

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
(BOCC)  
April 23, 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 Gechas – 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:** Therapeutic Court discussion, **Civil Attorney:** Liability limitations on Equine activity, Horse Racing liability statute, Easement at the junction of Hwy 97 & 20, **BOCC Admin Clerk:** Jim Zach, Potts & Assoc., Legislative Update, **Fair Events:** Summer temp, Fair billboard, PUD & Fairgrounds arena work, **Planning & Admin:** PC meeting, Nightly Rental letters, Water availability study, **Executive Session:** BOCC, PH & DG. Pending potential litigation, **Central Services:** Line of sight issues at Fair Grounds, Upcoming retirement, **Public Works:** Recent hire of M2 Driver/mechanic position, DoT tour – May 14, Road & Maintenance, Network Connection, Office Manager position, WATV routes / SHB 1028, Edelweiss sewer, STP funding, Discussion of Hwy 97/20 old state pit, **Forest Health Collaborative, Public Comment:** GT comment on PC workload, **Noxious Weeds:** Summer Temps, Field Safety training, Basic First Aid, Weed ID day, Supplemental budget request, Weed control on any body of water, County Code on Weeds, **Miscellaneous Business:** Nutrient Ag Solutions - Credit Application, Approve Consent Agenda, Signing authority to Finance Manager Supervisor, Fiber line contract

8:53 AH, JD & CB - **Therapeutic Court** discussion in progress – BOCC + TC, Dennis Rabidou, Judges Rawson & Culp.

- Goal is providing services in a cost-effective fashion
- Wants sales tax add on (CJDT) to continue to support efforts.
- Judge Culp – a means to increase accountability
- Judge Rawson – concern about effectiveness of current OBHC support. Looking to hire someone inhouse to serve needs better for Therapeutic Court. Wants in control to be in this special court and not in OBHC.
- TC mentioned possibility of a sales tax add-on for a position in the Therapeutic Court.
- Position would report to BOCC but no oversight responsibility on the position
- AH: wants a final draft of the job description, have it checked by TC then to BOCC for review. After that a resolution to be prepared.
- Judge Rawson – will bring in financial details to support the position.

9:05 AH, JD & CB present. Staff – LJ, PH, DG & SC

#### DG (Civil Attorney)

- Needs an executive session over usual topics, will wait until after other Staff reports.
- Read through **liability limitations from RCW on Equine activity at the Fair Grounds**. Feels laws protect County if someone doing individual activities on Fair Grounds. Exception if County anything (e.g. – tack) or there is an obvious hazard. Horse Racing is under a different statute, AH wants DG to look at the pertinent Horse Racing RCW.
- SC has looked at the **Horse Racing statute**. Needs to look more carefully at what is the definition of horse racing.
- DG – one email for PH involving an **easement at the junction of Hwy 97 & 20** at the south end. Across the road is a state gravel pit. There is a private road that goes to the left (North). DoT wants to dispose of the property including the abandoned pit. The County has a small bit of across a corner of the property. DoT would want an honoring of an old promise to convert to an easement. County has promised an easement across a small corner of County land for access to the private land. AH – feels all property owners involved should also grant an easement. DoT wants to gift (sell?) the whole property – this complicates the issue. Old County promise has nothing on paper at this point, DG researching. There are a variety of maintenance issues (JT) involved if the County would take the road on.

#### LJ (BOCC Admin Clerk) Jim Zach, Potts & Assoc., Legislative Update

- Working on concurrent bills to get passed before adjournment
- Budget negotiations going on. A lot of resistance to tax increases to cover budget need. Really a focus on “who pays,” not so much on the idea of a tax increase. A lot of pressure from Governor. Very unclear and many unknowns at this time. A lot happening behind closed doors.
- Not clear if there will be a Special Session at this time. Looks like R’s would want a special as this would be a black mark on D’s. D’s would want to be done this week.
- Potts is working hard supporting WASC agenda and rural counties.
- JD – to attend a Wild Land Fire meeting in Olympia at the DNR Bldg on Wednesday. JD will meet with Potts rep. CB will be in Olympia for another meeting and will meet them in the evening.
- Nothing else at this time.

