

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, 5-2-2017 AM**

Present:

JD—Jim DeTro (BOCC)

AH—Andy Hover (BOCC) —talking with Tanya Craig today about union negotiations, so he's not at today's meeting

CB—Chris Branch (BOCC)

LJ—Lalena Johns (County Clerk)

JF—Josh Freel, Fairgrounds

KS—Kim Spiding (?) new hire for Fairground

PH—Perry Huston (Director of Planning, Admin.)

AL—Albert Liu, Deputy Prosecuting

CG—Charlene Grooms, Clerk of Courts

SF—Scott Fuhrman—Assessor

JT—Josh Thomson—County Engineer, Roads

CH—Cari Hall, Auditor's Office

***Summary***

Update—Fairgrounds. *The Kiwanis want to put construct a walkway across a lawn, making it easier for people in wheelchairs. There's a discussion about Campground Host. Josh Freel tells how he got the tractor stuck on the railroad tracks.*

Update—Public Works. *Update on county roads and Hwy 20 closures.*

*Cari Hall of the Auditor's Office stopped by to talk to AH, but instead had a discussion about supplementals for the budget and budgeting issues in general.*

**Fairgrounds/Fiberfest/Fair Adv. Committee**

JF—Introduces Kim Spiding who's starting her training. She'll do administrative work for the Fairgrounds—public relations, advertising, office duties.

PH—Have to prepare another budget adjustment for Fair budget. Just an internal transfer. Not facilities, it's actually the Fair budget.

JF—Vintage Fair went well. 1800 people attended. The women putting it on were all happy. It was a good learning experience. And the barns all look good now.

JF—Surplused some things and burned the burn pile. Storage shed, too, and that gains some real estate.

JF—Meeting with the Kiwanis this morning. They want to donate materials and time to build a sidewalk, making it easier for wheelchairs to move between two buildings across a lawn.

JD—Good idea, but check with the Fair Advisory Committee because that lawn is where the livestock judging is held.

JF—I'll check.

JF—Fiber Fest set-up starts tomorrow.

AL arrives 9:18

JF—I don't think we'll need clean-up volunteers next year if we have better clean-up after the Fair. They didn't clean up last year. There was old bedding left in the stalls. People sold their cattle and just walked away.

JF—We've collected \$115 for the first week of camping. Bob Buchannan wants to be the Campground Host. He's got experience and lives in Oroville.

CB—Related to the people who ran the old Buchannan Brewery!

JF—He sounds good. We've already had several campers who didn't pay. As Camp Host, BB would be there on weekends and take time off during the week. We'd give him free camping to compensate for his work and maybe \$30/week, too.

AL—He needs a professional services agreement. Lani has such a thing. Josh can adjust it to his needs.

LJ—Tanya Craig will want to make sure BB isn't an "employee" but a contractor.

CB—Oroville has a similar agreement with a camp host. They generally get a person who has a dog.

AL—I'll send JF the agreement for Livestock Review. Fit it to your needs and send it back.

CB—I'll send him the job description for the Oroville job.

JF—I've moved the antique farm implements for display. They were in the brush across the tracks. Now it looks good. While doing this, I noticed that the timbers at the crossing were rotting. I told the railroad. They said it's our responsibility & we can't fix it ourselves. A contractor has to do it. I'll cost \$5,000.

JD—Yeah. We're responsible for the crossing.

PH—Dealing with the railroad is difficult. They take 6 months to return your call.

CB—It's easier just to do it.

JF—Yesterday I got the tractor stuck on the railroad crossing!

JD—I got stuck on the tracks once, too. I had a possum belly trailer.

JF—I always wondered how people got stuck on the tracks & now I now.

PH—Since Albert is here, I request an executive session concerning potential litigation. 20 minutes should do it. I won't ask for any decision today.

**Executive session begins at 9:35.**

During a break, I asked Josh how he got the tractor off the tracks. He said he ran & got another tractor & used it to pull the first one off.

Also during the break, LJ told me that the agenda had been changed. Updates from HR & the Sheriff's Office were cancelled and replaced with Charlene Grooms and Scott Furman, speaking as members of Kiwanis on their request to install a walkway at the Fairgrounds.

