

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
April 10, 2017

PRESENT:

Andy Hover (AH) BOCC

Lalena Johns (LJ) Secretary BOCC

Chris Branch (CB) BOCC

Perry Huston (PH) Planning Dept

Jim Detro (JD) BOCC

Traci Walker (TW) Audit Lead (from Washington State Auditor Office)

Main highlights - Audit of Tonasket Emergency Medical Services District, Public Works report on county roads, damage, and plans, Hwy 20 closure, Planning dept on water issues, other planning items, Grizzly Bear Reintro, Smoke jump base (NCSB)

These notes have been taken by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Represent Okanogan County (ROC.) The notes have been taken as close to verbatim as possible, with writer's comments, questions, or explanations in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Meeting started around 1:30 pm

Perry Huston - requested board adjourn as BOCC - and reconvene as Tonasket EMS board. Done

PH - Introduced Traci Walker from WA State Auditor's Office

Upcoming Tonasket EMS Audit

Traci had handout and basically explained and outlined the audit process.

Main points - stated vision for Auditor's office (work for citizens, cost less, earn trust)

Purpose for her being here - sharing the audit scope.

Try to work with BOCC regarding what works for them - Available to help thru year, not just at audit time.

2015-2016 audit - will look thru 2015, but focus on 2016 -Report will address issues what was spent etc, any weaknesses, misappropriation.

Exit items will be shared but not formally included in report.

Cost - Usually \$8000 plus \$400 travel expenses - might be more if Dmitri, Assistant Audit Manager from Moses Lake, has to come.

Audit Dispute process - can go to mediator if need be....

AH - changing the way we do things in Methow so how will this affect it the audit?

TW-Methow Valley may need a little more auditing and will depend on the contract - usually about 20 hour audit, but with the way assets are controlled it may be a little different. May go back to a straight assessment audit - 8 hour audit.

If there is a finding, will continue to be a regular audit. The reason Methow is on a regular audit is due to questions they couldn't get answered in last audit. If there isn't a finding, may go back to an assessment audit. The audit office makes the final decision on

how they will further audit. \$8000 is just preliminary budget - this is just an accountability audit.

Traci left

BOCC talking amongst themselves. Unable to hear - asked if mikes were turned on , they weren't so LJ turned on.

Chief Warden came in - also **Public Works - Josh Thomson (JT) and Gary George (GG)** presenting.

PH presented Tonasket EMS budget numbers - approved.

PH - Tonasket EMS audit update. Has met with Tonasket EMS people, have materials gathered for the audit, all things are in order.

Requested Adjourn as Tonasket EMS board, reconvene as BOCC

Albert Lin, (AL) lawyer, also arrived.

Resolution - Easement agreement - AH said is comfortable with wording. Perry asking if resolution was reviewed by Albert Lin - he believes he did review.

Intent of Resolution is on consent agenda for tomorrow Item #7 - Purchase of Easement-Bodie Mountain.

Discussion re: consent agendas for tomorrow - see #5,6 on Tues Consent Agenda - request for Election -Sales and Use Tax for Juvenile Facilities and for Emergency communication Systems (not fully understood.)

Public Works - Josh Thompson - Gary George. ROADS REPORT

Only have one county road closed - may be opened up tomorrow - actually another - Beaver Dam road is closed as well. - waiting for culvert. **Multiple county roads with washouts but no loss of pavement - roads are passable but some only 4W passable. Worried about Wed storm. 24 roads that we have lost partial lanes on and some have shoulder work needs to be done.**

AH - Emergency guy said there is some issue on Conconolly.

GG- After rainstorm on Friday Sinlahekin road affected and Conconully's public works addressed it - built a berm to focus creek flow in diverted direction. Will leave it like this till after possible Wed storm. Will revisit it Thursday - is not a yr round creek. No utilities affected except for sewer systems to the cabins affected - one cabin lost sewer line, debris and water flow still happening. All of this on Bureau of Rec land.

HWY 20 CLOSURE

CHIEF WARDEN - talked with **Wayne Rice of WSDOT(?)** As good as 3 week turnaround to get 20 fixed, at least.

MP 221 is where big problem is.

MP 219 and 220 have houses above there - FD 6 and Aeromethow will now be responders for this area - will have to take pt to 3 Rivers Hospital.....decision making is with Aeromethow.

AH asks if there is anything county can do to help State fix 20? **GG** - NoAlso - No signage off 153 to indicate 20 is closed but is something at Pateros (*I think this was said*)

JD talked of a person (Bob) who has big rock for hauling and might help cut costs - had been using another company. (*this was clarified by JD to me later - this person was not on county's list of companies to use but in an emergency situation we could use closest even if not county sanctioned I believe*)

PH asked if County should adopt an emergency declaration.

GG said worst place was Hawsett(sp?) road but they dealt with it. Tunk Cr got 5 inches snow....discussion re: roads and damage.

PH will draft a resolution to declare an emergency so as to enable road crews to be able to do what they need to to keep Hwy 153 open, especially now with Hwy 20 closed. Public Works commended by BOCC for good work. **CB** talked of Similkameen Rd issues as well.

