

Okanogan Board of County Commissioners
5/9/17 AM

JD—Jim DeTro—Commissioner
AH—Andy Hover—Commissioner
CB—Chris Branch—Commissioner
LJ—Lalena Johns—clerk to the Commissioners
JF—Josh Freeland, Fairgrounds
KS—Kim Spiding (?) new employee for Fairground
JR—Jaci Robins—Clerk for Fairgrounds
PH—Perry Huston—County Planner
AL—Albert Liu, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
TC—Tanya Craig—HR & Risk Management
LD—Leah McCormick—County Treasurer
LT—Lauri Thomas—County Auditor
CH—Cari Hall, Auditor's Office
CG—Charlene Groomes, Clerk of Courts
JT—Josh Thomson—County Engineer, Roads
BR—Ben Rough—Dept of Public Works

This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Represent Okanogan County (ROC.) Any writer's comments or explanations are in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Summary:

Commissioners' Staff Meeting—Discussion of use of social media to help market the Fairgrounds, the campground host position, decision to postpone replacing the fair's grandstand and reapplying for the grant to fund it, changes to the language for the DMO agreement and a number of supplementals.

Update—Treasurer—Discussion of Cash on hand, auctioning a piece of surplus property near Riverside, supplementals for OT for the jail. During the Treasurer's Report, the commissioners opened a bid for a new scale at the Ellisforde Transfer Station.

Update—Public Works—Storage space for Court Clerk, job openings, Elmway property, Solid Waste union negotiation, discussion of Upper Beaver Creek Road, SR 20 update and WATV map for District #3 (Jim DeTro's district).

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Social Media

JF asks about Social Media. There's a Facebook page for the Fairgrounds, but it mostly covers the Fair. Since KS has been hired, and she has a background in PR & marketing, it would be good if there were a page to market the Fairgrounds. If the page is set up as a group, it can be set up so as not to allow comments, but just to inform the public about the Fairgrounds. AL, TC & AH all weigh in about how to do this. TC will help KS set up a Fairgrounds page as a group. Comments will not be allowed, making AL happy that it won't become a public records nightmare. There will also be coordination with the Fair Advisory Committee because it already has a Fairgrounds page. TC, AH & JF will attend the Fair Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday evening. KS may attend.

Campground Host

JF asks about the Campground host position. He sent the ad to LJ, but hasn't heard back from her.

TC—Is this person to be paid or receive compensation?

AH—It's in-kind compensation (a free RV site).

AH—We need to figure out what services the Fair Advisory Committee gets from the Fair for free.

TC—Can the clerks keep track each day of how many hours they spend dealing with the Fair?

KS—Received \$210 in camping fees this weekend. But there were eight dirty horse stalls and only one paid for.

AH—And the fee is only \$10!

TC—The gates are always open.

KS—There's just a drop box for the fee.

JD—We should tell the casino that if they want to co-ordinate with the Fairgrounds, they need to make sure the stalls used by their customers pay the fee.

AH—I agree. Ask casino to pay for their guys and maybe raise the rates. Say “we'll be glad to keep the horse, but you collect the money.”

JF—This is why we need a camp host.

JR—Even just better signage to display the fee schedule would help.

JF—Maybe Les can make signs with the fee schedule.

CB—Are there receipts for the windshields?

JF—Not now. We just have a list of license plates and we check to see who's not on the list. We're looking for better envelopes, and we need a similar deal for the horse stalls.

CB—I know where to get the envelopes with detachable receipts. I'll email it to you.

JF—We've lost \$500 so far.

AH—Stove question—can we get through this year with what we've got and budget money for next year?

JF—We'll probably be OK with just the two stoves instead of three, but we need a new big refrigerator. The one we've got is totally dead.

JD—Get a propane refrigerator. Industrial stuff with propane is better.

TC—We've got prices. I'll talk to the guy on Thursday. I think a new refrigerator may be less than \$3,500.