**PH—at 9:55—Executive session will last another 10 minutes.**

**Crafts building/Fair Adv. Committee/Grandstands**

CG—We Kiwanis look for projects to do. We'd like to put an asphalt walkway from the Craft Building to the Beef Barn. It would be helpful for wheelchairs and strollers. We haven't settled on a width yet.

SF—We don't have a bid yet so this is preliminary.

CG—We're not looking for county employees to do any of the work.

JF—It's a great idea.

JD—We need to run it past the Fair Advisory Committee. That lawn is where they do livestock judging, so we need to be concerned about the logistics. Maybe we could put shavings on the path when steers are being judged, but I think this is a good idea.

JF—Why not a path from the Arts & Crafts Barn to the Beef Barn. Then all but the Horse Barn will be wheelchair accessible.

SF—Some projects take several years to finish. We'll wait to see what the Advisory Committee says, then get quotes.

PH—Title 35 has provisions where the county can partner with private sector groups to help with projects without getting bids.

CG—Can a BOCC member go to the Advisory Committee meeting?

CB—I'll go. Thursday at 6PM.

LJ—There are 10 people on the Advisory Committee. She reads the list of members.

SF—I know some of them.

JD—One member is handicapped.

SF—Put us on the agenda.

CG—I'll come to the meeting, too.

SF & CG leave at 10:30

JF—Did we decide on an amount of money for the Camp Host? Can I offer the guy?

CB—Oroville campground offered only a campsite with hookup. Maybe just start with this. Do we have to advertise is there's compensation?

LJ—Tanya would know, if it's temporary and no monetary exchange. Maybe we need to advertise & collect applications and it'll give you leverage if you don't offer any money.

LJ—During the executive session, I received an email from the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). It's a comment regarding replacing the grandstand. Reads the comment.—The Grandstand is eligible for (Notetaker was unable to record the exact term) and if it's going to be demolished, you should photograph it well to document it's history. If you find any artifacts during the demolition or construction, you should stop immediately & contract the affected tribes and they can do a Cultural Resource Survey.—LJ wonders if this will give us more DAHP funding? More hoops to jump through to demolish the grandstands?

CB—Another grandstand had a Cultural Resource Survey and the only artifacts found were beer cans.

JD—We'll document it with good pictures.

CB—That makes sense. It's a good idea to consult with the tribes. I've done this before. Just tell them what we plan to do. Tribe may not be too concerned.

JF—We won't be doing any digging, just backfill.

CB—In Oroville, they were digging up an old waterline & found a skeleton. I'll make an appointment with Arnie Marchand (?) because I know him.

JD—The Fairgrounds have been there since the 1940s. The fair was in Riverside and Oroville before that.

JF—(to CB) Can you talk to Marchand this month?

CB—Yes.

LJ—Would it be a benefit for the grandstands to be a historic place? Would anybody want to see it?

JD—Probably not. But we should document it well with good photographs.

LJ—The Boots & Saddle Club would know who to talk to.

CB—Richard Reese (?) would be good to document the Grandstands.

AL—trying to decide if we have to advertise the job for Camp Host. How do we make a good faith effort to find a person.

CB—Just put it in the paper once and that's a good faith effort to find a host. Reads a sample newspaper advertisement.

JF—I'll write it & LJ will send it to the legal papers. The Camp Host doesn't collect money. The camper puts the money in an envelope, tears off the receipt and put the envelope in a locked box. The Camp Host checks for receipts on the windshield.

AL—If you have a question, call me. You know how I am about emails.

LJ, CB & JD all discuss how many emails they have. Thousands. (Notetaker describes the procedure her office used at the UW way back when email was just getting going. We didn't have to save them all, just those we would have saved if they'd been old-fashioned, paper mail.)

AL leaves at 11:00.

**Roads/Emergency closures, flood damage, etc.**

JD—A person named Spears up in Loomis, wants to do some work so they don't get flooded. AL says our emergency declaration included private & public.

Char—Can the Berman's get their emergency work done? They need riprap and a berm to prevent flooding. I'll call Spears next.

JT—The work Spears wants to do won't impact the county road.

Char—I'll call Spears this afternoon.

### **Emergency Closures, flood damages, etc.**

JT—Distributes a list of emergency closures of county roads, including Loup Loup Canyon Rd. Some of this road is just gone. Haven't figured out yet how to fix it, but it'll be a big job.

