

Okanogan County Board of Commissioners

5/23/2016

JD - Jim DeTro

RC - Ray Campbell

SK - Sheilah Kennedy (*absent*)

LJ - Lalena Johns

BR - Ben Rough

HR - head of HR

PH - Perry Huston

AL - Albert Lln

9:00 *Notetaker arrives; RC is only commissioner present.*

Miscellaneous -ATVs on Forest Roads, USFS trails

9:07 *JD arrives. Commissioners work on their computers & phones.*

9:50 *JD & RC discuss Dave Graves' stopping people on ATV's on forest roads, telling them that the roads are closed to ATV's. JD expresses that he believes the roads are open and that Dave doesn't issue tickets for that, but does for any other problem that turns up during the stop. JD wants to contact Liu and Williams, but RC says that DG does not report to them; reports to Portland.*

JD - need to watch those guys (USFS/Mike Williams) really close. Make sure they don't pass the transportation plan without coordinating with us.

RC - they are under threat of lawsuit from Conservation Northwest over roads.

JD - wonder how that lawsuit in California is doing?

RC - letter from Steve Darwood to Liu, FS, asking to be able to clear trails with chainsaws. Windstorm brought lots of big trees down. Trail needs attention. Liu told Darwood they might leave the trail closed this year. Nationwide trend.

JD - talked to (?) about that. Has changed since I was a smokejumper (only allowed hand tools). Now firefighters use chainsaws in wilderness (last 10 years?).

RC - lots of time and money spent to keep those trails open. No monitoring of that. Then congress doesn't fund it.

10:00 *Discussion between JD & RC about the lost opportunities to put fires out early in 2014 & 2015; lack of initiative/people watching and waiting for orders.*

10:15

JD - Lanie, do we have any bids on the ___?

LJ - You have two (*brings papers to JD*)

JD & RC apparently spend time viewing online information about their upcoming NACo conference, make reference to upcoming votes.

JD - We have used this information. That is why the radical enviros don't want us going to this.

10:30 Bid Opening Legal Newspaper

Discussion summary: Commissioners opened and examined two bids for public notice advertisement in local papers. Because there are several categories of advertisement within the bids, staff will compare the details and report that information to the commissioners. Contract is expected to be awarded on May 31st.

JD - bid opening for advertising. From two papers (opens envelopes). First bid, the Daily Herald. (*Apparently the Gazette and Methow Valley News bids were combined, as other sources state.*)

LJ goes over the explain bid details.. examples, total costs, verification of circulation.

JD - this is going to take some calculation (*reads aloud details from bid*) Second bid is from the Chronicle. (*reads aloud details from bid*)

JD - so, we will have our staff sift through this. Do we have the auditor look these over?

LJ - no. I will go through them. Schedule synopsis for 4:30 on the 31st.

JD - (*to two observers*). So, we will decide on the 31st. (*10:40 observers thank him and leave*)

10:40 Miscellaneous

10:42 RC leaves room. With SK absent, there is no quorum when either RC or JD leaves.

LJ - Oh my god!

JD - What?

LJ - I got hold of the (*inaudible*. Takes a document over to JD and speaks to him in a very low voice. Unable to hear the conversation).

*10: 47 - RC returns. JD continues conversation on NACo resolutions. RC leaves again. PH arrives and talks to LJ (*inaudible*). PH leaves.*

LJ - I wish the attorney had reviewed this contract with (*inaudible*. She quotes some material; JD says that it gives them time to 'collect the uncollectible'. LJ says she will have AL look at it)

10:55 RC returns. JD continues to quote from NACo resolution support transfer of federal lands to states, when affected counties are supportive.

10:58 BR arrives. RC notes some item that needs to be finished by 4 pm today. JD asks RC if he has seen the resolutions on ESA, equal justice....

11:00 Update Public Works Administration

Discussion summary: 1) temporary contract for engineering technician was deferred, 2) draft letter to USFS regarding needed maintenance for Road 4200 (in the vicinity of Loup Loup) will be re-written, 3) BR describes a new plan for monthly meetings among managers, 4) BR consults with commissioners about temporarily renting/leasing excess office space at the Public Works Administration Building, while studying the potential to sell the building and consolidate staff to one location, 5) JD directs BR to contact the USFS regarding needed maintenance for the Bonaparte-Beth Lake road.

