

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

01/24/2017 AM

Present:

JD - Jim DeTro (BOCC)

AH - Andy Hover (BOCC)

CB - Chris Branch (BOCC)

LJ - Lalena Johns (Clerk of Board)

PH - Perry Huston (Director, Planning/Admin)

AL - Albert Lin (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney)

TC - Tanya Craig, HR Director/Risk Manager

DH - Debbie Hilts, HR

SR - Skip Rosenthal, Director of Okanogan County Behavioral Health

Summary of substantive subjects, or those discussed in detail

Commissioners' Staff Meeting

Human Resources

TC updated the commissioners on various upcoming trainings and hires. An electronic database containing confidential information has been accessible to county employees; the need and means to modify access to protect employee privacy were discussed. DH notified the commissioners of a large public records disclosure request involving county employees' titles and salaries filed by a Florida-based entity called 'Open the Books'.

Planning

PH updated the commissioners on the status of the proposed water availability certificates that will be issued with building permits in response to Hirst case. Fees will be folded into the site analysis; at this point it is unknown how much staff time will be involved in issuing certificates. A fee structure will be developed in the future based on achieving 100% recovery of costs to the county.

Discussion OBHC DSHS Contract

SR gives the commissioners an overview of the OBHC activities and invites them to visit the facility and meet the staff. The issue he had with the DSHS contract turned out to be a matter of delayed communications between the County and OBHC, and was resolved during the discussion, with no further action needed.

Update Public Works

Various aspects of road vacation were discussed. Evidently gas tax funds are distributed by the CRAB Board, based on road logs. JT requested and received the commissioners' approval of report that will be submitted to the CRAB Board. JT updated the commissioners on multiple roads and bridges projects. The snow removal policy was discussed, in regards to increasing the consistency of its application around the county. The reasons for initiating snow removal early in some areas, including high traffic areas, were discussed. The commissioners appeared to agree that supervisors should have reasonable discretion, as long as accrued

overtime was not excessive. JT is to monitor the situation, and to communicate policy to the Sheriff's office.

Various aspects of road vacations and rectifying the road log, such as rules, legal requirements for posting and interactions with the U.S. Forest Service and DNR, were discussed. Commissioners decided that going forward, road vacations would be grouped by category. JT notified the commissioners that parties petitioning for road vacations are required by County Code 12.90 to pay the appraised value for the vacated land, however, this has never been done. The discussion will be continued in an extended meeting next week.

BR again raised the subject of the various intended uses of money in Fund 123 that are not fully consistent with the stated purpose of the fund (the subject was discussed 2 weeks ago). Ways to rectify that situation were discussed. AH asked whether an open position (transfer technician?) really needed to be filled and was assured by BR that it was needed. AH then agreed to filling the position. Recent Cost of Living Adjustments were discussed; BR explained why there are apparent discrepancies with how those are distributed. Post-accident drug testing requirements (based on the type and outcome of the accidents) were described.

Staff Meeting

9:03 Meeting begins

TC - 3 claims (too rapid to record)

AH - (too rapid to record)

JAIL

TC - Doing analysis for jail costs... \$83. Funds for active shooter training. 2 hours classroom training & mock exercise

AH - Do we get to go through it?

S - Everyone.

JD - Do I have to bring my own ammunition?

S - No ammunition. Will have to close the building

Most of S's report was too rapid to record. Reports on various trainings. AH asks a number of questions. Training for managing risks in jail operations in May.

EDEN

TC - In EDEN we have HR areas and payroll areas, contains confidential employee information. We found that employees have access. Asked Sherry to shut that down so we can protect privacy. Supervisors need some access, but we now have a list of who has access and why.

AH - Do they have to sign a waiver to not use information?

S - No.

AH - Think that would be a good idea.

PH - Department heads - that is embedded in their contracts.

AH - Let you decide. General waiver, saying won't use information inappropriately.

HIRING OF RELATIVE

PH - Include that in the request form. Mr (?) wants to hire (?) who is related to him. Asked if it is possible.

AH - HR should vet people coming in.

DH - Law states there is no issue, as long as one relative doesn't supervise the other. Sounds like one would be asking the other.

PH - Bit of a fine line.

TC - It would be editing, not content.

PH - Needs to come in and pitch the use of the funds to the commission. If it is not okay with HR, that is a deal-killer.

