

Okanogan Board of County Commissioners  
8/8/17

JD—Jim DeTro  
AH—Andy Hover—not present  
CB—Chris Branch  
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners  
PH—Perry Huston—County Planner  
JT—Josh Thomson—County Engineer, Roads  
JF—Josh Freel—Fairgrounds Manager  
KS—Kim Spiding—Fairgrounds PR & Marketing  
David—Prosecutor’s Office  
JP—Joe Poulin—Maintenance Supervisor  
LM—Leah McCormick, County Treasurer

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

*Updates from the Commissioners’ staff, including maintenance issues, the Fairgrounds, Prosecutor’s Office and the County Treasurer. Also update from Perry Huston concerning the Comprehensive Plan, Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program.*

Meeting began 9:10

JD—Is the injection well taking the water?

JP—The gauge was inaccurate. We’re now injecting 200 gal/minute.

PH—That system is supposed to handle 500 gal/minute

CB—There’s an injection plan in Othello. It takes a while to get it to accept the water.

JP—We’re running it daily. It’s turned on in Court Room 2. We’re monitoring the water temperature coming & going. We want to connect the cooling unit in the jail to the system and see what happens. If all goes well, we hope to run it over the weekend.

CB—Will anybody be around on the weekend?

JP—Hope so! But it seems to be working.

JP—I’d like to get bids on repairing the stairs in Juvie. It needs to be done before winter. Do we want to do just one flight or the whole thing?

LJ—We have safety issues now.

JP—I’ll take some photos of the problems today.

PH—Projected estimate?

JP--\$10,000 for one flight, twice that for both. It’s not budgeted.

LJ—I recommend we put it in the short term plan for next year.

JP—No one of the small works roster does this kind of work.

JF—Suggests someone.

JD—Suggests another person.

LJ—Are they on the vendors’ list?

JP—No.

LJ—Email me with their contact information & I can put them on the list.

LJ—Joe & I did a walk-thru of the DOC building. There are walls of files left by some prosecutor. Some of the files are moldy, some have water damage. Need 1 or 2 rooms to move these files. The file boxes are on pallets.

LJ—The upper floor is cleaned out. There's a server there but we don't know whose it is. There's no ID sticker on it. There are five offices and a reception area with a window.

JP—People cleaned it out yesterday. We discovered that carpet had been placed over a vent hole. It's been that way since I've been here—at least 6 years. We cut the carpet and installed a vent. It'll look nice. Most of the work is done.

LJ—Can we paint it?

CB—That'll help with the smell.

JP—You can't access the basement from the outside.

LJ—Prosecutors' files need to be secure.

CB—What's the square footage?

LJ—1554 sq ft. charged \$1.03/sq ft. Almost \$20,000 annually.

LJ—Can we get direction by next week so we can go forward? If we can't get \$20,000, there's noxious week & WSU.

CB—Who knows what the market will bear?

### ***Fairgrounds Update 9:30***

KS—Here are two contracts for security at the Fair—one for daytime security & one for nighttime. The nighttime security is standard at the Fair. Tanya felt that because daytime security is for a vendor, the vendor should pay. It's \$28.50/hour.

JF—One vendor feels she needs the security at the Fair. It's Head & Horn. Do the commissioners want to pay? And if so, out of whose budget?

CB—I move we approve the contract for evening security.

Motion passes 2-0.

KS—The evening security is included in this year's Fair budget.

JF—The daytime security is a huge expense for one vendor. She wants them to be there all day.

JD—They give away nice prizes. It would be a shame if they got stolen.

JF—The commissioners could approve it if the Fair pays.

CB—Are we covered by our liability insurance?

LJ—Does it fall under our Fair insurance?

PH—Probably not.

JD—Let's wait until Andy is back next Monday.

CB—I'll be gone but I lean towards the Fair paying for it. It's a cost of the Fair.

