

**Okanogan Board of County Commissioners.  
4-18-2017 AM**

JD—Jim DeTro  
AH—Andy Hover  
CB—Chris Branch  
LJ—Lalena Johns  
AL—Albert Lin  
TC—Tanya Craig—Risk Management & HR  
JP—Joe Poulin—Maintenance Supervisor  
PH—Perry Huston  
JT—Josh Thompson—County Engineer—Roads  
BR—Ben Rough—Administrator, Public Works  
BK—Brian Kirchner—Alta Vista Irrigation District

*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](http://www.okanogancounty.org).*

**Summary - Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

**Discussion-** *sharing jail costs with Douglas County, and the upcoming referendum on the sales tax increase for Juvenile Hall*

**Update—Risk Management/Human Resources—***discussion of a geothermal project (Notetaker thinks this is a geothermal heat pump. Also discussion of emergency planning concerning power outages.*

**Alta Vista Irrigation District—***AVID wants to discontinue its waterline that serves the Granger Building, where the commissioners have their office and meeting room. They've never actually provided any irrigation water to the building and it would save both the county and the irrigation district if they officially end their membership. The Commissioners agree but need to figure out the procedure for doing so.*

**Update—Public Works—***Update on county road closures, changing the name of Squaw Creek Road, and other projects.*

**Staff Meeting**

AH—I'll be here for the morning only.

AH—to TC—What are we going to do about the race track? A person still wants to ride his horse there.

TC—You & I need to have a walk-thru at the track. Friday after 3PM?

PH—Mike Liu of the USFS, when's he coming?

AH—Liu will talk about the Mission Project

TC—Debi isn't here today.

TC—We've got reports concerning other counties done with Mike Warden, going back 5 years.

**Jail**

AH—Douglas County Commissioners are willing to help with infrastructure re: jail but want a 10 year extension beyond the 5 years they already have. We need to change the language in the agreement. Paying for 40 beds but only using 35.

PH—Juvenile sales tax. Encourage counties to co-locate facilities.

TC—We want to write this into the contract. The invoice will include the number of beds.  
Working with Albert on language in the contract.

AL—We'll have to submit something to Steve (Clemons? Of Douglas Co?) He'll make his comments & we'll talk.

### **Juvie/Sales Tax**

AL—The resolution (061-2017) the Commissioners passed last week. Several items of information were omitted. It's a special election for Juvie but it didn't say the beginning and the end of the tax period.

PH—My understanding is there is no sunset date.

AH—We'll always have maintenance costs until the building ceases to exist.

PH—We'll massage the language. I'll pull up a resolution you can adopt and repeal the old one.

AL & JD are concerned that the tax goes on forever.

PH—Do you want a term?

JD—We don't know how much money we'll collect.

PH—Collect tax and distribute some to capital facilities fund & some for operating expenses.

CB—Over time, Juvie will be very difficult to finance a replacement.

PH—Sales tax won't finance replacement. You'll need a GO bond.

CB—Tax should be forever or until facilities cease to exist.

PH—You need a sunset date. Or if there is no date, then continue to collect it unless later Commission repeals it.

AL—So you don't want a date?

AH—Can we put it in that taxes are repealable?

AL—They aren't repealable by referendum, only by the Commissioners. The commissioners should make comments about this via statements and not in the resolution itself.

AL—.1% tax—reads new language without dates.

CB—I don't see any change in the situation except we'll have more expenses & less money in the future. And we need to recognize that we're mandated to do stuff concerning juveniles.

PH—I suggest we repeal the old resolution & adopt a new one without dates. I'm working on a press release about this.

TC—We had 2 insurance claims that were denied and are being challenged by attorneys. One was an accident this winter & one was in 2014—a motor home was damaged. Also, there was \$20,000 damage done to a guard rail. It was caused by a traffic accident, not flooding.

### **Geothermal Project**

JP—The Geothermal project is going well. (I'm not sure, but I think he is discussing installing a geothermal heat pump.) There were no leaks in the court house. Getting cooling in the jail.

AH—Do we pay for the water from the city? For geothermal cooling.

JP—We have 2 boilers. One is disconnected—an extra boiler in the jail.

AH—Is it a redundant boiler system? Can the 2<sup>nd</sup> boiler be used with a generator?

JP—There're pretty big.

CB—Is there a generator? Back up for the jail only, not court house?

TC—Yes. They're tested once/week. Can we use that generator for the court house?

JP—No. It's not powerful enough. It's cheaper to get another propane generator that sits right at the court house. Plus you don't need to run the whole court house. But central services includes dispatch.