AH - Sounds like it is.

CB - *(Inaudible)*

PH - I will convey that.

DH - Received notification from *(Solid Waste?)* manager. Ann has never filled a position before. Will go into the newspaper next week.

AH - Already in the budget?

OPEN POSITIONS

DH - Correct. Posted for a new fair manager. Need permission to fill position in solid waste.

AH - Want to talk to them first, make sure it is really necessary.

DH - Need to know how long to keep Mr. *(Larry?)* Campbell on the payroll *(for training new fairground manager)*.

PH - This time of year, not really needed. We have (?) who knows as much about the systems.

LJ - FYI, he hasn't submitted any timesheets for *(a few weeks?)*.

(discussion of providing notice, whether to accept late timesheets)

AH - We need to send a letter, asking for him to step down, thanking, etc.

LARGE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

DH - Received a very large public records request. 'Open the Books' website dedicated to getting all governmental information to the public. Out of Florida. All employees salary, titles.

CB - If they get info, do people have to pay for it?

DC - Don't know yet. Signed up so I could look. Responded that we need 2 weeks notice.

PH - Do those documents exist? Not required to create docs.

DH - Got that in EDEN, need to sort it.

PH - Cautious about creating documents.

TC - Need to redact some information.

PH - Following up on possible closure of smokejumpers base. Have draft in front of you.

(AL arrives)

WATER CERTIFICATE - HIRST

PH - Approach we take, certificate of water availability. Creating final draft. Application packet with appropriate questions, information to submit with request. Same as building permit. Creating certificate that they will receive if request is approved. Not creating water rights. Will look, smell, feel like a water right.

AH - With a fee?

PH - Will reevaluate our site analysis fee. Hook it to that. Will propose a fee when we get a handle on how much time it will take. Will propose 2 fees (*describes fees, too fast to record*). Methodology to create fees that will have 100% cost recovery. Will bring that to commissioners to decide.

CB - Add-on for SEPA?

PH - (*too rapid to record*)

AH - So by (*inaudible*), we are incurring a cost (e.g., hydrogeologic study). Think we need to amortize that out and build that into the fee schedule.

PH - I am not able to cover overhead costs. Calculate actual costs (e.g. staff time, advertising). Overhead, some department capacity is borne by taxpayers. There is a line in there, has been litigation. Working on fee schedule, fee for water certificate.

CB - (*inaudible*). Certificate from health department, look at it, see if it is useful.

PH - OK. Will take a look. Putting together budget. Some numbers will be educated WAG. Already have numbers from ASPECT. Will get numbers for Hearings Examiner.

AH - (*too rapid to record*)

PH - Heavy lifting in evaluation of materials. Will get that in first hearing. Then, information from public. Some will be useful, some will be redundant.

AH - Is Sandy going to be here?

AL - No. Communicated with him last night. Asked him to be here. Forwarded a communique. Ask for an executive session. 3 cases. Yakamas - comp plan; Futurewise (?); and an issue I want to discuss with you. 15 minutes.

CB - Move to go into executive session to discuss litigation, with PH, AL. For 15 minutes (seconded, passed)

9:38 Begin executive session.

9:56 LJ announces executive session has been extended by 15 minutes

10:15 Commissioners return; AL leaves

PH - (displays flip chart with budget numbers: 0.1% for Juvenile Detention, \$640,000 +/- RFQ; Superior Court supports) (Discusses a little about Juvenile Detention funding.) - Can come back to this later

10:20

Discussion OBHC DSHS Contract

SR - Director of Health Care. Want to show off what we have got going. Would like you to come, tour the facility, meet my staff.

AH - That sounds good.

LJ - Commissioners have regular meetings Mon., Tue, Wed. Could arrange one of those days.

SR - Reason for meeting: DSHS has master contract with county. By end of month we need to submit comments and changes. In WA, many services are responsibility of Co., unless contracted out. We have 2 contracts with DSHS. Disabled persons to work & (?). I have looked at this (contract), don't see any problems. Would allow us to continue to provide services. If you have comments, get them to me.

Regarding the millage (?).: mental health, substance abuse & developmental disabilities. (\$ numbers). Received check from county, but it was based on last year's request, not this year's.

