

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
(BOCC)
September 4, 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: Fair Events: Renting out RV spots, AC/compressor is shot, Overhead fill pipe for water truck, Heat of the Agriplex, Use of tractor during the Fair, Thursday kid free day, Real happy with all the work at the Fair by JP & SC, **Meeting with the new PUD manager, Enloe Dam costs & issues, Planning:** Similkameen Trail, Hummingbird Short Plat, Bunched 6 plat applications, Monitoring of A & B System wells, Quarry application in the Methow, **Risk Management:** Elmer City sewage lift station, Sept. 10 @ 10:30 meeting with Fish & Wildlife, Building Inspection services, County billing for Criminal Justice & Dispatch services, Need to justify that tax monies are being used effectively, Bunks at the Jail, ALL county employees need to have an updated job description, **Public Works: Admin & SW:** Open Positions, Apple Maggot Status, SWMP Process, Landfill Leachate Pond update, **Engineering:** Roads, Twisp City dike issue, RAP, Buffalo Lake Rd CCT, Peter Dan Rd slide repair, Hwy 7, Tonasket Bridge South, Guardrail project, Coulee Dam/Elmer City lift station issue, **Public Comment:** Buffer around any Cannabis grow, Twisp fire has been active, Emergency Practice, Rumor of possible mine opening, **Sales Tax: Fund 160 with Dennis Rabidou (Juvenile), Misc. Business:** Consent Agenda, Vouchers, Fair Vouchers, Auctioneer tied bid, Okanogan County Transport & Nutrition, Adjourn

9:00 BOCC - AH, CB, JD @ 9:00 Staff - PH, LJ, JP & SC

SC (Fair Events)

- How long has Fair been **renting out RV spots**? AH & JD – as a RV park was first advertised about 1990 but was rented out much earlier.
- DG (Civil Attorney) – has a trial this morning
- JP – air handler on **AC/compressor is shot** – one not fixable so could only get one working. Only have to pay for one installation. Can get by on the one for some time.
- An **overhead fill pipe for water truck** was at Public Works. Will install inside the race track to use for water trucks watering the track. Another fill will be put elsewhere for watering the parking lot and other areas.
- JD (Admin & Fair Maintenance) – County is using propane to **heat the floor of the Agriplex**. Hot water (or Antifreeze) is circulated through the concrete pad. Current

recommendations are for a small electric unit that operates at a much cheaper cost. PH – current system takes a lot of time to bring up the temp. Have to heat the pad and then the heat rises to the ceiling. AH – also need to install ceiling fans to push heat to the floor for better circulation.

- AH – Person on Fair Committee wants to **use tractor during the Fair**. TC (Risk Management) is looking into a short term liability policy. There needs to be a firm list of a few people authorized to use the tractor. JP – only Sam, Chris & Tim.
- No current complaints
- JP – perennial flowers were planted in some of the flower boxes around the Fair.
- SC – Some confusion over the exhibitor entry dates. – some books indicated 9/3 that will be honored.
- AH – policy on **Thursday kid free day** allows a 1:6 ratio for free entry for chaperones. Adults over that will have to pay regular fare for entry.
- SC – Season pass for Fair is \$30. Fair Committee collects the fees to pay for putting on the Fair. Question is if the various County workers at the Fair (PH, JP, SC for example +rest of maintenance crew) get in free or pay?
- Getting sawdust arriving starting today (Zosel & Remand & Reload)
- JP – will haul garbage using a 4 wheeler towing a small trailer
- SC – a couple of small contracts to be signed. Will have for Consent Agenda at the end of the day. LJ/SC – need to add a couple of the pre-existing consent agenda.

CB – has been invited to a **meeting with the new PUD manager** for a Q & A this afternoon. He will not be back until at least 3 pm.