Grandstand

PH—If we can do the grandstand, maybe there'll be \$15,000 left for capital expenses. Maybe. And we have to have the project complete by June 30.

PH—To pour the slab, you have to do the demolition first.

JF—To do demolition, I need an excavator and the Road's Department excavators are all busy.

AH—The grant to pay for this is \$90,000 and we have to match.

LJ—The match can be in-kind.

AH—We've got 50 days to do that project.

PH—The slab is the wildcard. After the slab, we can order the grandstands.

LJ—How long do we have to advertise the slab? One week & then give the bid the next week. For projects between @\$2,500 and \$25,000, we can get a telephone contract. Call three on our vendor's list.

JF—After we do the demolition how long does the ground have to settle? Several months?

AH—No. Just use water and a compactor.

JF—And if we do the demolition and don't get the new stands built, where will people sit?

LJ—The grant for this is \$90,000 from the Department of Agriculture.

PH—We can always reapply.

JD—Ask them what's the process if we turn the grant back and reapply.

AH—That way we won't get caught not getting the work all done.

JD—Maybe we'll get the grant again if we reapply.

PH—We can make a good case.

CB—Asks question about getting informal phone bids for work up to \$25,000. Thought for public works it went up to \$300,000.

LJ—Our informal process is what I'm talking about if the job is under \$25,000. If it's more we have to do the formal process. It's our own county policy. Maybe we should update it.

CB—That's what I didn't understand. It's a county policy.

PH—We can change it if the commissioners want to.

JF—That's all for us. JF, KS & JR leave at 9:45

DMO agreement & supplementals

AL—Do you still need me?

LJ—I'm going to discuss "exclusive" vs "non-exclusive" language in the DMO (Destination Marketing Organization) contract.

AL—I'll stay.

LJ—Concerning the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, can we replace "exclusive" with "non-exclusive" language? The DMO says the language needs to be changed for them to continue marketing.

AL—Sounds like other organizations are using "Okanogan Country" BOCC expressed concern about that brand being used by other. It's not a trademark. They say they're a registered TM.

JD—With ownership, they should have registered it.

AL—In the draft, the term is jointly owned by the county and the DMO.

CB—It's a brand that was created over time. If we're not satisfied with the marketing work they do, we can change companies.

AH—Let's just leave it non-exclusive. There's no trademark.

TC—If we get a new DMO they'd probably create a new brand.

AH—But would we have joint ownership?

LJ—As long as this contract is in effect, we do.

AL—The original draft was that the DMO owns the brand outright. I added "jointly owned" by county.

LJ had a list of budget supplementals that needs to be paid. It was all too rapid and confusing for me to follow along. CB also didn't know what most of there were. Finally thought they were lobbyist organizations the county belongs to. Says he will try to figure out what they're all about.

LJ—FYI—You're supposed to open the bid for the Ellisforde scale at 10:45.

Treasurer's Report—10:30

Cash on hand

LM—At the end of April we have over \$1.6 million in current expense. But I'm not ready to recommend paying extra on the loan. Just what's due.

AH—We were just talking about Overtime.

Surplus property

LM—We've got surplus property to sell. Is there a timeline? If not, I'll sell it at the foreclosure auction in December.

PH—The guy would like it done earlier.

LM—I understand, but in December there are 100 people here so more bidders. But we could do it earlier if you insist.

CB—Which property?

LM—North of Riverside. And Scott Ferman (the assessor) is firm on the assessed value. That's the minimum we'll accept.

PH—The BOCC can set a different price if you want.

LM—All the money will go to county roads.

JD & AH—Wait until December. Why spend extra money to advertise a different sale.

LM—By the way, we aren't required to collect right then and there for surplus property like we are for foreclosures.

OT for the jail and supplementals

LM—Supplemental on budget #134--\$551,927. I need clarification. We've got \$634,000 cash on hand but we need some for bond & interest.