KS—We asked for bids for septic pumps, portable toilets, handwashing, and janitorial services. We received one bid. Price similar to last year.

KS—It was phone bids, not newspaper ads.

KS—The bathroom project is going well.

KS—The Stampede is coming up, so reservations are coming in.

### ***Prosecutor's Office Update 9:45***

David—Three Devils Rd case was denied review. So the case is pretty much over except some paperwork.

CB—Have there been requests to post the road?

David—Better to wait until it's totally done.

David—Irrigation district case—Last week we learned that it's fine if we want to be removed from the case—per their attorney.

David—Marijuana issue. The paperwork was not done correctly. It'll be resubmitted, and it should be done by next week.

PH—There are curious time lines with this case.

PH—(Too rapid to record) review process concerning Yakima.

David—If they want something specific, they have to tell me what it is.

PH—Initiation of the environmental review is what they want. And we haven't exactly done that yet.

David—Cases in other counties that may concern us—

- Jail. In Yakima. A person had an immigration hold as well as an assault charge. Does this mean we need to change our procedures? But the person in Yakima was held on an administrative warrant and we don't do those. So I told Noah (Steward, Jail Administrator) that we were OK.
- Public Records—One disgruntled person can really screw things up filing many public records requests. It can cost a lot and the person is doing it to inflict pain. But courts may be coming around a little.
  - JD—Radicals can do this and it's frivolous.
  - PH—But regular guys do it too. It's hard to strike a balance. We've had to use Public Records laws to get information ourselves.
  - David—And you have to do the redaction. You can get sued if you don't.
  - CB—And some requests aren't clear or are inaccurate. Someone once requested lots of information about a parcel but used the wrong parcel number.
  - David—The problem comes from requests made in bad faith. They are hoping you'll do it incorrectly and then you'll get fined and they'll get some of the money.

#### *Treasurer's Update 10:15*

LM—Here's the list of current foreclosures. I'll advertise next month. They have until December to pay. The sale is December 8.

LM—HB 2242 concerns school funding. Property taxes will go up depending on the school levy. The impact will be greater in 2018, and then maybe less in 2019, but nobody knows for sure. The commissioners will probably get calls about this when people get their tax bills. There are different school districts with different levy types. There probably will be a lot of questions so I'm giving you a heads up.

LJ—Public Health is calling and wonders which commissioners are going today.

JD will be going so Public Health will have a quorum. They need only one commissioner.

#### *Planning Update 10:30*

1. Comprehensive Plan (CP)
  - Proposed Revisions
  - SEPA—Scoping/Comment period
  - Planning Commission hearing
  - BOCC
2. Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO)
  - Proposed revisions 2012 Draft
  - SEPA—Scoping/Comment period
  - Planning Commission hearing
  - BOCC
3. Shoreline Master Program (SMP)
  - DOE discussion

(Note taker's aside: I was not able to follow most of this discussion. However, in a very general sense it concerned how the Comprehensive Plan drives the Zoning Plan, Wildfire Protection Plan, etc. The Comprehensive Plan should include goals and objectives for guidance. That will help writing exact plans later on, when you get into the weeds of a specific issue. As an example, CB talked of requiring a wider ROW in case more houses were built in a development and a wider road was required.)

PH—So what do the commissioners need to move forward? Study sessions on CP, CAO and SMP?

CB—Yes. And they should be scheduled soon.

Discussion of schedules. They settle on--

Comprehensive Plan—Wednesday, Aug 30 at 9 A.M. It will include Rural fire interface/water.  
Shoreline Master Program—Aug 21 after the Cannabis hearing.  
Critical Areas Ordinance—Tuesday, Sept 12 3:00 P.M. After the Public Health meeting.

PH—Other business—Voluntary Stewardship lacked a quorum again, but people in agriculture are busy this time of year.

JD—I'm sending the invitation letters to the two cabinet members.

PH—I'm working on another letter to delegations if we get a date.

Note taker left 11:30