AH – Heard that PUD would have to be **pay to operate Enloe Dam** due to high costs. Cleanup costs (sediment behind dam & old power house) are not predictable. Removal might make for a big bill for the costs. JD – Unknown what the costs are to be. CB – possible BPA might cover costs as mitigation for other dams but this cost would go back on all the regional ratepayers, not just the Okanogan PUD. There is an approximate 40 million loss of possible power due to need to spill water for salmon. This cost is split between Fish & Wildlife and ratepayers. Enloe cleanup “rebate” for this could be part of that settlement. Possible First Nations in Canada would reject any dam removal due to possible fish passage. Not wanting any fish run up river if dam removed. JD expresses any downstream dam removed would push rates much higher and make Enloe much more valuable.

AH & JD: **Real happy with all the work at the Fair by JP & SC.**

AH will be at the Solid Waste booth on Friday, CB – Sunday.

SC – almost done with LTAC grant for a billboard – due today. Couldn't get together a capital improvement grant for \$35,000 to improve acoustic in Agriplex, maybe next time.

PH (**Planning**)

- Tried to follow up on the **Similkameen Trail**, with Boettiger retiring and a new person coming aboard at the PUD as the lead on the trail. Will get together after 1st of the years as she get acclimated. Some expenses for the washout fix will have to be worked out, whether PUD would bill the County or absorb some costs, just don't know. PH will talk with her.
- Wanted an Exec session but without DG will put it off. Concerning the **Hummingbird Short Plat**. DOE has a very different view of the water situation than the applicant.
- PH **bunched together 6 plat applications** as he felt they were functionally related in a watershed. There is a 30-day comment period that will end on 9/14. He will look at what is received on SEPA and plat comments. Only a threshold determination at this time, no final decision.
- PH & AH: **Monitoring of A & B System wells**: Campbell/Gwinn allows 350 gpd per house, max. 14 hookups per well on a Class A system. State Public Health has jurisdiction over Class B, which only allows 11 (1.8 people per household) on a well. This would include ½ acre garden for the whole system to be shared on the system. There is some dispute over this interpretation. In-stream flow rule is perhaps limiting on this but might not hold up in court. Discussion over how the 5000 gpd limit per well could be divided up in a group usage system.
- AC: water usage West Side will be limiting factor to growth. JD: Electricity also. CB: Some jurisdictions have huge water rights that might be in excess of availability.
- AH relates the Boulder, CO is a highly rated location in a climate change context but is only expected to have enough water until 2030 for same growth.
- Theory implies there is someone in charge of monitoring usage on a Class A or B water system. Reality is not out there. PH: water meter of well is enforcement, at the house level on a group system it is a management decision for the group. AC: has Planning ever put a restriction on a short plat requiring a meter at well? PH does not recall if this actually ended up in any final agreement. JD relays his very limited usage on the system he is a member. Relates his restricted sprinklers and small household usage. His group reports quarter to Ecology/Public Health.
- If OK Okanogan Public Health actively monitored Class B systems it could generate a lot of revenue but would require more people & time to enforce.
- AH – Methow Valley Watershed Council has a grant application to do a volunteer metering study to see what actual usage might be.
- PH: A big **quarry application in the Methow** for gravel. (60 acres). AH – does the Comp Plan map designate any mineral area in that area? PH – no designation is made for mineral areas in the current map. Most “mining” in Okanogan County is for sand & gravel. No hearing or decision at this time.

10:05 TC (**Risk Management**)

- CB: There seems to be an impasse with Coulee Dam and Elmer City over the upgrade of the **Elmer City sewage lift station**. CD is building a new sewage treatment plant that is 400 ft. higher than currently. The Elmer City lift station is likely to fail with the higher lift. The two cities are not working well together. Elmer City lift station is on County right-of-way without any franchise agreement. No one has reached out to the County about how to deal with the problem. EPA may intervene due to hazard if

Elmer City lift station fails. AH – agrees that it is important to engage parties. CB may be a lack of communication or an impasse, not able to talk with each other. PH will look into also. CB has contacted JT (Public Works engineer) over franchise issue.