#### DG (Civil Attorney)

- More on Property – Feels a County easement would solve concerns, but “dispose” is another issue. If County doesn’t want the DoT property who would “buy” the property?
- JT (Public Works) – has said road is too small (narrow) for County equipment. CB – local HOS has paid for some County work on the road in the past.
- DG has asked for a cost to purchase from the state – no answer to date. JT would prefer not to take on. The property is within boundary of the CCT.

#### SG (Fair Events)

- Introduces **new summer temp** for Fair Events
- Working on the placement of the **new Fair billboard** for the RV park.
- Internet connection to the Counts is choppy, may be leaves interfering with line of sight connection
- **PUD was at the Fairgrounds** – all wire on the grounds belongs to the County, not PUD. Will try to figure out; Underground power lines to the lights and other facilities at arena construction and suggest much better to put them inside conduit. Allows for just pulling out the line for them

to be worked on instead of having to dig up the lines. Work might need a Tribal permit, need to check with the Tribe and explain what is being considered and do what is necessary for work to be done.

- AH has received a receipt in his email and want to make sure it is handled correctly.
- Inner rail is now out and finished, working on outer rail. Has rented a saw to dismantle the metal railing at the stock pens.

#### PH (Planning & Admin)

- **PC meeting** last night. Hopes to get first draft of EIS out soon.
- **Nightly Rental letters** were out, starting to get responses. Need to co-ordinate with Public Health. Some back and forth with people.
- **Water availability study**

#### 9:42 Executive Session – BOCC, PH & DG.

- **Pending potential litigation.** French Creek, OBHC, Comp. Plan and a letter about 17A.400 – water availability study area. Return at 10:35

#### RC (Central Services) & TC (HR & Risk)

- **Line of sight issues** with phone service at the Fair Grounds. May be connected with leaf out in tress. Might have to bounce signal off Jackass Butte down to Fair Grounds
- Mostly here to discuss **upcoming retirement.** Has moved home/family and currently living in a horse trailer and living quarters
  - o Would like to be on the books through December.
  - o Has a lot of vacation time to use. TC – RC has maxed out his annual leave (30 days) and also has accumulated exempt leave – so 40+ days overall.
  - o Would like to call 12/5/2019 as last day then back up from there with the leave days to determine last working day.
  - o AH – how long would there need to be to familiarize a replacement? Looking a leaving in September but need to advertise in July to allow a couple of months to train. List the job Sept. and last work day in October.
  - o County needs to replace skill, network skill not necessarily admin duties. Would need to separate the two and not advertise the two together.
  - o Admin replacement is possible through in house. Other options possible. They people n office have specific areas of expertise.
  - o AH advocates for an advertisement for a Network person, then advertise separately internally for the administrative role. Director would also do specific duties as assigned.
  - o BOCC is OK with the general outline for RC retirement. RC delivers a signed letter of retirement for the outlined plans above.

#### 11:00 JT (Public Works)

- JD brings up **recent hire of M2 Driver/mechanic position.** Driver who was let go during his probation position. JD feels the person was a highly qualified driver and feels new hire has limitations due to inability to use a manual transmission. JT explains that the driver that was let go was a good driver but was not able to do the mechanic portion of the job.
  - o JD is not pointing out a concern with the person being let go but the hiring of an individual that is deficient in using a manual transmission. Feels any driver hire should have manual transmission ability to be able to fill the needs of the County. Realize that cannot make it a requirement but should be a preference in a hire.

