

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
3/21/17, AM/PM

Note-taker arrived at 10:51. Caught the tail end of the finance committee meeting.

Present:

AH- Andy Hover, BOCC

CB-Chris Branch (vice-chair, BOCC)

LJ – Lalena Johns County Clerk

Public Works Update, Coroner’s Office Supplemental Appropriation request, Jail Supplemental Appropriation request, Fiber Festival request, Community Action Council Grant request, Economic Alliance report, Approve consent agenda.

Public Works weekly update.

BR- Ben Rough – Public Works administrator

JT- Josh Thomson – Public Works engineer

Girders on Park City Loop are going in. It’s impressive work with two cranes.

Maintenance & roads – The slope on Peter Dan road is getting worse. Photos were taken with drone. AH- how wide is it? BR: 400-500 ft. It will take several hundred thousand yards of material to repair.

Katie Haven (public attendee and note-taker) – Reported on condition of McFarland Cr Road. An area in the paved section is starting to crack and looks like it may be sloughing off. Also, section higher up where bank was coming down onto road last year is starting to do the same again. It is just starting to move onto the road, but still passable. JT: The county tries to get up there once a week, so we will take a look next time we are there.

Financial discussion: BR: There is 26 hrs OT, mostly dealing with water and sloughing issues. AH- how is OT looking in general? BR: Scattered over various activities, we anticipate more OT this year than last. We will keep an eye on it.

County Rd admin board certification needs signature. There are 6 certifications that he has to make, and one that sheriff and auditor have to sign off on, and others that BOCC has to sign off on. 0.5% of budget can be spent on fish passage barrier removal. Other one involves basic accounting of road conditions, etc. CB asked about details of flooding and if it counts as fish related. AH moves to allow vice-chair to sign the certification. CB seconds. Voted and carried.

Highway 7 Tonasket bridge project needs to be approved so that funds can be obtained. Goal is to do work during summer when school is out. Federal portion of construction

funds will get us started, then another funds allocation will happen later. It's necessary to do it this way in order to get the project started. AH- need to correct forms to reflect that vice-chair will sign. AH- moves to allow Vice chair to sign supplement. CB seconds, voted and carried.

Conconully Road project- talking to contractor- should start around 4/17, done before Memorial day weekend.

Park City road girders are going in today. Change order done to add 17 more working days. Weather issues prevent concurrent work with other jobs, which wasn't planned. Won't increase contractor costs, but will increase admin cost.

Lyman Lake- will be another 6 weeks before it is dry enough to start up again.

Gravel crushing project is out to bid, moving along as expected.

Indian Dan Canyon Rd – widening, etc- on track.

AH- asks about vacation of roads, When someone petitions to vacate, what can County do as far as demanding payment? JT- says it is spelled out in the County Code. Differences if it is prescriptive, or otherwise. May require payment. CB- suggests that they should look into it more and find out exactly.

ORV and WATV- code has been updated to reflect change due to lawsuit results. Website should be updated soon. AH- asked for list of which roads were opened to ATV in 2014 (implying that these same roads are now closed until further action is taken by the County) and suggested that they need to start thinking about which ones could be opened back up. CB- checked website to see what it says now, and commented that it was easy to find because the link is on the home page of OK County. JT- commented that it is in the RCW that the link to ATV roads be accessible from main county webpage.

JT will be attending federal STP funds meeting in Ellensburg. All county engineers in the State will be attending to discuss difficulties with managing the process of using Federal money. It is currently a cumbersome process and they hope to streamline it to make it easier for all counties.

Short break- chatter about Columbia River road (by Omak Lake) repair and how tricky it is.

BR- Our Dept. is busy.

Several positions are open for hiring. Some are temp, a few permanent. 17 jobs. One or two aren't listed, will ask for OK to list them after the first round are filled. AH- do we have the funds? BR- yes.

Job descriptions have been updated. Union reviewed them, no major changes, just housekeeping. Should be a good program.

Regarding the Conconully MOU for assistance, they are going through their legal review. It will go before their city council, then will go back and forth a few times until agreement is reached. CB- is this for the sewer? BR: yes, County and Conconully town will work together on repairing the part of the sewer line that lies in the County right of way, once the MOU is approved. There is a good relationship between the County and Conconully. The County put this project out for public bid last year, but got no response. Thus this proposed arrangement with Conconully.