Lanie pulls out letter. SR & LJ discuss dates.

SR - Asked for additional funding. Development disabilities, many counties have a staff person for that. Chronically underfunded. Two funds - ESIP, kids one to three, get them services early. The other - 18 year olds. If we can shift money to millage. (LJ brings additional information, indicating that their request has been granted. That seems to address the issue under discussion)

SR - That is great. I will look to see where we are, see if we can sustain it. Great news. Thanks. Greatly appreciate that. I am leaving at the end of April.

JD - He will be hard to replace. Has done great work.

SR - Thank you. We've doubled our clinicians (gives details of changes/improvements)

CB - Retiring?

SR - No. (*describes personal reasons/family*). Feel I have fulfilled my commitment. Agency is doing really well.

JD - It is.

SR - You have made, we have made decisions that allow us to grow our program really well.

JD - We are so well integrated with Spokane. Reason we are dragging our feet joining with the region. They want us to jump into the fire with them.

SR - (*describes history of program*)

AH - Will definitely come over and visit with you.

SR - Thank you all. Thank you for handling that Lanie. That is great news.

10:38 SR leaves; CB leaves

JD - talks with AH about road closures (Forest Service). They are telling us what roads they are going to close. I told them absolutely not.

10:40 CB returns.

ECOG MTG.

JD - Andy got to invitation to ECOG on Friday. Quad Counties now is Eastern Washington Counties. Originally formed over Tech Cominco (?) problem on Lake Roosevelt.

AH - Interesting. I went to (inaudible). Their interaction with wildlife is so much greater. Sheriff has a wolf investigator on payroll. Trained to inform F&W about movements, so if wildlife/cattle interactions happen, they have backup. Interesting..

JD - Stevens County has a lot of problems. Not quite as much in Pend Oreille. Stevens, their person in inundated.

AH - Should call over and ask how many interactions they have on a monthly or yearly basis. We call our enforcement officer here, they are right on it.

JD - I give credit to Jim Brown. He does a really good job getting his people to work with us. Not just an agency guy with his blinders on.

AH - I see our enforcement guys out with a bear trap, all the time.

JD - Regional office... They (*other counties*) have a lot more trouble getting cooperation. Should drop in on Regional Headquarters some time. Introduce yourself to Pozzanghera. We interact with him. He has a lot more pressure than Jim Brown does. And Danny Marterello (?), in Olympia.

AH - Paper, scientific. About fracture zones where grizzly won't travel. Have identified travel corridors through northern Washington. Downtown Riverside is a travel corridor. If they reintroduce grizzlies, we are going to have interactions.

CB - Climate change predictions?

AH - No. Will forward you the paper. They have to move in response environmental pressures (e.g. fires). Within fracture zones, have to move around along corridors.

CB - Corridor I worry about most is (?).

10:50 LJ is not present. More discussion of which meetings will be attended. Discussion of funding for fairground bathrooms, whether the proposal (LTAC) is eligible.

AH - I looked; think it is eligible. Why are they asking to pull it out, instead of putting it lower on the list. The fairgrounds are important for tourism.

CB - I would be looking at the marketing effort that goes with it. How are we going to get the attendance up?

AH - And Junior Rodeo.

CB - And some other events, too... Vintage Fair. If those events are being advertised. Look at what the Advisory Committee is doing to promote the facilities, RV park.

10:55 BR & JT arrive; LJ brings paperwork to commissioners

PUBLIC WORKS

LJ - Current expense total. 102 is roads. This would be part of that (*discussion with AH of the details of the document, apparently a budget*)

(*Discussion addressed to note takers on necessity for executive sessions/desire to minimize those*)

JT - Report to CRAB board, commissioners need to sign. Request to approve and sign so we can submit today. Road levy amount certification.

(*Commissioners check paperwork*)

LJ brings other paperwork to commissioners, discusses board of health funding, whether vouchers were approved.

AH - Move to have board approve road (*inaudible*) (*document provided by JT; seconded, approved*)

JT - Putting together resolution for all changes to road log. Not required, but good idea. CRAB board meeting later this week, will have questions for staff. Staff thinks that if I have all the certifications to them by March 1, we will be alright.

AH - Not going to get anything done before summer. The 3 roads we vacated last night... those will be all for now.