- Cannot be a minimum requirement but a preferred skill set. County also has a CDL training program to raise skill level of personnel who to be drivers. Maybe add a manual transmission training component? AH – especially a direction to help out improvement of workers, especially for a worker with an apparent big upside for the County.
- CDL is a major requirement to drivers, a non-driver Public Works employees can be CDL trained at County expense with the stipulation is on a 3-yr commitment for the cost of the training – can be pro-rated for repaying if the person leaves early.
- **DoT tour – May 14.** A draft agenda is firming up.
- **Road & Maintenance:** Some of the same roads are still closed, improving with the higher altitude roads where the problems is ongoing. Some grading and starting weed control.
- **Network Connection** – contract moving forward, temporary solution is OK for now.
- **Office Manager position** – one interview, need to re-open.
- **WATV routes / SHB 1028** – did not pass.
- **Edelweiss sewer** – System is not willing to turn over drain field reserve funds. County still needs to replace force main. Look at the funding options First option is to apply for grant funds without it being an emergency is July. Will leave a short time line for any work, needs to be completed before freeze up.
- **STP funding** meeting on 4/18, obligation authority. City work under STP is not going to meet deadlines, is a use or loose situation. Will work to change type of projects in the future to avoid this problem.
- AH asks about rental rates on County power screener for use a arena racetrack. Need to screen down to as small a size as possible – probably 3/8’ is smallest. \$123 an hour – JT will get a time estimate for the a 6” depth around the track plus new fill sand. AH also asks about transporting 23 truckloads of sank from OK Valley Concrete pit to Fair Grounds arena. About \$1200 as a round number.
- **Discussion of Hwy 97/20 old state pit** and right of way with JT.

CB – **Forest Health Collaborative** new week at Sun Mtn. Trout Unlimited & Conservation District has offered to pay 1/3 each of a pizza luncheon. Would County be willing to cover remaining 1/3? Total would be <\$100. The 3 BOCC members will share the 1/3 contribution personally.

Lunch

1:30 **Public Comment** – JD left earlier for the Wildland Fire meeting in Olympia.

- GT – comments concerning Planning Commission and available time to complete workload and having discussed concern with PH.

2:00 AL (**Noxious Weeds**)

- 2 summer temps working, 1 more to begin on Wednesday.
- Wants to update the County weeds code – from 1986
- **Field Safety training** coming up provided by Sheriff’s Dept. – mostly oriented towards working with people. No riding with strangers in emergencies, de-escalation and more.
- **Basic First Aid upcoming** – AH – CPR?, AL – now but will look at it.
- Had first **Weed ID day** last week – 14 people: 10 public, 4 staff
- Will be bringing a **supplemental budget request** to cover grants received and additional work.
- May be getting a lot more work from the USFS contingent on the outcome of a Title II grant application.

- AH: question about any **weed control on any body of water** – What is the threshold for aquatic treatment? AL – a lot quicker permit with Palmer & Osoyoos were added – a lot more public pressure and concern.
  - o Aquatic Weed training coming up. Can't deal with native aquatics even if a problem (algae).
  - o If someone comes to Noxious Weeds at this time of year it would be a hard push to get a permit by Fall. A lot of steps, Palmer was 3 months, Osoyoos took 9 months.
  - o A lot of complaints are really algae and not classified as a noxious weed (often a sign of nutrient level in water).
  - o Shoreline applications for weeds do not require an aquatic application permits as long as out of water.
  - o There are a few Milfoil hybrids – not really Eurasian – have to send samples for a good ID.
- **County Code on Weeds** – current list is very outdated. Discussion of revisions and deletions.
  - o Would like to adopt state statutes for weeds, inter-town and more. Use RCW reference as much as possible to meet local needs.
  - o Hay is a big problem but not easy to deal with – dispersal, counties not consistent on enforcement & control.
  - o Going over elements of a very rough draft revision.
  - o Motion to have County Staff (AL & PH) to assist in amending the Noxious Weed Code – passed.
- Lack of weed control budget at the Federal & State Forest & other public lands a problem.

### 2:37 **Miscellaneous Business**

- Work on minutes for Consent Agenda
- LJ – resolution for Nutrient Ag Solutions for a Credit Application – to allow billing cycle opposed to paying cash. Authorization for Vice Chair to sign. Passed
- AH – Motion for resolution 51-2019 to give signing authority to Finance Manager Supervisor – (Position has broader then some but limited to \$500) Will be same as what CH had when she was in that position. Passed.
- TC – **Fiber line contract** with NCI Data. Only concern is data speed not being guaranteed or specified. Maybe capacity not speed? How to put into contract?
- Washington State application for Alcohol – Eagles Tonasket Comancheros at Tonasket Rodeo Grounds. Motion for Vice Chair to sign – OK.

### 3:21 **Approve Consent Agenda** and minutes as amended.

- Email from Polson to discuss Farmland Preservation Project in a Mid-May @ 11:00 am meeting.

### **Adjourn**