do themselves. And council-matic taxes can be used for criminal justice, so we can fix Juvie.

Omak—Omak is considering putting 450 on the ballot.

(Notetaker—if the following comments aren’t attributed to anyone, I’m not sure who made them.)

?—If we put sales tax increase on the ballot, we need to be sure to sell it or it won’t pass.

?—Even with bonding, 420 won’t pay for all the emergency Communication stuff we need.

Doesn’t generate enough money with a revenue bond.

?—We're maxed out on council-matic taxes.

?—What work needs to be done in Juvie? Study being done so we'll know what money needs to be dedicated to capital improvement.

?—How does money get shared between cities & county?

CB—what might Omak want to do?

Omak—Part time Fire Chief, more police. We'd collect ~\$130,000.

AH—What's the difference in money if county does the 0.1%? Omak gets \$75,000. If Omak does it, they get \$130,000?

Omak—Will we be more successful alone or with the county?

AH—We also need to worry about Juvie & other things.

PH—Lowball est. 0.1% increase raises \$640,000.

CB—Criminal Justice, Capital facilities project, emergency communications we all need. Cities willing to talk with us about leveraging these taxes. Cities contribute some of their money to capital facilities projects for the county. Somethings we can do jointly.

Omak—This sounds good, but we need to see the details.

CB—Can we share with Douglas County? We should get creative concerning leveraging. Maybe it will lead to success in getting taxes approved.

PH—How does BOCC wish to proceed?

PH—Rabidou & the judges are on board.

Taxes and Fire Marshall

PH—Fire Chiefs have suggested sales tax increase for a Fire Marshall.

CB—There are differences in opinions about the need for a Fire Marshall.

OF—At one time, we didn't want one, but then we had two big fire seasons.

CB—What are the duties of a Fire Marshall?

OF—Works with county planners & building departments, works on ingress & egress issues, liaison between local departments & the state mobilization people.

CB—Who directs the Fire Marshall?

OF—The commissioners

JD—I know the state Fire Marshall. One side of the argument is—the state provides all “necessary” staff & county needs. Other side of the argument—Be careful! If you get an over-aggressive Fire Marshall, he'll put businesses out of business.

OF—That isn't true.

JD—Fire Marshall & ingress & egress. Seattle fire fighters wouldn't go in there if only one ingress & egress route. A little ol' brush truck saved a house because west-side fire fighters aren't comfortable with brush fires, but east side fighters are.

Upcoming Ballot

PH—Let's get back on topic. How about this?

Identify proposals for the ballot

Hold public hearing

Lots of outreach

DR—I'm confused with the 0.1%. Other counties do more than 0.1%.

LM—I'll research this.

CB—Dennis will send Leah his Department of Revenue chart.

CB—Proposals aren't in order until everybody tells of their interests, especially cities. We need to plan to market this together with the cities.

AH—Winthrop is at 8.2%, but we're not close to Winthrop or King County.

AH—I like 0.3%. It gives benefits to cities & gives us flexibility for criminal justice.

JD—our 911 system is overloaded & critical. There's extreme need. Juvie—we made decision to support & keep it here. What will be the marketing strategy?

PH—We'll market separately.

PH—We need direction.

CB—asks the audience—What should we be doing? Talk to the city councils. We need to prioritize our needs.

PH—It's possible the legislature could take the counties' taxing authority away, but it's unlikely.

Omak—We need to know county priorities. We're not opposed to paying our fair share, but we need to decide if county tax is better than city. Not opposed to talking, but we need specifics.

AH—Jail & Juvie are aging. Community wants to keep it here, so we have to support it. But we can't put in \$200,000-300,000 per year. Mike's presentation showed us the importance of the communications system.

“Selling” Taxes

LM—Priorities are important, but there's a second thing. Several tax increases went down recently, so selling is the key.

JD—But sales tax is easier to sell than property tax. People outside the county pay it too.

AH—Can we sell these?

CB—Here's the main projects we're talking about—

JCC—Security is important. Is there another funding mechanism or is it dependent on sales tax? People bring guns into the court house & we need a secure place to put the gun. This happened just the other day.

DR—Court house issues are important.

AH—Sales tax benefits court house & Juvie & other things, too. So we need to know how we'll divvy up \$1,150,000 if we get it passed. Do we do 3 different taxes or just one big one?

PH—You can raise property tax, too. General Obligation bonds (GO bonds) are not popular, but they are legal.