JT - Roads in question are not in mobility. If there are roads we should be claiming to get gas tax, the other counties are fine with that. If we have a certified road log to them by March 1, that will be fine.

AH - Can you do that?

JT - Yes. There is really not that much in mobility.

AH - You want us to look at it?

JT - More of a heads-up. You might need to go to the meeting. Hopeful we won't have to be there.

CB - Is that a (*inaudible*)

JT - State agency. There was a push to put them into DOT. I don't want to. Their staff is incredibly helpful.

STP/Chip seal project. Approval to get federal funding.

AH - Got \$500k from state. \$75K levy

JT - Bridge replacement. B15 should be open this weekend. Should be able to move to B3. Conconully Road, you need to approve so we can move forward. (another project mentioned, too rapid to record)

AH - Question (?)

JT - Guard rail quotes in consent agenda. (*Other topic, too rapid*). Maintenance and road conditions... 231 hours of overtime last week. A lot of overtime, but we had continuous snow.

AH - Appreciate they are willing to go out on Sunday.

JT - 2 weeks ago, brought you snow and ice removal policy for review and comment.

AH - My district, out there in boondocks, you assume you might have to wait a while. If we say yes to policy, how does that affect us? Difference between tolerance in Pateros and Mazama.

JT - Supervisors in heavily trafficked areas lean toward calling for plowing sooner than 4" so that it doesn't get packed down.

AH - Rely on you two & judgement of supervisors. I'm good with good management.

BR - We talk to area supervisors twice a month. They all do it a little different. If they don't soak up the overtime, it's okay.

JT - We can talk to them about getting closer to the policy, if you agree with the policy.

CB - Depends on situation, forecast.

JT - Right. In the Methow we just had slush. In Conconully, heavy snow.

(more discussion of specific situations)

BR - And communication with the Sheriff's office. Need to let them know policy.

(Discussion of snow removal from parking lot; 2" minimum)

AH - Move to approve vouchers (\$1.027 million?) (seconded, approved)

AH - Move to approve public health voucher (\$238?) (seconded, approved)

JT - We have an account with DOT to go get materials from their yards, then reimburse. Haven't used it much, but with retrofitted truck to spray brine, it is a lot more cost-effective. Was at \$1,000. Has been suggested to raise it to \$20K).

AH - Why are they suggesting \$20K?

JT - We have already gone over the \$1,000. They want to be able to bill it once, at the end of the year.

(Moved, seconded, passed)

JT - Updated maps of road log. Need to go over that with you so we can get it to Forest Service.

(Discussion of scheduling meeting to review maps.)

JT - Road vacations - have directions from last night. On-reservation roads, do you want me to set up meeting with BIA/CCT?

CB - Wondering about community development. Could you get on their agenda? I'd be happy to go with, hear their concerns.

JD - Need to have legal weigh in.

AH - Are you concerned about tribe closing down the reservation?

CB - They could do that, like they did on Yakama Reservation. Don't think they will do that where there are feel lands.

JD - Their greatest fear is that the CCT will post it as 'Tribal members traffic only' We still have leverage. Need to talk to them, tell them, don't close the road down.

CB - There are roads all over where they could do that, hasn't happened yet.

JB *(Too rapid to record)*

CB - Lakes are closed, but not roads.

AH - Didn't they tell you that when you were out working on the road?

JT - It was a tribal member.

CB - Don't think they are interested in that battle.

JT - Got a letter early last week from BIA, requesting a list of utility franchise agreements on all roads on reservation. I read that they are going to contact franchisees to tell them that they need a tribal permit too. They are saying that we don't have authority to grant franchises, even within right-of-way.

JD - Package them: too many to deal with. Will keep the sideboards on next time. Will warn those people against redundancy, or raising issues not being addressed.

CB - So, for me, you don't want me to ask the question, how did we get here?

JD - No. Just saying we had too much to bite off - need to segment by type.

CB - Right. For me, it is a question of the road bed. How did road get cut off?

AH - I am not going to un-vacate a road that was vacated in 2009...

CB - *(Too fast to record)*...Posting

JD - Point brought up in testimony, rule says, if we post on this terminus & this terminus, is it on private land where the public can't read it without trespassing? Have to be very careful that we are not sending our people out so they are trespassing.

AH - Is this not going on in other places?