BR - Strike Temp Engineering Technician employment agreement. Will be definitely on consent agenda next week. Dates were pushed back 30 days from retirement date. Will probably get contract to Lanie by Friday.

BR - Solid Waste temporary truck driver (due to reduction in staff). Need to refill.

RC - Want to make sure we don't fill just because. Make sure we really need it.

BR - We do.

BR- USFS 4200 Road. Does the commission want the letter to be re-written? Earlier this year, the letter had a tone of reprimand. Now that their schedule is confirmed, I'd like to rewrite it as an information request. Follow up with a verbal request for coordination.

RC - earlier closure was supposed to be temporary. Are they working to open it? Let's check so we know where we are at with that. Let's double check.

BR - will check. Assuming everything is as we think it is, I'll bring back a revised letter.

RC - important road, by the Loup.

BR - snowmobilers are unhappy.

BR - Managers' meeting. First meeting, Carrie Hall from Auditors office coming over to discuss budgets. Commissioners interested in taking a closer look at some items (e.g., personnel). Want to look at how to make that easier for you. Will start working on that.

RC - sounds like a good idea.

BR - probably meet once a month. Second meeting, Tanya will come and talk about different claims and procedures with claims. For instance, truck accident with Tollefson(?). Need to know procedures.

RC - meetings sound like a good idea.

BR - Public Works Admin Building. Rental office space revenue goes directly into road fund. Building maintenance comes out of road fund, but there is no line item for it.

RC - dollars that come in should go directly into maintenance fund.

BR - pros and cons. If we put it into a specific line item, then we are limited.

RC - need a specific fund to stay ahead of the curve.

BR - think it is a good idea, but shouldn't limit maintenance spending to just what is in that fund.

RC - Talk to Carrie about it.

BR - I will. Want to know what commissioners want to do with vacant office space. Rent? Sell?

RC - Check what real needs are/will be. If not needed, should sell. (*Refers to previous situation*).

BR - think that there is a big benefit to move all of Public Works together. Long term goal. In short term, could rent it out for additional revenue. Would need to know that we plan on selling.

RC - How long for? A year?

BR - think so. Year-to-year lease would be enough time to let them know.

RC - don't want to compete against private enterprise...get in and start taking money out of people's pockets.

BR - okay, I'll stop bringing it up. If I were to proceed, I would advertise for a realtor's services.

JD - wonder whether anyone will be interested with one year lease. First, ask a realtor what the market is like. Would we be stepping on somebodies private sector toes or would it be a help?

BR - I can find that out. Is there anything else?

JD - I've had two or three requests from my district in regards to the road from Bonaparte to Beth Lake(?). USFS road. Needs maintenance. Letter from me to the ranger, requesting them to put it on the maintenance list.

BR - alright. I will make contact.

11:25 BR leaves. Commissioners return to working on PC's and phones. Next agenda item scheduled for 1:30 (Planning)

11:57 Note taker leaves until after lunch.

1:33 Planning Department update

3) USFS -

JD - Mr. Huston?

AL arrives; PH requests 20 minute executive session to discuss possible litigation and enforcement action being considered. (Moved, seconded, passed)

1:57 Code Enforcement

Discussion summary: PH informs commissioners that he plans to increase monitoring of Conditional Use permits (CUP's). He expects more applications for CUP's after Zone Code revisions take effect.

PH - We are behind; am going to spend more time (a day a week). Prioritizing most egregious, then the ones where property owners want to sell their lands. Try to check regularly on biggest CUP's, others just occasionally. With revisions in zone code, expect a fair number of more active CUP's (conditional use permit).

RC -where is that at with the Planning Commission?

PH - they meet tonight. Assume they will wrap up details tonight, come back to finalize and send recommendations. That should leave us on schedule to get the FEIS out in mid-June, then have public meeting. Need to extend interim zone code (public hearing, etc) to fill gap.

BLM planning rules revision/review correspondence

Discussion summary: BLM Planning Rules Revision - more discussion of expecting coordination with commissioners. PH drafted a letter on the subject of coordination that he circulated among the commissioners; evidently they approved and will send it.

PH - Sent draft letter to commissioners.

RC - Looked at it. Who do we send it to?