PH—Here are things we could do with new tax.

- Juvie & adult facility improvements

- Emergency communications improvements

- Fire response

- Fire Marshall

- Public Health support.

CB—Getting it passed is the most important. Package that combines county & cities to be more efficient, more likely to succeed. So try to make a package out of 0.3%.

PH—what's next?

AH—Judge, keep on study session agenda. First find out answer to council-matic question (is it maxed out?) I'll back you up as much as I can.

JCC—I'll find out by Monday. If it's not an option, we'll have to make hard decisions. I'll help with the work. Get a group that includes cities.

Omak—We need to work together. We need to do the math, but cities probably get more money if the county does this.

PH—Leah & Dennis will look into council-matic.

CB—Maybe we should discuss with cities separately?

PH—On March 20 you should be able to.

?—What does Fire response mean?

PH—It's a fluid concept and a holdover from the previous board.

CB—the Fire Marshall & communications are part of fire response

JD—The legislature gave us something for rural fire departments.

CB—Take fire response off the list because it's legislative—money from the legislature.
AH—Fire response is the lowest priority right now.
CB—We should create an issue paper for each item above.
JCC—Issue papers help people understand the issue and help them vote yes.
CB—They'll understand the discussion so it's not based on rumor.
CB—I mentioned on the radio that a tax increase is being discussed. The issues are apparently known to the public.
PH—I'll report on Monday.
CB—Meanwhile the stakeholders in the audience can tell us their observations.
PH—Please cc me with the observations
Meeting ends at 9:20.

DR discusses court house security issue with AH.

(Where to keep a gun that's brought to the court house (AH's aside to me.)

Fair Grounds report with Tanya Craig & Josh Friel.

Staff

PH—discussion about Fair Grounds staff.
AH—We'd like to look at posting for the position to make sure it's accurate. The person will do office support as well as marketing, so the person has to have a willingness to market.
CB—The person needs vision, too. And the work is sometimes full-time and sometimes part-time.
TC—I'll write a job description and show it to the board.
AH—Payroll will need to know the percentage of time working for the Fair vs. percentage of time working for something else (facilities?)
CB—And the percentages will probably be adjusted as time goes by.
AH—Keep track of the hours when working for the Fair & next year we can use the percentage of hours.

PH—**Raiding property tax for fixing the bathrooms.** 2 lines in Facilities budget for people.
TC—Last year we spent more than was budgeted.
CB—Keep track of hours. Auditors will need evidence what percentage is from what budgets.
Ex: worked x hours in a week on A, and y hours on B.
JF—Do I need to keep track of my hours?
AH—No. You're Facilities Manager so you do all Facilities.
CB—But if you notice you're doing lots of Fair stuff, let us know.

AH—Asks PH: **how much from real estate tax.**
PH—I need to figure it out.
TC—Last year spent \$22,000 on staff.
CB—for Fair, does the rent vary?
TC—Some years they pay, some years they don't. (Don't know who "they" are.)
TC—Kittitas County still does its Fair with the Facilities budget. But they've also got a rodeo.
CB—With rent, more reason to use the Fair Grounds.
CB—We should ask Stampede grounds how they do things.
AH—Reads Fair & Facilities budget numbers too quickly to record.
(Lots of crosstalk, AH & LJ, CB & PH)
AH—We've got a little slack in the budget.
PH—So we may get it done.

LJ—**No budget at all for grandstands.**

PH—Because we need a plan for grandstand. Do supplemental if/when we know what to do.

LJ—We need to send invoices at the end of June.

AH—We can pour concrete by then.

JF—We need to knock it down first.

AH—Someone just did an estimate for the sake of discussion, so you need to get an architect to pay for the plans.

AH—Are we going to look into (something?) and new racetrack?

CB—Yes. Meeting within two weeks.

TC—Tribe takes liability for the track. How do we guarantee that tribe will stop racing for a week for us to put the fair on?

JD—Tribe is aware of the Fair.

AH—Partner with tribe to do fair stuff. Just have to figure out a way. Contract with tribe is different.

CB—Tribe has to agree,, it can be sued.

AL—If there's a new racetrack on county land on reservation, there needs to be a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

AH—Need a partnership with tribe so they'd pay for the EIS.

TC—so we need to see the contract language.

AL—Transportation issues. State, county & city roads.

AH—But that'll come in with EIS.