Recycle committee- first meeting will be Thursday. Will take look at recycle functions with solid waste. Will make recommendation about potential changes to recycle program. Will look at facility, logistics, handling, and other things to see what they can do better. Will make report on findings to SWAC, will probably have public meeting to address impacts on community. CB- do you have a list of who is on the committee? BR: Betsy Cushman (from Twisp recycling center), and a few folks from Green Okanogan
CB: Good. I look forward to seeing them meet.

Household Hazmat- Had a few meetings with tribes. The Tribe has been taking in household waste. There is currently not a good coordination between county and tribes Hazmat handling. Will meet to improve this. Need to work out some logistics, but shouldn't be a problem. The Tribe has a large Earth Day event, and they requested that the County have a hazmat presence there and do a collection that is advertised in advance.

Solid waste landfill leachate update- Testing report on leachate was given to city engineer to see if the city can take the county leachate. *(note-takers comment: they didn't mention which city- I assume Omak?)* After they have time to review the report, there will be discussion about whether city could accept county leachate. CB- asked who the city consultant is. BR: G & O. We should have answer next week. It would be mutually beneficial if it works. CB- asked to be informed when the city council discusses this.

Central landfill scale- A few years ago it started failing, some temp repairs were made, and funding secured to replace it this year. But we just found out that the scale in Ellisford just failed, and the inspector said it would not last long. The thinking now is to replace the Ellisford scale this year, and postpone the Central scale until next year. It is similar to Bridgport scale, which cost approx. \$60K to replace recently. This one might be a little more, maybe around \$70K. AH- what is the budget for the central scale? BR- about \$340-360K. We will see if central scale can be postponed safely. AH- how much is budgeted for scale maintenance? BR- \$50K per year. Discussion about different pots of money and how they can be used.

AH- is this a structural failure? BR- yes, it's rust underneath the braces You can't see it until it fails. JT- it's concrete on top of the steel, so you can't see it until the concrete cracks. BR- we will keep BOCC updated as inspections occur and decisions are made. AH- how old are these scales? Is there regular scheduled maintenance? Discussion about this. AH- it might be a good idea to put money aside for planned replacement at regular intervals. CB- What do we use when scales are broken? BR- We made a temporary portable scale that worked for a while, but that has also failed now. JT- We looked at changing the type of scale to a different one, but it would cost twice as much. Platform scale is easier to inspect, but increased cost was not worth it. BR- We need to manage budget better. Twisp will be the next one to need replacement. It is the same age as the others, and has not shown signs of failure yet, but we expect it will need replacing within 5 years.

Office space rental- Lisa Melvin will do a walk through. Won't know until after that if they will rent it. If they do not, County will not put on the market again but use for own offices. *(note-takers comment: I didn't catch the organization that was considering renting the space, or which space they were talking about).*

Investments- Last year we began talking to treasurer about how the Public Works dept. invests their money. We are trying to get better interest rates, long term vs short term. Agreed to do more long term, with a portion of what we invest. Road fund and solid waste accounts, etc. Some returns are lower than expected because interest rates dropped. If we get better return, we can reduce the amount we have to set aside. 6 month, 18 month, possibly 3 month, money market as opposed to bonds. JT- looking at penalties for pulling money out ahead of schedule. BR- We don't want penalties that would affect principle. Interest-only penalty is a must. We are also looking at future needs – for example, it will cost \$5M to close landfill.

JT- I have one more item. We ordered 4 trucks. Discussion ensued about different sanders for different size trucks. It appears that there was a mistake made last year and the wrong sander was delivered. AH- what is bottom line? Do we need to buy one more sander? JT- yes. \$26K. AH- have we been using salt brine? JT- yes, but we build our own kits for that. AH- do you have the money? JT- yes it was budgeted.

BR- is there any specific thing you want to see next week?

CB & AH- no.

Break at 11:56. LJ gives BOCC paperwork to sign.

AH- moves to approve voucher for a minor expense (approx. \$300.). CB seconds, voted and approved.