AH—The PUD can tell us the power demand for the year, to see how much power the court house takes.

JP—The jail has a different transformer than the court house has.

LJ—We've got a document from an electrical engineer about hooking central services to the jail generator.

AH—No problem with a 2<sup>nd</sup> generator, but do we need just central services or the whole court house?

JP—The power isn't out for all that long over here.

PH—For emergency management, we need to know how long can we shut stuff down before it's a problem. Is there any assessment of how long we can send everybody home before there's a big problem.

CB—In Oroville, the PUD says it would take a big deal to take out the power for quite a while. But lots of unprecedented stuff has happened in the last few weeks.

PH—An emergency plan should say what we can do without & for how long. For example, during tax season, if the Treasurer's Office goes down, will that stop bills from being paid?

**Executive Session:** TC & Commissioners go into executive session re: job performance by a public employee. Scheduled for 10 minutes, but it takes only 6 or 7.

### **Grizzlies**

While they wait for the 10 minutes to be up, there is some discussion concerning grizzly bears.

JD—Several counties (Skagit & Chelan) want to pool funds to hire a person for \$30,000 as a resource about Grizzlies. We should send a letter to Brian ? and Steve Darwood of WOGA (Washington Outfitters & Guides Association). Steve is the president of WOGA. \$10,000 is a lot of money.

AH—I'm going to a meeting in Wenatchee, but maybe just as a member of the audience. We've got no budget to pay for this group.

JD—They've failed in scoping the draft EIS.

AH—80% of the calls are supporting reintroduction of grizzlies in North Cascades National Park, but is that nationwide comments because it's a national park?

CB—But it's a national thing.

AH—Do locals have more say than others?

**TC & Commissioners go into special session re: union negotiations. 10 minutes.**

Waiting until it's 10:30, JD, AH & CT discuss the SW scale situation & replacement—cost differences between pit scales & above ground, installation costs & continuing costs.

### **Brian Kirchner of the Alta Vista Irrigation District in the city of Okanogan**

BK—We sent the Commissioners a letter regarding discontinuing services to the Virginia Grainger Building (The building where the Commissioners meet and have their offices.)The city wants to upgrade the street & wants underground utilities, such as the AVID, to upgrade their facilities so they're less likely to need repair and the city is less likely to have to tear up the street after they've repaved it. One of our lines dead-ends at the corner and serves only the Virginia Grainger Building. It was installed in the 1920s but has never been used. The city says it will cost too much to fix it and use it. The county pays \$127/year for usage.

JD—Does this provide water at the Court House & Juvie?

BK—No. Those are different parcels and they're not getting irrigation water from this line.

AH—Can we reallocate the water?

BK—No, the system was not designed to do that.

AH—Can we put that water amount in trust?

BK—The less we have to get the Department of Ecology involved in the irrigation system, the better. We're a very small water system but they can irrigate with it, so it saves on potable water. It's a good system and the users are happy with it BUT!! Ecology is hard to deal with and it's not productive for AVID to go to the expense of being able to allocate the water. I understand AH's request, but....

AH—I understand your concern. Is the school district in on this?

BK—No, the Okanogan School District has an irrigation district.

JP—When was the last time water was used for this building?

CB—The city water is treated to eliminate the arsenic. So if you irrigate with it, that costs more.

BK—When they landscaped in front of the Granger Building, the landscaper wouldn't hook up to AVID, and used city water instead.

LJ—But we've paid the assessment since forever.

BK—We'd like to discontinue so we don't have to bring the line over. Maybe they could do the repaving this year.

CB—We'd have to pay to upgrade this line?

JP—We've never used this water. Did the school have it hooked up?

BK—No. I can shut it off without going through the pavement. I'll drain it and cap it and then leaks won't happen.

JP—The amount of water used for irrigation isn't much.

JD to AL—Is this something we can do? It's not a water right; it's a membership.

AL—It's not a water right we'd be giving up.

JD—We're just members of AVID.

AH—If Albert is OK with discontinuing, I'm OK. What's the withdrawal procedure?

BK—I'm sure there is a procedure, but I don't know what it is.

JD—Maybe AVID's secretary could check the by-laws for procedures for withdrawal of a member.

BK—Will do.

JD—It's a junior taxing district like all irrigation districts.

CB—Looks for relevant RCW.

BK—I don't need an answer today.

JD—We'll check with Leah McCormick because it's a junior taxing district.

JD—We're in agreement & we'll have to figure out how to do it correctly.

CB—It doesn't look too onerous.

BK—Great! This is a good deal for both us and the county.

Someone (CB?) says RCW 57.28.030 looks like the relevant section.