CB—I don't want to get into the weeds too early. Lots of tribal venues & they work, so we'll see what's going on. Are they still thinking about the racetrack?

AH—Maybe we won't have to pay for grandstands.

PH—EIS will take years.

AH—So what about temporary bleachers?

CB—Who is the Public Information Officer (PIO)? We need to make sure the public understands what we're talking about.

PH—Bathroom bids have been awarded. Grandstands starting on bid project.

AH—How often are the bleachers used?

PH—Fairs will say if we had better bleachers, we'd get more business, but we need to do something with bleachers now

AH—Josh needs to understand what process to get the grandstands ripped out.

JF—It'll take two weeks.

CB—If we've got temporary fixes, we can do the other stuff incrementally. Cover for bleachers like a snow roof for a mobile home.

JF—A pole barn.

AH—After CB has opening discussion with the tribe, we'll go to step #2.

CB—But we can do temporary stuff. Temporary = 5-10 years.

PH—If we can't use the \$90,000 grant, we should tell them ASAP. Washington State Dept of Agriculture. Specific to grandstands. Can we use it for portable grandstands?

LJ—We need to address ADA & safety. To get \$90,000, we need to match it with \$90,000.

CB—Did we get a bathroom grant?

AH—It got used for sewer work.

JF—I want to rent a big excavator to tear down the grandstands. \$1,100 per week. I'll break a mountain of sawdust & chips into smaller piles. The Fire Dept. will burn the brush & we'll haul contaminated soil away.

AH—Are you going to burn the chips?

JF—Sending it to the landfill costs a lot more.

AH—Give it to landscapers? Burning chips takes forever & makes LOTS of smoke.

JF—There's lots of dirt & garbage in it.

AH—Look for other options than burning.

JD—Can it be used for cover? Then there's no tip change.

JF—Theoretically—yes. But...

AH—It's fine to burn the brush. Bring in a rock crusher.

JF—It's been screened already & now needs to be crushed.

AH—Maybe they can use the chips for cover.

PH—If we organize well, we can cut expenses.

AH—Look at soil first, and coordinate stuff.

JF—I'll get a quote for excavator for a week.

(Commissioners stop this discussion to approve Resolution 17.)

JF—Here's the check to replace the stove. Also, I need advice for a problem. There's an RV with Canadian plates parked in the park (which is closed for the season) and it's plugged into the electricity outlet. What should I do?

AH—Leave a note. We charge \$X/day for the hookup and you better pay.

AL—If the park is closed, it's criminal trespass and the hookup is theft. Call the Sheriff's Office to advise them they're trespassing.

CB—Ask them to pay first.

AL—You can do that, then ask them to go.

AH—Be nice, then call sheriff.

JF—I'll get them to pay & then go.

FiberFest

LJ—We need to talk about the FiberFest request.

AH—How did we itemize it last year.

PH—"Weekend" is a flexible term. Is set-up time included?

CB—Other places are less flexible & define set-up time.

PH—discusses how fees for renting space is determined.

AH—Asks Albert Liu a very cryptic question (I'm assuming this is so the Notetaker can't tell what is being discussed.)

AL—It's being studied. If there are more questions, we can do it in executive session.

LJ—Re FiberFest contract. Staff had great latitude to set fees in contracts. They tried to follow the fee schedule, but had latitude. Over the last 4 or 5 years, new staff was hired, so contracts are not necessarily consistent.

PH—so that's why sometimes there was a discount & sometimes not.

Public Works update

AH—Josh Friel was talking about chips & rock crushing. We don't want to burn chips.

BR—We want to keep chips out of the land fill.

AH—Also chips are contaminated soil at the Fair Grounds. Can we use it for cover?

BR—It depends on contaminates.

AH—Rodeo grounds has a lot of rock. Round river rock.

JT—We can incorporate it into our crush.

BR—We would like to post job openings for summer temps soon, with the exception of truck driver for solid waste. Do an FTE instead, so we can haul leachate from the lagoons. Also, I had discussed road crew temps with Josh. He'd wanted FTEs instead but decided they don't want to do this right now. Rather refill temp positions. Too aggressive to go with more FTEs.

AH—**Spray program.** You mean 2018?

JT—1 FTE = 2 FTEs in summer takes the place of 2 temps in winter & then spray in summer. I think we can save enough money to pay for this. But with FTEs, you have more ease of scheduling.

BR—OK to fill temps & solid waste FTE?

AH—Yes.

BR—Thanks.