- **Sept. 10 @ 10:30 meeting with Fish & Wildlife** over wolves and endangered species.
- 10:15 TC has **Building Inspection services** official contracts with Brewster, Pateros & Riverside. Contract requires motor vehicle insurance but County is self-insured. TC has asked for that clause removed. Will call about striking that language. Needs to clear up the technicality. AH – TC will do a strike through that everyone agrees to or a contract addendum. Will check with DG about details. Also need to check with Brewster about duration of their contract for services – currently working on an indefinite basis. New contract will expire Dec. 31 then will roll over for an entire year if agreed to. AH – can contract work by County make a profit compared to work for County by county that requires only cost recovery? City fees often, but not always, higher than what County can charge.
- Brewster police want to get other city police together to discuss with **County billing for Criminal Justice & Dispatch services**. CB will be part of meeting along with Mike Worden, Dispatch. CB: a good opportunity to open a dialogue though may be some contentious issues.
- General city perception is County has deep pockets. Need an objective discussion to share POV and fiscal realities.
- **Need to justify that tax monies are being used effectively**, i.e. – Juvenile tax, possible Transportation tax.
- **Bunks at the Jail**: Would solve some safety issues. A & B tanks could hold more people safely if bunks were installed for appropriate people.
- TC: Lost Lake, picked pamphlets from Audubon, thought JD might be interested to see. Relays anecdote about how wildlife advocates on tour overlooked some indigenous in tour of WDFW land purchase.
- TC needs to go to Fair & check out, as well works with Eric and help with checks.
- AH: would like TC to write down all the things that she does. Need to prepare for all of us when we move on. **ALL county employees need to have an updated job description**
- Organization Chart progress? Does BOCC want to have a work session? CB: Sounds like a useful effort. Need to re-examining and needs to consider what is/should be happening.
- Also need to go over Personnel Manual
- Need to discuss with HR about what does legalization of Cannabis implies. How does this work with Drug Free workplace? What does that mean for Federal Grants?

Closed Session on Union Negotiations @ 10:45 for 15 min. BOCC & TC.

11:05 10 Min. Exec Session over Land Purchase – BOCC, JT & BR (Public Works).

JT & BR (**Public Works**)

- AH: Will sign and send a letter on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Board to support removal of pinnifeds (seals & sea lions) from below Bonneville Dam.

- BR (**Admin & SW**)
 - **Open Positions:** Finance Tech. – now at .75 instead of .5 as requested earlier, need to attract people so raised hours, M1 Operator in Area 2 filled by M2 Operator, need to fill M2 now. Veg & Traffic Control Crew person: works on snow plowing in winter. One opening. SW Operator – 2 positions filled, SW General Labor – only a couple of weeks left but still looking.
 - **Apple Maggot Status:** Things still in flux. Some remaining questions, 1) what qualifies as restricted fruit – now will accept anything just put in a separate bin. Will affect WasteWise. Pomes, sore fruit and much more. 2) Grace period for need to do a SEPA and other issues due to ongoing Ag. Dept. delays. Ag has admitted that they have made county SW difficult. 30 day after final order – final has not been signed. Looking at hauling green waste out of County (West Side). AH – possible digester remedy? About \$1000 a load hauling out of County, over the Loup to Central in Winter?, Not likely now working out. CB asks for looking into some kind of digester concept.
 - **SWMP Process:** Will see comments and consider if substantial issues raised will have a public hearing, otherwise will finalize with out hearing then to BOCC.
 - **Landfill Leachate Pond update:** 3 working ponds now. 1st is completely empty and will be cleaned. 2nd has a small amount, re-circulated to 3rd for evaporation. Has worked out very well and does see any future problems.
- JT (**Engineering**)
 - **Roads:** currently cleaning ditches and culverts. Aware of potential runoff issues due to Twisp river fire. USFS has no means to do roadwork. What to do? JT will check into the issue. USFS not able to spend any money.
 - **Twisp City dike issue.** Look at what possibilities to get all on the table. AH – no contact from Twisp.
 - **RAP:** on Consent Agenda.
 - **Buffalo Lake Rd CCT:** Awarded, nothing else known at this time. Work is at least a month away
 - **Peter Dan Rd slide repair:** Still working with traffic control – 15 min. delays, a couple of small fires from equipment usage, both quickly controlled.
 - **Hwy 7, Tonasket Bridge South:** Paving repair tomorrow. Will have to await end of irrigation season to complete repair.
 - **Guardrail project:** Approved to bid from Dept. of Transportation
 - CB brought up **Coulee Dam/Elmer City lift station issue** up earlier.