JT - Pretty unusual - state, private & tribal lands.

JD - Just trying to clean up discrepancies, create record.

AH - Josh is sending Forest Service & DNR contacts. If there is a road that we have not title to, but is getting public use, contact them and find out what their positions are.

JD - Need to see if each of you agree with what has been proposed in your districts.

JT - Next we need to deal with DNR. They have a different stance. They think we should pay for the roads; Forest Service just gives them to us.

AH - Have important issues. Push that off just a touch.

CB - (*Inaudible*)

AH - I used to hike & hunt & fish all the time. What is access? Does it mean that you can drive to where you want to go? Or does it mean that you can hike through public land to where you want to go, that is access?

CB - Agree. All kinds of access. Need planned access.

AH - But it is their responsibility for people to know where they are.

JT - Rules for petitioner to pay appraised value for vacated land (County code 12.90).

CB - Nuances for where & when land was platted?

JT - 2 categories. (*Too rapid to record*). Only language that gives leeway. If appraised value is extraordinarily high. Required compensation has never happened. Never been compensated. Doesn't apply if we initiate it.

JT - WATV. Get with Perry later this week. 3 categories. Anything open before 2013 is open to WATV. Anything opened to ATV's after Jan 1, 2013, not open to WATV's. Anything opened to WATV's has its own 3 categories.

AH - Need to move that along.

JT - Back to road vacations. Should lengthen period before postings go out to allow me to do report.

CB - That would help a lot.

BR - Many questions from last night would have been alleviated if that was done. Need to be cognizant of quasi-judicial vs. process. State requirements.

CB - (*inaudible*)

BR - If people bring in a petition for a single road. If the county initiates, it is quasi-judicial.

CB - Some vacations just don't fit with posting requirements. Feedback from Alfred, if you can't get to terminus, why post it?

BR - If we do open up Title 12, it needs to not be tied to specific situation.

JT - (*too rapid*). Going to bridge inspection update class. Changes to requirements. I am certified bridge inspector.

BR - Fund 123, spoke about it the past. Looking for support. Need to work closely with auditor's office. Re - describing what fund can be used for (*see notes from 2 weeks ago*). Authorized to hold money for cell closure & post-closure monitoring. Have other money set aside in fund - not supposed to be there.

AH - Need to do that through ordinance?

BR - Resolution.

CB - What is problem with creating another fund?

BR - Just another fund to track. Trying to write a resolution defining it as a fund that we are already using it as.

AH - As long as the finance people are okay.

BR - Carrie supports it.

CB - If it part of the closure fund, public needs to know how it is being used.

BR - Public perception. Will be better.

CB - Explanation takes place in the annual report?

BR - Haven't read it. I think right now, it just talks about what it is supposed to be used for. Have money being held back, will be transferred into fund 123.

CB - Got a phone call from the tribe about that.

(Rapid discussion)

BR - Position vacancy...

AH - Debbie came in to talk to us about it. Is it an absolute necessity?

BR - Yes. Solid Waste is severely understaffed. As new manager gets her feet under her, we will probably come back to talk about staffing needs.

(rapid conversation, do rates need to be assessed?)

BR - Will bring back a staffing chart. Probably need a couple of truck drivers. Transfer tech definitely needed.

AH - Am good with you filling your position.

(BR raises the next subject - COLA's; JD proposes to put off subject, citing discrepancies and saying it will need an hour to discuss)

BR - Discrepancies are due to termination dates. They worked a different number of hours. COLA was irrespective of wages. \$150 flat COLA. Looking at chart, you could say some people are getting more than others, but they are not.

AH - Like JD says, percentages are hard to justify

BR - QCL. Checklist used by drug screening company whenever there is an accident - not pre-applications or random testing. Questions: was the driver cited, was anybody towed? If yes, they are required to be tested. Supported by WSDOT. Possible to change policy.

AH - Is this logic chart good?

BR - It is the one that is supported. Need to make sure all supervisors understand it. Less than \$400, get all of supervisors and staff trained.

JD - Good idea to give training. Not every single accident requires a drug test.

AH - Next week, you (*BR*) start off the meeting, and you (*JT*) start out with the road log.

LJ - Why don't I reserve the whole afternoon? (*agreed*)

12:20 AH - adjourn meeting until 1:30 (*seconded, passed*)