

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
September 3, 2019**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)	Stella Columbia – SC (Fair Events)
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)	Maurice Goodall – MG (Emergency Mgmt)
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)	Mike Worden – MW (Dispatch)
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)	Dan Higbee – DH (Building)
Joe Poulin – JP (Maintenance & Fair Grds)	George Thornton – GT (Citizen, County Watch)
Angie Hubbard – AHu (Interim Planning)	Tony Hawley – TH (Sheriff)
Laleña Johns – LJ (BOCC Clerk)	Randy Clough – RC (Central Service)
David Gechas – DG (Civil Att.)	Larry Gilman – LG (Assessor)
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)	Annie Lyons – AL (Noxious Weeds)
Shelly Keitzman SK (HR)	Charlene Groomes - CG (Clerk's Office)
Leah McCormick – LM (Treasurer)	Susan Speaker - SS (Clerk's Office)
Cari Hall – CH (Auditor)	Adrian Noma – AN (Prosecuting Attorney)

Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker.

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Summary: **Treasurer:** Christian Johnson - Staff shortage & Fair coverage, **Fair Events:** No real issues, Fair, **Civil Attorney:** Oroville & Rural EMS contract with Lifeline, Fees for public records requests, Methow 2 cfs rule, Treasurer's agreement, **Building Dept.:** Building inspections for cities, **Planning:** RFQ submission, High-density areas and Cannabis, Engh Rd Cannabis odor, Examining conflicts, **BOCC:** CB working to assist towns with building inspections, Ongoing planning issues?, **Risk & HR:** Witness advocacy - Prosecutor's Office, Change part-time position to fulltime, BOCC in full support, **BOCC:** Resume soliciting, Employee morale threatened, No change to current policy, **Building:** Interlocals to cover city inspections, **Emergency Services:**

BOCC: AH, CB & JD Staff: AHu, TC, LM, SC, DG, AH & DH

LM (Treasurer)

- **Christian Johnson**, husband of main worker at Treasurer's office, was severely burned while responding to a wildland fire last Sunday. He will be at Harborview in Seattle for some time. His wife will be with him for now. This may be 4 – 6 months for recovery.
- This will result in a **Lack of staff at the Treasurer's office** and is particularly critical due to extra duties involving the County Fair. LM will need extra help Th, Fr & Sat. evenings to balance the receipts and make night deposits. Someone will need to accompany LM in making the deposit at the bank. TC & AH are available to help.
 - o LM has a new foreclosure deputy this week and will need a replacement. Will be borrowing from the Assessor's office a former employee to help out. LJ will also be available.
 - o Fair has added a 3rd gate, means more detail work.
 - o Will also need another person Sunday to deposit to the Treasurer's vault. CB, also TC available.

SC (Fair Events)

- **No real issues.** Any BOCC issues or questions? Just busy getting ready for the Wednesday beginning.
- New north light at the Agriplex is not working properly – working on it.
- A lot of phone call to deal with and needs to get back to the office.

DG (Civil Attorney)

- Asked about **Oroville & Rural EMS contract with Lifeline** with the passage of levy. The 3rd addendum to the old contract after the past levy failure will need to change to 24-hour coverage. 2nd addendum items are addressed in the 3rd addendum.
- Cost of **fees for public records requests** – looking at the fees. Need to clarify to allow actual cost to County. Not costs for redacting but could for mailing and packaging. Some for materials – CD, paper, etc., difference between B&W and color.
- Researched **Methow 2 cfs rule**. Have been in contact with Methow people, in discussion.
- Worked on a **Treasurer's agreement**
- No need for an Executive Session.
- AN – inquiring about change in accepting unsolicited resumes addressed last week.

DH (Building Dept.)