BK—Thanks very much.

JD—How about a pot farm?

BK—Can't do it. That's zoned agriculture.

JP, BK & AL leave

### Public Works update

AH—I have to leave at 11:45, so don't think I'm rude when I get up and walk out.

JT—Passes out his agenda, including a list of closed county roads. He goes through the list, telling why a road is closed and giving estimated time to reopening.

**Culvert replacement projects** are discussed. Bigger culverts are being installed.

JT—Whitestone creek—want to install a 12' arch. Do the work in the fall when the water's low.

JD—The people on that creek don't want what goes with fish. The all signed a petition. The fish was planted!!

JT—Fish & Wildlife owns the arch and we need to fix the culvert.

JT—Gravel crushing contract got only one bid. I say we reject it. Add one more pit, give them more time to do the crushing & we'll get more bids. We have enough crushed gravel to do the chip-sealing this year.

AH—Is there any way to reduce the amount of crushed gravel to encourage smaller bidders?

JT—I'll see.

### **Squaw Creek: Name**

AH—Does a petition to change a road's name have to come from the people on the road?

JT—No.

AH—No one on Squaw Creek Rd. signed the petition to change its name. One person said it would cost him a lot of money if we change the name because he'd have to change the address painted on his trucks, etc. There's also the safety factor. With a fire, there was a mix-up between McFarland Creek vs. Squaw Creek.

JT—The only road name change I know of was one we initiated.

### **Misc:**

JT—Due to a power outage this winter, some pumps in the Liberty Woodlands sewer system froze. We got a quote to fix the pumps and a quote to move pumps so they won't freeze again. We've got enough money in the budget to do that.

JT—I'm meeting with people concerning the Barkley Ditch piping project this week.

JT—The Conconully Road overlay project will finish a week or two early

JT—We're reviewing plans for the Hwy 7 bridge project.

JT—B-3 & B-15 bridge replacements are almost done. Just waiting for dry out.

JT—Hubbard Rd property surplused, not optioned yet.

LJ—The treasurer is responsible for that. Speak to her about it.

LT—Squaw Creek flow has increased a lot. That's will be the next big problem. We're watching it closely and we're worried about Squaw Creek itself. I've told the DOT about this.

AH—Make sure we've got lots of rip-rap because it was real warm yesterday evening when I drove home. Right now, that's our only way out of the valley.

### **Solid Waste Update**

BR—Some interviews for summer temps were put off due to all of the road work being done. It all should be done in a few weeks.

CB—I heard a rumor that the number of hires will increase compared to last year. Is that true?

BR—No.

AH—I was asked on the radio why Public Works people work only 4 days/week. I explain about travel time, set-up & break-down time, etc. You get more work done with only 4 set-ups per week.

BR—Plus not all Public Works employees go on a 4/10 schedule.

BR—I'll meet with Josh Freel at the Fair Grounds. Try to figure out a long term solution to the Fair Grounds soil problem. Extra sawdust may be used.

BR—One scale has been repaired and we think it can last one more year. We're calling for bids to replace the scale at Ellisforde.

JT—the plan is for an above-ground scale at Central.

Discussion of prices for different types of scales.

**BR—Conconully utility maintenance agreement.** We found out we've got an agreement from 1990 that authorizes us to reimburse Conconully for utilities. Just need to acknowledge this agreement works and makes them comfortable, but we don't need a new agreement. I wish we'd known this a lot sooner.

**BR—The Bridgeport Transfer Station** needs a new computer. We've planned for this & have the money.

BR—We need 4 new big garbage bins. Out for bid. Last time they were \$13,900 each, so we're guessing it'll be ~\$60,000 for all 4 this time.

CB—Are they manufactured? It would be a nice thing to have built in the county.

JT—They aren't manufactured individually, but they're not exactly off-the-shelf either.

BR—We’re changing to LED lights. With the rebate, the cost is \$5,000. That’s just the fixtures and bulbs, not installation. It will save money eventually, but initial cost is a lot. The rebates may be less next year.

CB—But with LEDs, you don’t have to worry about florescent bulbs.

BR—I’ll report back on the numbers.

**JD—FYI for you guys, maybe there won’t be any SRS (Secure Rural Schools) money.** *(Editorial comment: discussion at Quad Counties meeting last week did not agree with this. The decision was still in the process at the federal level.)*

JT—We’ve got \$87,000 of \$150,000, but it’ll impact our budget. The Federal money used to be money from timber, but now it’s just money.

JD—Thank the spotted owl people for that.

(Notetaker’s note: Secure Rural Schools payments are discussed here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/pts/> )