Adjourned for lunch

Note-taker returned a little late- 1:40

Present:

AH- Andy Hover

CB- Chris Branch

PH- Perry Huston

DR – David Rodriguez (County Coroner)

Coroner's Office Supplemental Appropriation request

Coroner's report had just started. David Rodriguez was requesting a supplemental appropriation -\$38K-to keep things running. AH: asked how long they have before funds completely run out. DR: Autopsy funds are very low- if there were more than three required in the week we would not have the funds to cover it. AH- \$38K is too much to approve today- will need time to look through county budget to find the money somewhere and get additional info. CB: what was previous year's budget? DR: I don't have the exact number, but it was identical to previous year. PH: advised BOCC that contingency reserve fund was 0. AH: Said that is not true. It still has some money in it. LJ: Do you have enough funds to pay for current autopsies? DR: No, but we can squeak by because the bill won't come due until next month. LJ: If funds are not appropriated now, we will have to do another Public meeting to approve. CB: Since Carrie recommended this request, maybe we should approve now. AH: Do we want to approve without knowing where funds will come from? LJ: That is what contingency funds are for – to cover unexpected costs. There is \$305,866 currently in contingency fund. CB: I think we ought to move on it now. Asked if public had any comments (myself and one other person present). There were no comments.

AH: I want more clarification on 2017 budget for coroner. More discussion about making sure it's wise to move today. CB: Said he's OK to wait if that's what Andy wants. Conferred with LJ about budget details. CB: I want to establish trust with the Coroner, and recognize that we will probably have to move money around again as it is hard to predict how many people will die in a given budget period, and how many autopsies will be needed. Coroner assured BOCC that they return unused funds rather than try to spend at the end of the year just to use them up. AH: Noted that the Coroner returned \$22K last year. AH: Made motion to approve \$38,940 supplemental appropriation for Coroner. CB seconded. Voted and carried.

PH left the room.

Jail Supplemental Appropriation request,

Supplemental appropriation for Jail: No one showed up in person, but they sent letter which was given to AH and CB. The request was to move \$22835 from one account to another. Asked for public comment- none. AH: made motion to move funds. CB seconded. Voted and carried.

Citizen's comment period: no comments.

Fiber Festival request

VE - Vicki Eberhart (Fiber Festival presenter)

NAWC (North American Wool Co-op) puts on the OKfiberfest. This will be the 4th year. We are non-profit and barely break even. Volunteers put in their own money. Just received LTAC funding but it does not pay for venue expense. We are seeking relief of the burden and stress of a 150% price hike. The bill for this year is \$4200, which is unmanageable.

Background- The annual event links with other non-profits and brings in tourism. They bring a bus from Seattle. This year they are introducing a shearing round-up which will train local shearers (this is considered an educational component). The Okfiberfest is an Ag tourism event. The Workshops bring in visitors.

AH: How much relief do you want? I want to make clear that the "increase" is not a price hike, it's just the regular price with no discount. Also, you added another building that was not included last year.

VE: Last year we split the event and had our workshops at the 12 Tribes Casino, which resulted in splitting the crowd and less people coming to the Vendor section in the Agriplex. This year we wanted to keep the event in one place instead of splitting with 12 tribes. We can do that if we have to. But, if that is the case, we would have to move the entire event to 12 Tribes, and we really want to support the Fairgrounds. AH: did you get a breakdown of the fee schedule? VE: I only spoke with someone on the phone- we don't have a contract yet. AH: We are working with a facility that cost us \$300K for bathrooms, and we're looking at another \$300K for grandstands. Plus maintenance costs. We need to generate income to recover costs. Not for profit, but just to maintain the facilities. Noted bad condition of barns, etc. At what point do you think that you could pay 100%? VE: It would have to be phased in over a few years. NAWC would have to let vendors know about the price hike. The reason that vendors come to our event (they come from many states) is to give them exposure. We also want to keep it affordable for locals. We have shearers coming from Ohio and NY. Once we get to a higher level, we can justify a price hike. It takes several years to get something like this off the ground. AH: Is this a full weekend? VE: Last year we did 2 days, this year it is a 2 ½ day event. The last day will be to wrap up shearing, clean up and have a last sale opportunity for vendors.

Short recess while AH gets fee schedule from Perry. CB: Noted that JD is not here, and it would be best if he were able to vote. He will be gone for quite a while. If AH approves, it may be possible. AH returns with fee schedule.

AH: It's \$2400 for the Agriplex for the weekend, plus \$100 for the stage. \$330/day for arts & crafts bldg. \$110/day for 4H building.

