

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
(BOCC)  
Sept. 18, 2018**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)  
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)  
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)  
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)  
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)  
David Gecas – DG (Civil Att.)  
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)  
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)  
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor, Finance Mgr)

Debi Hilts – DH (HR)  
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)  
Perry Huston – PH (Planning)  
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)  
Laurie Thomas – LT (Auditor)  
Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events Coord.)  
Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)  
Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)

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**Summary:** **AH:** Possible pilot project in Methow Valley SD, Twisp and Building Dept. over contract for building inspection services, **Fair Events:** Costs incurred due to Fair, Limiting factors in Fair attendance, build more school participation, General services contract for gate, sorting out costs for Fair and normal costs and maintenance, **Fair Maintenance & Admin:** Just now finishing cleanup, Grounds items to be reviewed, Facility upkeep training, **Planning:** Industry is interested in giving input on Cannabis concerns, WRIA 49 - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in November, Lack of comments on some plats from WDoE, **Finance Committee:** **Auditor:** 160 **Fund issues - Juvenile Tax, Treasurer:** Budget for 2019, BOCC direction, Unfilled positions, TV district question – delinquent fees, Omak Mountain repeater, Current expenses still doing well, money for postage for ballots, **Public Works: Engineering:** Roads & Maintenance, Crescent Mountain Fire, Buffalo Lake Rd CCT project, Crofoot Lane, Miscellaneous Issues, **Admin & SW:** Open Positions, MT Operator Training, Union negotiation, Black Canyon Snow Park, SW Recycle Investigation, SW Tipping Fees & CCT, **Public Comment:** None, **Title III Discussion & Fund Obligation:** Two applications, decision next week, **Human Resources / Risk Management:** Chief Deputy Assessor position, Law Enforcement training on Verbal SWAT, 3 lawsuits, Dispatch fees, **Public Hearing – Tunk Basin Water Availability:** Public Comment, Approve leaving interim overlay in place, To add “additional” findings, **Consent Agenda**

9:00 AH, JD & CB present. LJ, SC & PH present

- AH: **Possible pilot project in Methow Valley SD** area, concerning high-speed internet availability in more remote areas. AH inquiring about possible push back from the rest of the county and comparable or worse internet access in rural areas (no comment from CB or JD).
- AH also met with Mayor Moody of **Twisp and Building Dept. over contract for building inspection services** with County. Law limits County to cost recovery for such services, limits what County can offer to a city. An ongoing conversation with PH about the nature of contracts, staffing time impacts, burden on County determining costs to County. CB – does County want to be in the business of providing services in general, does County want to be a temporary provider or more permanent solution? Concern of implementation of building laws and codes. Can a city “fire” service and maybe jeopardize County staffing level and

County not have any control? Is this a move towards the County taking over all inspections?  
What direction does County want to move?

### SC (Fair Events)

- Group who signed contract to operate gates. Contract has disappeared, needs another signed in order to be approved for vouchers. AH – discussion of moving funds to the line item to balance expenditures keeping Fair separately from Fair Maintenance costs such as janitorial services. Various line item funds – overall budget of \$45,000 for all costs.
- AH – Asking JP about **costs incurred due to Fair** that would not be normal hours and costs. What are “added” costs and allocation to Fair as part of determining what actual costs of the Fair and to prepare for future budgeting? What is above and beyond normal maintenance activities or on the grounds. This would be put on a spreadsheet analysis to look at for future decision-making.
- SC – How to **build more school participation**? Start now for next year as Fair is so close to school starts the prep needs to be in the previous school year. Bring more kid activities into the Agriplex for things to see/do. Dunk tank for BOCC (discussion and laughter)? Big straw pile for kids to dig through for prizes, pumpkin chucking contest?
- SC – approve **general services contract for gate** – Faith Baptist Church. Approved.
- SC – will work on **sorting out costs for Fair and normal costs and maintenance**.
- What is **limiting factor in Fair attendance**? Revenue is relatively flat while expenses are creeping up. SC sees two groups who attend – one who engage and exhibit and then those that go to see and play. More attractions, exhibits would encourage second group but how to encourage more engagement/involvement? Are the two compatible? Where is the cost recovery efficiency? What direction to go?

### JP (Fair Maintenance & Admin)

- **Just now finishing cleanup**; mucking out barns – participants in Quonsets had just pushed materials to the center. BOCC needs an assessment of actual costs. BOCC always has an option of subsidizing to keep costs to the participants at a low level.
- JP – People “avoid” interrupting stage shows. Shows generally stop crowd movement, need to separate places to have different attractions to bring more varied crowds.
- JP: Gives BOCC a list of **grounds items to be reviewed** that came out during the Fair. One is no heat in the shop – Building has no insulation and not sealed. Wants to look at options for temporary heating. Building could be used temporarily during cold months for repairs and projects, i.e. lawn mower repair. Ridgeline on barns allows bats to enter and roost – maybe a spray on sealant, re-nail and screw down roofing as they have worked loose. Steer barn would be a priority.
- There is money in budget to get **facility upkeep training**. JP wants himself and Kyle to go to a training on operating computer system in Raleigh. \$1600 per person + air, accommodations. BOCC needs more information on costs. AH – can JP get an outline of the full capability of the system? Check on funding in budget to cover costs.
- OK for JP to looking into a portable heating system for shop

### PH (Planning)

- **Industry is interested in giving input on Cannabis concerns**
- **WRIA 49** – will put together a list of people that have acknowledged participation interest. Looking to a meeting **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday in November**

- **Lack of comments on some plats from WDoE.** Some speculation on possible reluctance of WDoE to let go of water regulation?