Lanie: DNR contacted board that they wish to come and discuss issues they have with their roads as well -they will be meeting soon with board.

Discussion re: small culvert used to repair 153 last year - need bigger pipe. Can contact Public Works re: road issues - whats open etc.
Public Works left.

Water Issues

PH - back to agenda - WRIA 52 issue - a number of Ferry County residents will get a notice from OK county planning - planning person at Ferry County will brief their commissioners re: this sending of notice for building permit. (*didn't understand this*)

PH -Stay the course - re: evaluating streams

Says he will get ahold of water companies, has two applications - Duck Lake (a protected aquifer) and Johnson Cr - concerns re: them drilling their own well and might be a problem. Can't speak to Duck Lake, but Johnson Cr actually gets water from the Johnson Creek water system - and some of these people want off this system. (*He has approved them already I believe but may have misunderstood this*)

CB asks about Duck Lake - they have an approved

AH- asks if they have a start card

PH - Johnson Cr had approval already in late 2016

CB - wants to know if people already in water service area can drill wells?

PH - drilling a well just to get off water service is problematic

JD - what about a Group B well?

PH - can be a problem especially if they are drilling into same aquifer of water system- again, causes problem with them possibly not paying then for water system

CB - says it will affect system

PH - again, wants to contact the water systems themselves to get the scoop. Talked about practice of putting water availability on plat maps, and is a plat note on the map

AH - wants to look thru Hirst case again

PH - issuance of building permit without putting water to beneficial use -

CB - if plat was approved due to availability of water prior, it should be legal

AH - people assumed 5000 gal/day in this short plat

CB- and they were in essence, vested - the water was vested in the plat approval. In Oroville, there was a moratorium on development. In one of the development maps, there was water...*(missed the rest of this)*

PH - Mackie is meeting with someone and he is invited along - will see what he can learn

AH - feels a lot of people have jumped a lot of hoops for these plat maps and had water and wells with 5000 gal/day approved on these and should be vested.

PH - Only thing different now is there is a public notice process - did not notify the senior water holders, and this was only with existing wells.

There is also water allocation info on the plat maps.

CB and AH want PH to bring up to (?)Mackie that with that much info on the plat maps, that some of these wells should be assured.

Legislative update (PH) - Senate bill and house bills *(concerning water rights I believe)* ...no movement

AH - believes Government has some language out there - WSAC - all tied to budget - Whatcom- Hirst decision - may be changes - says there has to be some happy medium.

PH - buildable lands bill - GMA requirement - that counties go through and do a buildable lands process. i.e. - in certain counties, where there is a land squeeze or need., feels this is a push by developers. Others (environmental perspective) feel too much land available already. Depending upon level of review required.

CB- if it becomes a need for the county to do buildable lands assessment that they (state government) probably won't want counties doing their own and will have to be some funding for it to be done by State

AH - my concern is re: what will be the criteria

PH - is a question of what is available for development - is it viable? i.e. - depends on where the land is . WSAC feels it is not necessary to make every county do it. Others feel yes.

Ben *(was in audience but I didn't get his name - is a building inspector I believe)* nothing to add

PH - packets *(for building permits)* roll across his desk and assesses them as best he can

Ben - does mainly the Methow inspections. People are worried about permits and it will be a busy year if they can get their permits. **AH** asked if he was assuring people they will probably get permits?

Ben - is telling people to still get their forms in early cuz if may take longer time to get their building permits. May take 6 weeks to get permits approved. People complaining but will have to get used to this. Used to take 2 weeks.

AH - has question for Albert Lin - talked to a gentleman in county who filed an impairment with ecology years ago against a neighbor who was putting in a larger pump on his well. Would be interested in what type of paperwork this was, and are they giving up legal rights?

AL- with county, they are establishing a baseline that there is water available.

AH - DOE came in and told the neighbor they couldn't do it (put in bigger pump)- probably due to affecting the neighbors well.

PH - ie - if PH decides the person can have a well, and another person comes along later and says that building that well impaired their well - what happens.

AL states they are in litigation right now and wants commissioners to be careful how they deal with this. Hasn't been any cases post Hirst yet and don't know how this is playing out.

PH - in summary- Perry is staying the course with permits. Decided they will be sending a public records request around impairment of well filing with DOE. All feel it would be good to know what the issue was, and how it played out.

AL and PH discussing stuff and missed this.

Salcido Construction Report and Energy project

PH -Route by which water from well will get to the building - (*which building. ?*) Received a call from Salcido - feels if we move with some speed it would be valuable so that we can get contractors working now

Joe raised question of cooling this summer. Salcido says Ameresco ...will be keeping risk manager in the loop. (*not sure which project this is*)

Planning Budget Activity Report

PH - gave sheet with budget to each commissioner to review

Critical areas ordinance-

PH- hoped to be able to schedule that in a couple weeks but running behind - wants to schedule that hearing in a couple weeks.

Commissioners looking at budget....

AH - speaking of SEPA and ATV's, where is that at? Doing **JD** district first (district 3)- has started a list.

CB feels there will be some comments re: critical areas ordinance.