VE introduces Libby McDonald from 4H leaders council. She also has a hospitality & tourism background. The 4H building is available to 4H without cost so we should be able to have that for use. 4H will participate in the Fiber Fest, and thus should use the 4H building. AH: I'm fully on board with that. But which building do you want to use? VE: That's what we want to see. What can you offer us? We are also exploring using the Grange building. Will we be charged for a full day if we only use it for half a day? AH: If 4H is involved, then there is no charge for the 4H building. So that is \$2400 plus \$660. VE: That's still too much. AH: Let's look at the last couple of years. You had the Agriplex for the whole weekend for \$1100. Could you handle \$2400 this year? If you got the 4H and the grange building for free, then you would not have to use the arts & crafts building. VE: the reason we want the Arts and Crafts building is to accommodate the workshops. We may have to send workshops to the 12 Tribes. AH: We don't want you to have to do that. Can you have volunteers help clean the arts & crafts building? VE: we would have the NAWC and 4H kids do a very thorough job cleaning. CB: I want to be clear that I have known VE and her husband for a long time and they donated to my campaign. Would prefer that JD be involved in this decision as he is the main fairgrounds person. AH: I feels that JD would approve letting them have it for the full \$2400, with Arts & crafts building added in. CB: This is part of a bigger project that will benefit Ag in all of our county. AH: Made motion to let NAWC have the buildings they want for \$2400, with the idea that over the next 2 years they would increase to full rates. CB: Seconded. Asked for public comment. James Eberhart: This is a great event, nobody should have an objection. This is a growing event that is getting on the map in the fiber world. Plus 4H kids are getting involved. CB: Approved. AH: We will make sure Perry gets the word that the fee will be \$2400. Libby McDonald complemented the commissioners on their good listening skills and interest.

Community Action Council Grant request

LD- Lael Duncan from Community Action Council. Shared feasibility study with LJ and AH & CB. Made the following presentation:

CDBG public services grant is available for community action agencies. Assist low income with increased services, or innovative services that decrease poverty. Amount decreases each year, and is slated to be eliminated in next Federal budget. We are hoping that they continue it because we need it for critical services. We do a lot of amazing things because of this grant. We have high standards for record keeping and reporting data. Data is collected and analyzed. Over the years we have been more focused on doing work that is in our mission. In spite of wanting to do it all, these funds come with strings that have helped us be focused. Examples: food program. Served 7900 people with food distribution. 40 lbs of food delivered to seniors each month. There are only 300 slots available and we need more, but it makes a big difference to the seniors who are getting the help. We have more all the time, it's heartbreaking. People who have worked all their lives, but just can't make it on Social Security. Cited example of an older guy (70's) who got a late night job at a drive-in to supplement his income. We hope to de-

velop more philanthropy but still need grants. Working on getting our philanthropy increased so that we can show success. When fires came, there were many donors from out of the area. Individual donors make up the bulk of philanthropic donations. AH: Do you think there are people who don't realize that they can donate? LD: Yes, even though I promote on Facebook, radio, etc, there are still many who don't know how to donate or that it's needed. Our board has many new folks on it, so we may be coming up with new ideas. We hope that the BOCC will have someone involved. LJ: how do you advertise your services? LD: We do public service announcements on radio, flyers, Facebook posts. AH: Are these geared for folks who need services? LD: Yes, but it also captures people who want to volunteer and donate. CB: Stated that he has known people who received services, and found that other service providers are connected through CAC. Also having a presence at the County Fair was good. LD: Yes, we will be meeting with other agencies and people and doing surveys to find out what services are needed. AH: Who administers the block grant? LD: The county gets paid for the admin. CB initiated a discussion about the nuances of the grant and how it is managed. LD explained how the details worked as far as administering the grant. There are differences depending on where you are in the state. CB: asked about the eligibility requirements. LD: explained the income limits. AH: I don't see any negatives other than some more admin work for LJ. LJ: I have been doing it for years. She then gave BOCC the paperwork needed to approve the grant. CB: Do we have all the correct policies in place? LJ: Yes. CB asked if there was any public input. There was none. AH: made motions to authorize each item individually. CB: seconded all. Voted and carried all. Some shuffling around of papers as they were signed. PH came back by request of BOCC, as he is the SEPA officer whose signature is required on one of the forms. PH asked if there was construction or anything that would impact the physical environment. LD: no, its just providing food and shelter in existing structures. There was a short discussion about a checklist that seems to be missing. PH says that sometimes they are exempt, which LD confirmed. Looked up specific section of SEPA to make sure they are in compliance. Looks like they were, so PH signed. LD: read off categories that CAC falls under (food service, housing, training, etc.) Just noticed that there is an error in paperwork that was submitted (an incomplete sentence) – will send corrected copy to LJ.