LJ—We don't have the bills right now.

LM—It's helpful if we could have a spreadsheet for expenses for budgets #134 & #117.

Opening of the bid. 10:45

There was just one bid submitted to replace the scale at the Ellisforde Transfer Station.

AH to JT—Any idea what the last scale cost?

JT—the last one was \$42,000.

JD—The bid is from R.W. Pugh of Moses Lake. The name on the truck is Correll. Notetaker--
<http://www.correllscale.com/>) Lump sum \$41,000 with 8.1% \$44,348. JD also checks other documents in the bid envelope.

JT—Seems reasonable.

JD—We'll be in touch.

Bid submitter—Thanks!

OT for the jail and supplementals resumes

LM & CH are joined by three LEOs whose names I don't know.

CH—We need a supplemental for OT at the jail. If we don't get it, we might have to freeze payroll.

AH—We're going to change the budget to a department level budget, but we'll still be able to track line items.

CH—Noah (Noah Stewart—Jail Administrator?) talked about amounts. LM is not comfortable with the \$55,000 amount.

LM—Sometimes the easiest way to do OT is with contingencies, but that's for all the emergencies for the year. We're looking to see if there are any overage lines.

LT—Instead of doing the whole \$90,000 now, we can do what's already been ID'ed and we'll do the rest later.

LEO#1—That's OK. We'll need \$95,000 by the end of the year.

LM—How long will what you've got now last?

LEO#1—Into July.

LM—Can we wait on budget #17 until we ID the money?

AH—We wanted the LEOs to know our strategy so there are no surprises.

CH—I'll work with Noah re: \$45,000 now and then work with the LEOs.

Public Works update—11:00

Storage space for Court Clerk

BR—I'll go first because Charlene Groomes is here. Last week the clerk & staff came to check out our spare office space. They love it. I'm going to hold off advertising the extra space because CG may take it all.

CG—Plus if it's just us, there will be less need for security. We'd move all our files there. So now we just have to figure out the rental rate.

BR—We were going to charge \$750/month for commercial office space, but we'll charge less for document storage. I talked to relators to get the \$750 rate.

AH—Let's just pick a high number--\$500/month.

CG—We'll need a supplemental because we didn't know about this opportunity so it's not in the budget. We'd like to keep one small room as an Evidence Room. Monday & Wednesday Karen could retrieve files. Could we get a county vehicle to use for this?

JD—Perry's got one I think.

CG—Can Maintenance help us move?

AH—The containers you're now using are owned by the county. We could surplus them or transfer them to the Fairgrounds. They're good, lockable space.

CG—The state will be happy because of the climate control. CG leaves.

Job openings

BR—I've got only one summer temp position still open. I'll repost it. On the road crew, all the positions are filled. The Lead Mechanic at the E & R shop (?) has resigned. Another one has a medical issue, so we're still short staffed. Maybe I'll get a summer temp mechanic for six months.

Solid Waste union negotiation

BR—Solid Waste union negotiations seem to be going well. Both sides are happy. Hope this will be how other negotiations will go in the future.

Elmway property

BR—The county owns 5 acres of dike that the City of Okanogan have expressed an interest in.

CB—Somebody's using it now without permission. The city wants protection from flooding. We shouldn't try to make money on something that protects a city.

BR—If we sell it, are we still responsible for its maintenance? We want to make sure the city gets that responsibility.

PH—If it's surplus, you can negotiate with the city. If private sector buys it, need a bond to insure maintenance. Much better to find a city to take that on.

CB—The bulk of the 5 acres is on the river side of the dike, and not developable.

PH—It serves a public interest but no revenue.

BR—There used to be a diking district.

AH—I say pursue this issue.

CB—It's a liability for the county and the city would be protected from a flood.

PH—I'm beginning to get reports of people diverting water. Calls it "recreational bulldozing season". Water impacting county roads, but there are none imperiled yet. The complaints are usually that there's water now where there didn't used to be. Not that someone used to have water & now doesn't.