Lunch

1:30 Public Comment:

- George Little: on Cannabis Advisory. Concern about need for a reasonable **buffer around any grow**. Wants a minimum of 25 ft, but prefers more. This is from all County right of ways and/or property line.
- MG (County Emergency) – **Twisp fire has been active**, jumped some line. AH – so many fees that USFS needs to collect (Christmas trees, wood cutting, etc.) – only have 2 road crews in Forest, limited enforcement. A lot of loss due to fires. Feels speeding up sales and harvest would help funding and fire prevention.

- MG – there will be an upcoming practice exercise in Whatcom Co. over a possible **Mt. Baker eruption** emergency practice exercise.
- G. Thornton asks about **rumor of possible mine opening** in Okanogan Highlands. No one knows of any action but DNR & possibly Dept. of Ecology would need to issue permits.

2:00 Sales Tax: Fund 160 with Dennis Rabidou (Juvenile)

- 2 projects coming up – getting quotes for them. \$91,000 in budget – only about \$3000 used so far. \$13,052 on plumbing leak damage, another new leak about \$2865.
- AH need to wait until next year for big projects. Have used money out of Current Expense – not 160. Jail/Juvenile paying back current expense as billed.
- Phone Call on Speaker with JP (Maintenance) on 160 Fund. Carpet damage due to flood – maintenance part of 160 is an extension of Jail Maintenance. JP will bill maintenance costs out of 160 Fund. JP will get quotes to BOCC. LJ – there is a maintenance bill with Juvenile.
- LJ has kept maintenance costs separate and will bill all collective to Juvenile. Joe to send to Dennis Rabidou and then Dennis will process through 160. All this is a work in progress as is new with Sales Tax revenue.
- LJ & AH going over bills to date. Juvenile clerk relays billing instructions from CH, Auditor. AH agrees that works for this year but as more revenue comes in from tax the process will evolve. Clerk working closely with CH.
- DR will work with JP to get work done, Clerk will bill for work.

2:40 Move to approve **Consent Agenda** without minutes. Passed

- Vouchers : \$1,493,199.14 Counter Vouchers. Okayed.
- Contracts for Fair Approved
- Public Health Voucher: \$47, 0154.10 Okayed
- Vouchers for Fair: Warrants \$58,700 Okayed
- Portable Toilets with hand washing station for Fair agreement for services, Professional Services Contract with Herriman. Okayed.

3:15 **Fair Contracts:**

- Carol Civic (sp) - \$10,000 purse money,
- Rental Agreement for Howell Stage & Studio Productions, rental for Fair \$1800,
- Professional Services for cleaning of Fair Bathrooms - \$3000
- All approved.
- Fair Vouchers: \$21,862.97 Approved.

LJ (BOCC Clerk)

- DG responded on **Auctioneer tied bid**: suggestion: Bid not even required by law, but is a County requirement. Could do what BOCC likes – possibly consider reputation, experience, flip a coin or share. Two contracts or one contract and a sub-contract.
- JD: Provides history of auctioneer bidding over past few years and speculates there might have been some “getting” together on bid. Seems to be a great coincidence

given tie. Mentions a third bid that was rejected as it was phone call or email attachment while bid require written.

- Will discuss on Monday. A lot of possible scenarios as to how to set up contracts.

OCTN – **Okanogan County Transport & Nutrition** asking for a letter of support for a grant to provide delivery and transport of disabled, infirm, elderly. Need more information before decision.

Adjourn.