Short break.

BOCC temporarily adjourned. Reconvened as Oroville EMS. Approved something. Reconvened as BOCC. All within about 30 seconds.

LJ: Budget adjustment requested from drug task force. Need to move funds from one account to another. (approx. \$600). AH made motion to approve. CB seconded. Voted and passed.

Economic Alliance report

Roni Holder-Diefenbach – Economic Alliance Executive Director

Economic Alliance Director, Roni Holder-Diefenbach, entered and thought she was on the agenda for 1530 to do a quarterly update for the BOCC. LJ remembered the conversation, but she didn't get on the agenda.

BOCC agreed that she could present. Roni listed meetings and events she has attended. Key things that are going on: The lumber mill shut down in January. The last employees were laid off. We just found out that the Tribe did get certified (TAA) which means that former employees are eligible for training and extended unemployment. This also happened with last mill shutdown. We had a job fair last week. About 40 employers showed up, but not as many job-seekers as last year. We think this is because the TAA certified folks can't take other jobs, because it will disqualify them for the training. Roni spoke last week with someone from Kinross (mine that is shutting down) who said that they will have job fair in April. They have 600+ employees, and will only keep about 10 people. That Job Fair will bring employers to Republic to talk to laid off employees. Roni hopes to bring people from other parts of OK County to that job fair. One problem is that a typical skilled mine employee salary is about \$80K per year. It's hard to find other jobs with this level of wages. Roni hopes to get some of these folks to start their own business. It's tough right now. Local businesses are saying they are down about 50% with sales due to lay-offs, and maybe also the political climate. Economic Alliance is working on workshops for folks who want to start businesses. Also working with CAC to have a housing summit. Roni has been talking with large employers about difficulty getting housing for professionals. There are lots of anecdotal stories about people who move here to take professional jobs (at hospital, college, etc) and end up living in motels for months and eventually leave because they can't find housing. Housing summit will address why new housing is not being built. Banks have stopped lending during recession and not started up again. George Brady is keen on doing tour of potential development sites. Pateros has a possibility for a development with retail on ground, and housing above. Need to make sure it is year-round residents. Concern about not wasting money putting in new utilities and infrastructure if there are already sites ready to go.

Roni has been working with the Tribe since the Mill shut down. There are 22 positions gone (living wage jobs). Downtown businesses are losing business. There is some talk about entering into agreements with other mills in the area, but nothing firm. Some people are talking about using facility as plywood mill. A South Korean group came out to consider some kind of manufacturing at mill site. There is talk about a setting up a foreign trade zone. CB: Asked if the tribe made contact with railroad? Roni said yes, she thought they did. CB: mentioned the Brace Act (Federal act of congress). It addresses issues with railroads and could provide some funding for infrastructure repairs. Doesn't know if it will pass, or where it is in the process. Roni: There were issues with derailments that are causing people to hesitate. There was some discussion about the railroad as an asset. It is valuable and should be used if at all possible. Discussed concept of an "inland port".

Roni presented a Dept of Commerce requirement for paperwork to be filled out that supports the Economic Alliance. Deadline is May. Report addresses jobs created (47) and businesses created (27). Ronnie worked hard on several large projects, but could not make progress.

Roni met with Sen Murray's office to talk about economic issues. Her aide said that she did not know about the Kinross shutdown.

This concluded the Economic Alliance report, and Roni left.

Approve consent agenda.

There was a long break while commissioners go over time sheets and review consent items. There was no discussion about any of the consent agenda items.