Roads report

JT—Nothing has changes since we talked yesterday.

JT—128 hours of OT. That includes almost 30 hours for flaggers on the hazard tree removal project with the Conservation District. 1501 hours of OT year-to-date. Last year was less. Some of these hours may be FEMA eligible.

Upper Beaver Creek Road

JT—They were going to put trees in the creek, but the trees were installed differently that what was shown in the plan's drawings. Large woody debris was designed to break away in high water but was incorrectly installed and that caused the problem. (Notetaker surmise: Logs were installed in the creek to improve fish habitat, but were installed incorrectly and that led to flooding and damage to the road.)

CB—We need a session with all the players to discuss this situation. We need to have this conversation and get to some result. How does this all get paid for? We need to make sure we don't create a battle.

AH—But we don't want to double-tax anyone.

CB—I agree. No double-tax.

AH—The project is paid for by electric rate payers and the tax payers. If Public Works has to pay to fix the road—that’s double-tax. If those drawings are true, installation caused the problem.

JD—The BPA could step up and help the county.

AH—I appreciate money that comes in to do projects. But what if the Methow River has a flood and one of those logs that was installed breaks a bridge, who pays to fix it? We need a mitigation plan if this happens.

CB—We need a unified effort, so we avoid a fight later on. We don’t want to see a culture that’s totally anti-fish. That’s bad.

JT—Flood damage cost tracking. FEMA & ERFO funding (JT doesn’t know what ERFO stands for) can be available. Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) are not doing anything on Peter Dam Rd, so we need to make a plan. CCT has to sign off on it. Need a geo-tech engineer to give recommendations.

BC—If you need any help dealing with the tribe, let me know.

SR 20 update

JT—On the Twisp side, they put the culvert in and they’re now filling instead of digging. On the Okanogan side, they have enough fill. They’re not working on the washed-out shoulders on the Twisp side. They could fix the shoulders in a week, but they’re not working on them. Even with flaggers, it’ll still be quicker than going via Pateros.

JT—G H Green Road—(Notetaker’s surmise: Residents along this road want a muddy spot fixed.) It’s a designated Primitive Road. No signage, no maintenance standards and no liability.

JT—If the residents come to us, we can give them a permit to do something.

JD—In the real muddy spot they dug sumps in their own property.

JT—That would help some. The muddy spot is in a canyon so there’s not much place for the water to go.

CB—Can they swing out and get another access to the road? Within the subdivision, the road is at the lowest point so any other route would be better.

JT—Projects on the current projects list are mostly done.

WATV map for District #3 (Jim DeTro’s district)

JT—Unrolls a big map of roads that could be opened to WATVs in JD’s district. Commissioners gather around for a good look.

JT—Some of the roads have segments with a speed limit about 35 MPH, and they’d have to be lowered.

CB—Short 50 MPH segments could be lowered.

AH—We’d need to ask Fish & Wildlife if this impacts them.

JD—That was the plan—to ask Fish & Wildlife.

CB—The map is a starting point for people to talk about.

AG—Make sure it’s well-advertised or the WATV people get mad.

JD—Motorcycles are the ones that go where they’re not supposed to go.

CB—Fish & Wildlife has some enforcement.

AH to PH—Outreach with Fish Wildlife should come from us.

CB will contact some and PH will contact others.

AH—Get all those agencies in first, before we open it to public comment.

PH—Who organized the open houses? How many?

AH to JT—Can you scan the map with these comments on it?

JT—With PH’s wide scanner I can.

JT—It’s good to give the public real information and not hearsay.

AH—We can ID where mitigation might be needed with agencies. Example—Fish & Wildlife wants signage here, fencing there, etc.

CB—Maybe it'll be easier not to open a road if mitigation is too much.

AH—JT will finalize the map with color codes to indicate USFS land, DNR land, etc.

Meeting over at 12:05