- With Chris gone, only agency in County to do **Building inspections for cities** he contracted for. How to cover agreement with towns? CB offering to help with approval of it is OK with the rest of the BOCC. BOCC – there is a history of mutual aide between County and cities? DH – not enough staff to cover during this time. Need an Interlocal Agreement to cover each town. Chris worked for Oroville – Oroville then sub-contracts to the other towns.
- DH will have a conversation with TC & DG about a possible 10:30 meeting to discuss options.

AHu (Planning)

- **RFQ submission ended last Thursday**, a joint proposal from Aspect Consulting & Colville Confederated Tribe contractor.
- Meeting over **high-density areas and Cannabis cultivation**. Also, along Hwy 97 there is an application for a new retail sales store at a convenience store near the US-Canada border.
- CB - received a complaint about **Engl Rd Cannabis odor**. Concern over Cannabis & high-density residential area.
- When an actual application is made for something then Planning can go through steps of **Examining conflicts**. Not on a casual question without an application. Need the details and compensation for work entailed. Just looking at options at this time.
- CB & AHu need to clarify definition of high-density areas.
- JD - interesting that opposition groups first options is threatening going to court.
- Cost of a site plan is \$90 - any work by Planning. Some background research is higher fee – such as high-density evaluation.

BOCC

- Discussion amongst BOCC concerning **CB working to assist towns with building inspections**. Conflict of interest, need to check with DG.
- With PH gone how does this affect **Ongoing planning issues?** - Champerty Shores, EMS levy & Lifeline contract, appointments and serving on various boards by BOCC.

10:00 TC (**Risk & HR**), Procecutor's Victims Advocate manager, SN (Stacy Nicholson)

- **Witness advocacy from Prosecutor's Office.** Victim & Witness advocate for Courts. Currently 2 advocates – 1 fulltime and 1 part time. Mostly grant funding – RCW fund support, but all funds are grant based.
- About \$5000 – \$6000 roll over needed per year in fund for advocates. Currently, projection for the end of 2019 looks like \$68,000 over that. Would like to **Change part-time position to fulltime**, Step 5. Under a worst-case projection would end 2020 with \$32,000. Would want to phase in the increase of hours for the part time position. Funding looks sustainable.
- AH asks if there is enough work? Yes, more than enough for the 2 full time positions. First contact with each victim, full time in court and restitution follow-up for all.
- As long as funding sustains would full fund. Resolution would provide for dropping back hours if funds not available.
- Will also provide more training opportunities
- **BOCC in full support**
- TC – nothing else. BOCC – 10:30 meeting with DG concerning covering loss of Chris Johnson, and Building Dept. needs. TC & SK: Sunday will be out of office until Tuesday – training.
- TC has information on how to make a contribution for Christian Johnson (CJ).

AH (BOCC)

- **Resume soliciting** by AN – CB & AH: Don't see any special process to collect resumes. TC sees that process with a "roster" only at Civil Service.
- Want to keep County policy of no soliciting of resumes without a job opening across the board and not exceptions. Accepting of a resume if someone hands it in in anticipation of an opening would depend on the discretion of the Dept. Head, the same as now. Just no soliciting of resumes.
- TCs biggest concern is **Employee morale being threatened**. Very big concern. All attorneys are non-bargaining and employed At Will. Could raise job concerns if resumes were being solicited.
- All BOCC, **No change to current policy**. CB wants to keep current policy current policy on soliciting only on a job opening.

DH (Building)

- Think about the **Interlocals to cover current issues** with over loss of CJ. Current County Interlocals with Riverside, Brewster & Twisp (Twisp is on old contract and not renewed, Twisp needs to approve new contract. It's been over a year). County is unable to do land reviews due to lack of personal and expertise. Only small building inspections, no site reviews. DH will have a conversation with Willie Hill, a CJ friend who has done site and building reviews. May be able to use him during this crisis.
- DH sees a 3-month Interlocal agreement, with a renewal option.
- All the cities – Oroville, Tonasket & Okanogan and possibly Omak need services now so need to move quickly to help out.
- DG (**Civil Attorney**) - No planning services only building services, can put a quick Interlocal together to cover the short term. Oroville needs 2 days, Tonasket 1 and Okanogan 2 days per week. Omak would need another fulltime if needed. AH – separate agreement with each town, DG & DH agree. Has to be immediate due to ongoing construction requirements. CB – need to talk with Mick Howe, cities attorney for two of the cities.
- AH - County could have contract ready today and sign for cities to ratify at this evening's city council meetings.
- TC has templates to work from so is a quick process to rewrite for Okanogan, Tonasket & Oroville.