10:00 **Finance Committee – Auditor (LT & CH) & Treasurer (LM)** arrives

- **Auditor – 160 Fund**
  - o No reimbursement to current expenses for **jail medical services** at this time. Is in process. Same for Juvenile for operation costs.
  - o May need to move **prescription costs** to current expense. Line 160 has no expenses so far as they have no funds to cover. The levy money under 169 is just now starting to come in and will only total seven months this fiscal year. It will all balance out next year with a full year of sales tax revenues and will be able to reimburse other funds.
  - o **Vehicle costs for Juvenile** will need to be worked on also.
- **Treasurer**
  - o AH wants to discuss **budget for 2019**. Needs to have maintenance separate for juvenile so JP can bill out of 160. Will need a maintenance line added then submit for each billable item. 160 is a restricted fund for Juvenile expenses. 160 receives revenue for sales tax Juvenile.
  - o Discussion with Sheriff's about 2019 budget and how to process raises question about **BOCC direction**. 1) Finance Cmte meets with each Dept. & analyzes then report to BOCC? Limited meetings are the past to understand what each line of the department budget are about. Then negotiate towards what is possible. Some departments may not properly allocate real expected costs and rely on supplemental requests later in the year. LM – maybe look at areas of last years budget that created a problem then work on those – explanation, causes, remedies. CH will bring in a comparison of 2018 and proposed 2019, also a chart of benefits, salaries in a working summary to help BOCC. Adjustments will then reflect real costs in the budget.
  - o Set **unfilled positions** at a Step 4 instead of Step 1 for estimates, swapped 160 fund expenditures out of other budgets.
  - o AH wants to make sure changes on 2019 budget are being developed are highlighted for BOCC to note. CH – will make sure that they are in the BOCC column.
  - o LM: **TV district question**. Are associated by parcel numbers, all delinquent tax payments (including TV) list is sent to banks to notify mortgagees. Banks then assess fees onto loan and pay County. TV tax is not assessable under law. In the past banks knew this and did not “encumber and assess onto the mortgages. Someone at Wells Fargo missed this and sent out notices to delinquent TV District customers and sent a check for \$8000 to the County to cover the delinquent taxes. LM will not cash the check and return it to the bank personally. Treasurer has received many phone calls and is working at clearing this up ASAP. Wants BOCC to be aware of issue as they may be getting phone calls. Also working at keeping this problem from occurring at other banks and mortgage vendors.
  - o TV District 1 has an issue with accessing **Omak Mountain repeater**. They are working on the problem but may need to transfer to Tunk Mtn site. Need to get to TV 1 to get billing sorted out.
  - o **Current expenses still doing well** with Octobers taxes coming in soon. Still possible that could make an early loan payment and avoid some interest costs. BOCC needs to consider this and Treasurer will keep this on the radar.

- Fair - A lot of revenue comes in for the Fair in September – currently at 36% of budget, expenses at 33% of the Fair. As the Fair is now done a lot of both will come in this month.
- JT (Public Works: Engineering) passed on that \$4.3 million in County roads. JT said not to worry, a lot of contract road going on in the County that will be billed.
- JD: Market sale at Fair is private, a lot of money is involved. LM – this is not a County function. TC (Risk Management) is handling premium checks. Auditor still sees a lot of problems at the Fair but is working on it. This is somewhat normal at many County Fairs.
- AH - maintenance budget (Courthouse & admin buildings, is at 62% expenses, very good). Fairgrounds facilities, the bulk of expenses/revenue are not shown as they are in this month and will show up next month. As this is a new budget this year there was some guess work.
- CH: State sent **money for postage for ballots** – the State had sent the funds based on a low turnout while Okanogan County had a normal 50% turnout, County has already used up a lot of money. If general election comes in at 70%, normal, it will be a problem. State funds were based on an estimate that was lower than County average. Also had to get new ballot boxes under a new state law. Wants to know if County should bill State for excess costs? BOCC – yes. AH want to send an invoice for additional drop boxes and pre-paid ballot overrun costs. Auditor will run an estimate of the costs for the BOCC.