Consent Items:

1. Commissioners Proceedings March 13, 14, & 17, 2017
2. Associate Development Organization Certification Designation Form- Economic Alliance
3. Agreement- Conconully RAP Project Services Agreement- NC Testing & Inspection LLC
4. Bid Award-Soil Stabilizer- Roadwise Inc
5. Bid Award –Liquid Asphalt – Idaho Asphalt Supply Inc
6. Approval- CDBG Grant -A19 Voucher Fire #15 Request
7. Agreement Amendment No. 1- Dept of Ecology Grant Reduction/County Sheriff/ Corrections
8. LTAC Marketing Contract – Community Cultural Center Tonasket- 17-LTAC-005
9. LTAC Marketing Contract – Methow Arts Alliance- Lodging Tax Revenue-17-LTAC-012
10. LTAC Marketing Contract – Winthrop Auditorium- Lodging Tax Revenue-17-LTAC-036
11. LTAC Marketing Contract – Confluence Gallery- Lodging Tax Revenue-17-LTAC-007
12. LTAC Marketing Contract – Cascadia- Lodging Tax Revenue-17-LTAC-004
13. Resolution 44-2017 Terminating Sonora Point Point Resort Development Agreement
14. Resolution 47-2017 Budget Adjustment Communications
15. Resolution 48-2017 Amending STIP 2017-2022 Six Year Transportation Program

AH: suggests removing the commissioners proceedings for March 17 from the approve consent agenda today and wait until JD returns. This is because it contains a lot of things that JD said and he should be here to make sure they are correct before he approves it.

AH: moves to approve consent agenda with the exception of the proceedings from March 17th.

CB seconded. Voted and approved.

LJ: asked about the side notes. Are they included?

Discussion, and agreed that side notes are not for the record- just for the BOCC edification.

There was another long period with BOCC doing stuff on their computers.

LJ: I just got a last minute budget adjustment. \$425 to move from one account to another for Juvenile dept. AH moved to approve the request. CB seconded. Voted and approved.

Discussion ensued about the implications of continually moving around amounts between line items. AH doesn't like it, CB says it has it's advantages, but isn't perfect. AH says that the best way is to pay attention during finance meetings and make elected dept heads be accountable. CB says that it is a matter of how you manage- do you assume everyone is not to be trusted, or do you let the dept heads have some latitude. Do you hold hard to the line and deny their requests? AH does not want to micromanage. Wants to use the historical income data, and give each department a percentage to use as they see fit. CB: When you do that, you may end up reducing a level of service in some depts. You have to answer for that. There is a belief that you can pinch pennies so much and keep services up. You have to look at revenue, and see where that is going up and try to keep improving that. AH: I live in the playground mecca, and I'm telling you that it comes at a cost. CB started a conversation about water permit situation reducing property values, which reduces taxes and county revenue. Also transportation and land use issues come in. We have a responsibility to nurture the revenue sources. We are at greater risk if we put all our eggs in one basket.

More discussion about coroner's request for supplemental funds. AH concerned about budgets not adding up. Concerned about why it is not enough. CB said that this is a discrepancy in the budgeting process. AH referenced that there is also discrepancies with sheriff and jails. CB says that we have to deal with what we have. Hoping that as year progresses, it will become more clear about what will actually be needed. Stated that there will be more moving around of funds. AH says that you can't just come up with money all the time when someone wants it. LJ said that there were some items that used to be separately listed, but the former BOCC combined them and reduced the budget on paper (and in actuality). It was a mechanism that was used to reduce the budget. AH: We need to have a good understanding of carryover. CB said he read this same conversation in some minutes from last year. Perry said you can't use carryover in next budget. AH:

Well, you can, but you don't know what it is. You can put it into a reserve account that would fluctuate. We should have a budget workshop to look at last year's budget and income/expense. CB We need to look at the different years next to each other to see the areas that go up and down, what was used and what wasn't. AH: \$200,000 for professional services fees are high. I would like to look at vouchers to see who exactly is getting this money. LJ: It's all going to attorneys for the Supreme Court cases. Sandy Mackie's wages are coming from a different fund than professional services. 53% is spent from legal services fund already. AH: We have to stop getting into these law suits. What if we lose? We have to pay the legal fees for the other side. Where will the money come from? CB: I see that the cost could be significant. They agreed to continue the discussion at a later date.

PH came in at 4:55 to say that Albert (note- I assume this is Albert Lin, the county attorney) had finalized something and wanted to know if BOCC was happy with it. BOCC said yes, go ahead and get letter out. No mention about what this is about.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.