BR—We've been trying to rent out extra office space. Maybe we've got a tenant, **Child Care Aware**. If they don't rent it, we could use that space for others for archives storage. 1,600 sq. ft. Planning department has lots of records to store. And there's still upstairs for **archives storage** if the floor is strong enough.

AH—Good to know.

BR—downstairs is a better option.

CB—Is it lockable?

BR—Yes. If Child Care Aware falls through, I won't advertise anymore. They did a walk through two weeks ago so we should have an answer soon.

BR—Heidi looked at all the invoices. Pulled apart the Solid Waste vouchers from other Public Works. Found some for Albert to review.

BR—Finally, **Solid waste** wants to hire a janitor for our building. You'll see the contract soon.

JT—Roads report. 30 hours OT for snow & melting snow.

JT—Peter Dam Rd is closed since this morning due to slope sloughing. It's down onto the roadway as of this morning. Have to wait for sloughing to stop before it's safe to work on. Trying to design a permanent fix. No estimated time to reopen.

JT—Current projects.

- Hwy 7. Putting final plans together. Looks like we're \$600,000 over the budget estimated several years ago due to increase in costs of materials. So we'll use more (something?) funds. (An acronym I was unable to catch.)
- Conconully Project. You have the contract.
- 9 Mile Creek has lots of sediments. Tribe will dredge & make changes to prevent silt buildups.
- Johnson Creek culvert. Wayne Cornwall wants to design a fish-friendly culvert. He'll find the funding. He's a Colville Tribe engineer.
 - JD—All the neighbors say they don't want Fish hatchery. Encroaching.
 - JT—If we have to fix the culvert ourselves, then we'll have to pay for it.
 - JD—They had a steelhead sighting at Minton's Corner. Somebody must have thrown the fish in.
 - CB—Culvert is a barrier now?
 - JD—Yes. Another problem—if you get fish above the culvert, the creek isn't fish-friendly & locals want German Brown trout there. The tribe & Fish & Wildlife are doing this.
 - AH—I'll look into Johnson Creek.
 - CB—They are creating more habitat, not restoring historical fisheries.
 - JD—They did that (creating more habitat) on Omak Creek to make it fish friendly. Blew out a falls! Same mentality as taking out the Enloe Dam.
 - AH—We'll do a little work on the culvert idea before we say Yes or No.
- **ORV & WATV roads.** We're removing signs & should be done in four weeks.
- OA Federal STP funds meeting in Ellensburg was moved to next week.
- I surplussed a sweeper to Douglas Co. Got a good price--\$50,000. We're getting 4 new dump trucks. I'll get trade-in value for 2 of them—better than what I expect at auction. I'll sell the other two old ones to another city after I negotiate the price.

Road log reconciliation.

- **Twisp River Rd**, from War Creek all the way to Gilbert.
 - AH—it's steep up there & expensive to maintain.
 - JD—It's grizzly habitat & the bridges are a concern.
 - AH—No bridges up there, but what's the benefit? My concern is taking it over.

- JT—Everyone believed road is USFS road. Would they close it? Probably not.
 - CB—If FS will keep the road open & administer the road, that's good.
 - AH—If it's not a county road, they could just close it.
 - JT—We could do maintenance agreement with the FS.
 - AH—Maintenance cost for this? Need to wait until snow melts. From War creek to Gilbert—we need a 20 year estimate. Let's put it on the list because we can always take it off later.
 - CB—NEPA. (National Environmental Policy Act?) When FS does that, we could take it off.
- **Newby Creek**—creek flows into Twisp River.
 - AH—Put it on the list. FS has asked us to take it.
 - **Boulder Creek to 8 Mile.** Paved so it can't be signed "Primitive". Less costly to pulverize pavement than to fix it. **NEPA—give easement to county.**
 - **Aeneas Valley** It's still snow-covered. Looked at the bridge several years ago & it's not a good bridge.
 - **Nicholson Creek**—Can't look at road until the snow melts. Section 26—vacated in 1962 & FS got rights to it. If it's on the list, get it back.
 - **Fir Creek**—near Mt. Annie Rd. Plowed in the winter. 4 or 5 residents live there. Is the road too muddy? JT will go & look.

Public Hearing concerning nonpayment of Oroville dispatching fees. Resolution 43-217.
Passed.

CB—There is some concern that access to cemetery could be closed to non-Indians, but Chris says that's never been a problem.

Notetaker left at 12:05