11 :00 **Public Works** – BR (Admin & SW) & JT (Engineering)

- JT (**Engineering**)

- **Roads & Maintenance:** Grading, cleaning culverts, shouldering, winter sand stock piling, patching to prepare for winter & Spring.
- **Crescent Mountain Fire:** Still working on BAER report.
- **Buffalo Lake Rd CCT project:** JT submitted a right-of-way from BIA, done. Will vacate the unused portion of current right-of-way when project is done.
- **Crofoot Lane:** Just south of Riverside, State saw as a residential road and would not allow commercial access. County records indicate County Rd. State concedes and are correcting but still need upgrading for business access. Business agrees to share some costs for upgrade.
- AH: **Miscellaneous Issues:** School bus sign figured out? JT – no word. Fire district – drain under roads blocked, ice forms around hydrant. Needs culvert under State Hwy. at the site, some historical problems due to private maintenance.

- BR (**Admin & SW**)

- **Open Positions** – Thursday interviews for M2 Driver, Area 2 & Veg. & Traffic Control person. Good pool of candidates. Winter temps: Just talking about how many snow plow drivers. Hope summer temps end in Sept. Winter temps right after or by Thanksgiving. BOCC needs to approve #s, BR is working within normal number of hires. Summer has 1 driver per area + 3 flaggers, and SW temps. If no trustees then SW landfill would need 4 temps, 13 total at SW. Winter 4 temps. If more needed would need a special request to BOCC.
- **MT Operator Training** – discussion. Normally bring in contractor to train locals to develop and train up employees. There is discussion to set up a local cadre of trainers from current workforce to travel to various Areas and do training as

- needed. Temps only get L & I, no other benefit unless go over 5 months then retroactive for whole tenure for retirement. BOCC prefers contractor.
- **Union negotiation** – begins Wednesday for some units.
- **Black Canyon Snow Park** – no County plowing for 4<sup>th</sup> year due to poor quality of road. AH will talk with new Methow Ranger Chris Murr
- **SW Recycle Investigation** – Outside investigation agreed with internal review and remedy.
- **SW Tipping Fees & CCT**: Kent will come in next week to share analysis data. AH – How is CCT hauling different from a private operation? CB – County subsidizes outlying Transfer Stations (Ellisforde, Twisp, Bridgeport) under original agreement as Central landfill could have been located anywhere. Same Tipping Fee charge at all sites. So why CCT when they absorb the Transfer Station and hauling costs to Central? CCT saving County costs with operation. Kent will still come in next week for discussion about what kind of data he has to inform discussion. CB want best estimates available to compare to costs if County operated Nespelem Transfer Station and haul costs.

Lunch

### 1:30 Public Comment – None

AH & JD talking about some wolf issues – nothing new.

1:45 LJ reminds BOCC of Title III and Fund Obligation deadlines – BOCC members reading applications.

### 2:00 Title III Discussion & Fund Obligation

- Conservation District – Continue and grow FireWise program, 100+ assessments with full funding, Fire hardening cost share up to 15.
- CWPP – County wildfire Prevention Plan update – funding to update
- BOCC wants to check if by not updating CWPP would affect other funding and grant applications. Will have Maurice Goodall (Emergency Management) come in on Monday then consider.

### 3:00 TC (Human Resources / Risk Management)

- Draft resolution for **Chief Deputy Assessor position** has been passed on for review
- 1<sup>st</sup> **Law Enforcement training on Verbal SWAT** training. Risk Pool sponsored. 27 attendees. How to deal with verbal conflict & difficult people. Law enforcement can be a difficult audience. Tribe, Omak PD, Jail & Sheriff personnel attended – WS D of F&W, 2 WSP. All were very enthused and got a lot of the training
- **3 lawsuits** being worked on
- Beginning union negotiations
- Talking with cities and M. Worden, **Dispatch on fees**
- AH – see any issues with discussion over Chief Deputy Assessor? TC – have documentation justifying wage. Temporary help in Assessor office – moved and passed.

### 3:30 Public Hearing – Tunk Basin Water Availability

- Upper & Lower Tunk & Tamarack Spring Basins

- Maps showing maximum build-out possible, current developed and projected.
- Recommendations on study process by Monday,
- **Public Comment:**
  - o Nancy Soriano:
    - Appreciates study
    - Long recharge – less than 2% of moisture in any one year goes into ground water, rest in evapo-transpiration
    - In drought years not recharge at all.
  - o G. Thornton:
    - Concern over “problematic basins” through WRIA 49 – need specific focus as well, particularly “vernal” basins – landlocked.
    - BOCC is establishing a precedent for setting up water availability study areas in sub-basin. Just need to be deliberate in process
    - Consider what the baseline for decisions on water availability – extended drought, short term drought, normal or above normal years?
- CB moves to **approve leaving interim overlay in place**. PH – any additional finding? Not necessary – motioned approved.
- Discussion of what it would take **to add “additional” findings** – what evidentiary support? Maybe do this before public hearing? Public may bring in addition information that supports additional findings of fact.

LJ – Chris Murr, MRD, called wanting a chance to meet with BOCC Oct. 3 -5 sometime. BOCC is open to meeting Monday or Tuesday. LJ will try to set up an opportunity. TRD will need a similar meeting sometime in the near future with their new Ranger.

4:30 **Consent Agenda** – approved minus the Sept. 10 & 11 minutes. Approved

4:36 – Adjourn.