Planning dept will be within budget but will have to move some money around, and to get some of the packets passed (building permits I assume)

Talked of the 3:30 agenda item tomorrow -Discussion-Conditional Use Permit Emerald City Cannabis -these marijuana growers were denied before - not sure what they want to talk about. **PH** advised they be cautious if they ask what can be done about their previous permit - nothing. **CB** suggested **PH** contact them and find out what they want to talk about so its not a waste of time - Lanie believes they want to address their previous permit rejection.

Grizzly Bear Reintroduction -

PH wrote first draft on grizzly issue letter being sent to NPS and **AL** checked it. County basically believes that there should be an environmental assessment before this should go forward and letter will be sent to NPS stating this - long 3 page letter....

AH asked if it was true that all counties surrounding the reintroduction area were against it.

PH says he will follow up on this.

AH would like to know this as this county (Okanogan) called around and found 80% of people were for it .

Commissioners discussed this issue with note taker. Stated they believed issue was complex, and that many people seem to be for re-introduction, but when the bears move around and if they become a problem - endangering their animals, or orchards, as they might- then people will want them killed. The BOCC feels their needs to be a greater assessment of the impact on this county.

PH concludes his Planning agenda.

Fairgrounds

USDA grant for fairgrounds- Lanie has a report to send to them re: stands. They may need to be restored somehow if they are deemed historical. **AH** - some options with different kinds of seats. **CB** - if you go with historic preservation, what happens. **PH** - will be difficult to get job done. The easier way is to demolish the old seats and have new ones. Dept of Ag required that they work with archeology first. Lanie is doing a report to State that will determine whether we will need an archeological assessment.

AH and PH and CB agree that removable portable bleachers would be best. Will be more costly and time consuming to declare bleachers historical and preserve.

PH leaves.

AH - got a call from ecology to put an air monitor in the parking lot behind county office as the monitor might be more accurate here, than where it is presently near the mill.

They would pay county to put it there. **AH** will talk with them further about it.

Some talk

AL leaves

LJ -County Auditors office will be submitting their report and want BOCC to review it.. Auditor needs meeting before May 5th. Discussion of their schedules.....

Open Public Meetings Act Questions

Lots of discussion around this meeting they think they should attend - Tonasket Ranger District - All discussing what to do - AH and CB want to attend but are concerned about it being considered an open meeting and then requiring Lanie to take minutes. Need to double check with AL. Lanie tried to clarify by reading county statutes around this but still not clear.

Lanie read from the RCW's - but still need to clarify with lawyer AL and CB will ask him .

Basically, the commissioners want to be able to attend certain meetings where they would not make any decisions but the information might affect their subsequent decisions.

They want to be informed about the issues by attending certain meetings but not be considered a quorum and therefore needing Lanie to take minutes etc.

Discussion re: being transparent and keeping open meetings available to public.

USFS: Smoke Jump Base in Twisp (NCSB), Franz/Detro

AH wanted to make sure notetaker put in notes that the commissioners are fighting very hard to keep the base in Okanogan county. Feels it is historically important to keep it here, and strategically important due to location, safer as there is less air traffic than down in Wenatchee. Many reasons....

BOCC very concerned re: Smoke Jumper base being moved out of OK county. Forest Service apparently wants to move it. This writer asked BOCC what forest service would get out of moving the base. JD says its because Kikan (*spelling - head of ?Wenatchee forest service area*) wants it under his purview.

JD talked about his Wildland Firefighter committee and how the new Commissioner of Public Lands is eager to keep the committee going. She stated she has a short term and long term plan for the forests. And this would include logging. JD very pleased with her. Lanie had a couple more issues - budgetary stuff from Juvenile - mostly moving money around to cover some training - AH wanted clarification. Called and clarified with them, approved.

Water Conservancy Board

LJ -notice from John Hubbard re: water conservancy board that Lee Barker is not able to participate on Water Conservancy Board and position is open. Letter from Charles

Brushwood (*editorial note: attorney, from Colville Reservation*) - he is very interested in joining that board and has completed the training needed for this. The Water conservancy board approves of his application - no Dept of Ecology input into the board anymore (?). Once this board confirms his appt, then their decisions are reviewed by ecology.

AH moves to approve C. Brushwood's application for the water conservancy board.

Racetrack

AH keeps getting calls about people wanting to use the racetrack - if we don't charge, we have less liability....however, we should look at the track with Josh Thompson. **CB** talked with individual - John Smith from tribe - that is very interested in using it. **AH** - don't want county spending a lot of taxpayer's money on it if it benefits only people who make money off it. **LJ** talked of how much time and effort it takes to maintain the track. **AH** and **LJ** feel county needs a Rotovator to maintain it properly. **LJ** stated rails are in bad shape too. Worried about risks to county here - need to talk with risk management. Need to look into it more at this point.

Emergency measures

PH returned with wording for a resolution to enact emergency measures

Resolution 65-2017- essentially says to adopt emergency measures to do what county needs to do with respect to rain damage to roads etc occurring as a result of previous fires and hillsides eroded etc., to keep roads open.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.