- Twisp has had a chance to OK County building inspection services in the new contract. Currently working under the old contract that has expired. County wants all contracts for services to be year-to-year. Need to serve notice to Twisp for 60 day termination of services, then see what happens.
- A big public records request, the RCWs allow a 10% deposit on costs, small requests none.

MG (Emergency Services)

- **DNR & County Sheriff are in joint investigation** of the fire incident – possibly WSP will get involved. Media is around asking questions and looking at the site on B & O road near the Fletcher Rd. intersection. Fire started at a driveway.
- **MG assisting with media.** Incident is over with investigation and looking into circumstances.

JT (Public Works)

Misc. Business

- AH – move to **authorize removal of 2 – 20’ containers from County Parking lot to County Fair** contingent on donation of services. Approved
- GT - Based on a conversation before BOCC session. Looking at **Powers of Planning Commission** (PC), appointment of Planning Director (PD). Depending on when the PC was established and any subsequent changes PC may or may not be responsible for the actual appointment of a PD (RCW 36.70.030 or 36.70.040). Seems Okanogan Planning Commission was first established in 1935. This is under study.

1:30 Public Comment:

- **Emily Sisson** (Methow): Disagreement over **job description for Planning Director**. Feels that should be part of any Planning Director description.
- **GT** (Planning Commissioner) – Discussion of **PD job description** and need for a varied background and knowledge of a Comp. Plans in general. One role of the Planning Dept. is to support Planning Commission in its mission. The PC needs a PD with the background to do that, including Comp Plan. AH replies that he understands and agrees. GT - Details need to come out during job interview. Asks that a question asking a possible candidate background in Comp. Plans. General agreement among those present that assisting the PC on Comp. Plan would be part of job description. Ultimately Comp. Plan is responsibility of the PC and BOCC.

2:00 WSU Extension – 2020 Acting Director of WSU Extension. Mike Gaffney w/ Kayla Wells-Moses.

- **Budget and Staffing**
- AH - How's the **Budget** looking? Looking better. Pres. WSU 2 yrs ago found a large deficit and imposed a major reduction and austerity program – a 3-year plan. WSU now in the black, Athletics must have a yearly review and an OK by Regents.
- Other depts. Have a hope in the next fiscal year to return to a more normal budget. Now hiring is hoped for. Overall ag. Extension has done quite well in savings and now reviewing new hires. Considering NE Wash. Forester position. Wants a priority list for hiring for considering.
- Central Admin. would make decision at the end of the year in operations and hiring. Have suffered a loss of many personnel over the last 10 years.
- Mike Gaffney leaving soon and wants a new Dean and Assoc. Professor by the end of October.
- Kayla – wants a \$5000 budget increase from last year. WSU currently contributes \$25,000, County over \$100,000 to program. County does not pay for Kayla, provides all offices and support services for program.

- Gaffney – good to fully staff buy has had trouble finding quality people in the past for local positions. Does understand BOCC desire for adequate, fair support from WSU Extension.
- If there is an issue or opportunity across the WSU community for a semester intern would support that request. Up to 10 students. Wants to know how to help out. WSU Extension office is there to assist a student intern. CB – Geography student to look at needs and differences in County. AH – hydrogeology. AH any project around water, anything to do with fire. CB – planning.
- M. Gaffney – Medical: Ken Roberts, Associate Dean for Medical Outreach. Contact for possible mobile Medical Unit, or 4th year med. student placement.

2:45 Notetaker leaves for other meetings.