JT—IRFO (JT doesn't know what IRFO stand for) reimburses for road repair. It'll cost \$1,000,000 or more to fix Peter Dam Rd and IRFO reimburses, but it could take 1 to 1 ½ year to reimburse. If the reimbursement is *guaranteed* then we have the money to do the work.

JD—PILT (Payment in lieu of taxes?) is fully funded with a 3% increase. I just got an update about this.

JD—We're tracking flood damage costs. Some damage if FEMA eligible. Other than Peter Dam Rd expenses, FEMA and other state money, we may be 87% covered.

JD—Hwy 20 update—On the Okanogan side, the washout should be backfilled by this weekend, but there are other issues, such as washed out shoulders, and they're not yet working on them. The damage on the Twisp side may be done by the end of May. Emergency funds expire May 18. We need to pressure them politically to get this work done. Someone (?) at DOT thinks it's not a big deal to drive around (via Pateros). Says it's only 10 minutes longer, but that's using backroads.

CB—I'll talk to someone when I'm in Wenatchee.

JT—If Twisp side is fixed with only one lane, traffic control will be expensive, so the DOT doesn't want to open the highway until both lanes are repaired.

JT—Chipseal budget. Since the floods cost so much money, we're trying to save money, so we're cutting back on the amount of pre-level when we chip seal, using only about half. But if we don't do chipseal at all, we can lose the whole road.

JT—Road Crew update—We interviewed someone for the open position. One crew member broke his hip at work and will be out a couple of months. He missed a step getting out of a dump truck. We're losing a good operator in the Methow, and he'll be hard to replace. He was really good, but a contractor will pay him more. It's a full time job.

### **JT—Current projects—**

- Conconully Rd. project—we'll finish paving on Monday.
- We're advertising the Hwy 7 project
- Indian Dan Canyon Rd project is moving ahead. We're doing the grading and the owner is paying for the asphalt. This is good for us because asphalt is cheaper to maintain than re-grading a gravel road.
- Bridge replacement—We're waiting for things to dry out.
- Hazard tree removals—The trees are dead due to the fires and they're starting to fall down. The Conservation District provides the fallers and we provide the flaggers. Work will be done by June 1.

JT—Phone & switch upgrade—Several weeks ago our internet went out. So we need new switches. About \$5,000 split between Public Works & Public Health (with whom Public Works shares office space). With the switch upgrade, we'll be able to use the phone system the rest

of the county uses. Then we'll need to get the big phones and that will make the internet speed better. People using GIS need this.

CB—Does Public Health have the money for this?

JT—I think so. We'll recover the cost in a couple of years with what this will save on the phone bill even if we include the cost of the phones.

JT—Overtime report—We had three people doing road grading on Friday, which is normally their day off, but the weather was very favorable for grading.

JT leaves at 11:35

JD & CB discuss the weather. If it warms up quickly, there will be a lot of flooding.

CH—We've received requests for 3 supplemental requests. AH asked me if we can do this. We can, but we need a resolution from the Commissioners. And I need this because there are bills to be paid. Difference between line item budget & department/fund level budget. With line item you look at every little item & don't look at the rest of it. So you have supplements maybe you don't need. Contingencies getting tapped into early on, and you'll need it later.

JD—Line item budget was prompted by the suit with the judges.

CB—When we adopt a budget at the fund level, do we still look at the line level?

CH—Yes. The BARS manual says to adopt which method (line item vs. department/fund level) you think is best. But if we need supplementals, it affects vendors if you can't pay them.

CB—We can adopt a budget *considering* line items but at the department/fund level.

CH—Can I go ahead and process the supplementals. I don't want AH to think I'm going behind his back.

CB & JD—He won't think that. Let's do the supplementals.

CH—AH is worried about the overtime budget. It's a problem at the jail. It's hard to predict jail cost over a whole year. Maybe a bad crime leads to an expensive trial.

JD—We could collect fees from felons, but there needs to be a change in legislation to do this.

CB—Are contingencies more or less than in years past?

CH—In my two years in this job, we've used it all. We need to remember that the budget is hypothetical but cash flow is real. Just because there's an item in your budget doesn't mean there's the cash right now to pay it. Especially in the 1<sup>st</sup> four months of the year, cash flow is something to watch.

Meeting ends at 12:05