PH - Highest regional BLM official. Comment period ends in a couple of days. Letter notes that they should not make decisions until they have had discussions with you. It gives you standing. (Asks LJ about scheduling a coordination meeting. Some discussion of possibilities). As soon as commissioners are comfortable with content of letter, go ahead and send that off (to the Oregon office & cc Spokane & Wenatchee.

1:10 USFS

Discussion summary: 1) PH is arranging another meeting with Forest Supervisor Williams to further discuss coordination. 2) JD is concerned about USFS enforcement officer stopping ATV riders; considers that he does not have 'probable cause' to do so. PH suggested sending a letter asserting that existing rules allow ATV use. PH directed to draft letter. JD mentions that NACo (National Association of Counties) agenda includes removing police powers from 'feds', because of 'everything going on across the West.'

PH - Letter went out to Williams suggesting the 28th?

LJ - yes.

AL - did it go to Liu, too?

LJ - thinking no.

AL - BOCC wants Liu here, too

PH - working on letter, in case things don't go the way we want. JD has concern over the stopping of ATV riders. Do you want a letter from me reminding them that until they adopt the new plan, they have to stay with existing rules.

RC - enforcement's directions come out of Portland - breaking ties with local entities. Send a letter to the enforcement officer.

PH - will draft a letter, see what you think.

JD - could let him dig his own hole. If someone takes him to court he has no probable cause for the em

RC - just draft a letter.

JD - on NACo agenda to take police powers away from feds because of everything going on across the west.

SMP - Comment Summary/response

Discussion summary: DOE (Washington Department of Ecology) has sent a summary of latest public comments. County has not yet received the full comments. When the comments are received, the clock will start on the County's response period. Staff will sort through the comments and categorize between policy and legal issues. Angie will develop policy-level responses.

PH - have received summary but not all material, so clock is not yet running for response. Mackie will be here on the 31st(?) Can talk about legal issues then. Can talk about policy issues now. Most from Futurewise. Angie will go through comments and come up with policy-level responses.

Colville Tribes/County Intergovernmental agreement

Discussion summary: PH was contacted by Colville Tribes about status of intergovernmental agreement that county staff had been revising. Asks the commissioners if they want to continue with revisions to simplify the agreement. Commissioners approved of doing so.

PH - Pete Palmer sent an email regarding intergovernmental agreement with Colvilles. Ben was working on revisions. Our aim was to try to simplify it. Are you interested in continuing to work on that?

RC - yes. That sounds like a good idea.

PH distributes most recent draft to commissioners.

1:20 Capital facilities

PH - (discusses scheduling a meeting with someone)

Oroville EMS/Review revised contract

PH - City agreed to separate contracts with Lifeline; split will remain the same.

Tonasket EMS (*very brief discussion, missed by note taker*)

Juvenile Detention

Discussion summary: How to respond to public questions was discussed. JD pointed out the need for information on the costs of renovating or replacing existing facilities. RC asked about possible sources of funding for renovation or repairs. PH talked about possibilities involving taxes and bonds.

PH - SK asked to follow up on questions asked by public. Commissioners have already assembled (*due diligence*) info. Can fold public questions into other questions answered in the questionnaire, or separately. Question is who will do the research to answer the questions? I can work with Dennis, if that is what you would like

RC - yes.

PH - need to make sure we have captured all the questions. Will go over Clerk's minutes. Will work with Dennis. Will that work? (*Ray nods*). Will compile questions and organize them into categories, the show them to commissioners, see if you agree they are properly grouped and complete.

JD - are we going to have the information we don't have (*costs of capital improvements for county facilities*)? Want to know what is going to take to do what is needed.

PH - two questions - what it takes to redo current facility (which includes more than Juvie), the other is what it would take to build new Juvie facility (*discusses funding options, applicable tax revenues - criminal justice/public safety, bond proposal, etc*).

RC - is there other sources out there we are not looking at?

PH - not locally. State has progressively walked away from construction. Can get with Dennis.

RC - should look at all potential sources.

PH - yes. Anything else?

Animal Control

PH - Dave Yarnell would like to come in and talk to commissioners about ordinance (*discussion of scheduling a meeting*)

RC - June is pretty busy.

PH - will try to work it into a study session.

RC & JD express concern that the ordinance should be compatible with, not overlapping, state law.

PH - will get that and put the two documents side-by-side.

2:40 PH leaves. Commissioners resume work on computers and phones. Note taker leaves.