

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 3 :00 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (*via Zoom*)  
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board  
Shelley Keitzman (SK), Human Resources, Risk Management  
Paul Budrow (PB), Sheriff

*Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:*

<https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/livestreamingofmeetings.php>

**Summary of Important Discussions:**

- *Sheriff Budrow's proposed reduction of maximum jail population from 100 to 75 by subcontracting to Ferry and Kootenai counties ("shipping bodies off") to cost roughly \$.5M for remainder of 2024*
- *Contract to hire lieutenant for jail finalized; with other salary increases, Commissioner Hover estimates yearly increase of \$200,000; BOCC must bite bullet, dig into reserves*
- *Executive session called to discuss ongoing potential litigation with attorneys Esther Milner and Jenna Mandell-Rice*

3:00 - SK: We had a rental contract for this weekend for a rodeo that was canceled yesterday and the person who had rented the venue had pre-paid and in the termination in the contract it says "cancellation made less than 90 days in advance of the reservation date shall result in the loss of all rents and fees paid to date, including the damage deposit". So, included in the \$7,710 he paid was \$3,960 for security and we were able to cancel (*that*). *They will reimburse this and hold the rest because they can't re-book...* He booked a second rodeo, in July. There's a possibility, Larissa's going to put that out on the fairgrounds' web page that this weekend is now available, and he has pre-paid a 500 deposit which I think we hold. That was all I had for now.

3:02 - Reducing Jail Population - PB: You'd asked me to go out and look at agencies to ship "bodies" (*incarcerated individuals*) off. We have Ferry County which has 15 beds available which they could contract us with. That's at \$80 a day per person. Klikitat is doing \$85 a day... *Civil Deputy Prosecutor Esther Milner is reviewing the contracts.* Once we know we can do that, and I know they both have Zoom (*to conduct any hearings*) then we'll start working with the prosecutor's office to facilitate that process. The only thing I want to make sure that is out in the open for everybody, this isn't a lowering our numbers just to lower our numbers because we want to make sure that we're going to lower our in-custody to 75 and see if we can keep pace. ...Chief Wolak and I have agreed we're going to drop the age to 19... It seems to be going well. We'll

tighten down the screws on that and make sure we're getting the right mentality and maturity coming into the facility. This is a semi-quick fix, we start moving some bodies out just so we can keep it open. I don't want to get to the point where we're 75 and can't take anymore.

AH: Let's make sure we stay realistic. This is an "adder" to the jail budget.

PB: Right. 100%. Want to make sure you understand this is not just throwing bodies out, but we need to keep them coming in 'cause the public expects bad guys to be off the street... We're at a hundred now. Today we're at 109 just because we have so many in the last month, doing what they do (*laughs*) and it's hard to get out, and we're into summer season. I don't want it to be like (*during*) Covid and say "We don't want to put anybody in jail, because." We have the ability to arrest somebody if they need to be arrested. They can go through the process and get out if the prosecutors let them out. We can ship them over here but we need to look at our numbers, see how many beds we can afford...

AH: What's our maximum bed capacity in the jail?

PB: Our jail right now has 183 beds.

AH: So if we were to be at 183 prisoners, let's say, what would we then be doing for extra prisoners?

PB: If we're maxed... First of all it would be the same today, where we're maxing at a hundred. And we have room in there, we would keep 175, with the hope that if we get to that 183 it's over a weekend, or a holiday and we'd move them out. We'd always have a buffer to take the mandatories and the ones who need to be put in. The facility's not built for that anyways.

AH: If we're going to keep the 75, right now the number is 109—

PB: And the maximum is 100 and we're pushing it.

AH: ...How many —If we don't do a mix of certain things, like home monitoring, if we could let guys go, pushing them through the system. So we're not going "We're going to top this at 75 but we're going to go on arresting tons of people because we have a capacity to send them elsewhere—

PB: But remember, if we only have 15 beds in Ferry County, and (*a certain amount elsewhere*), we can play the numbers—

AH: I want people who commit crimes off the street if they need to be off the street, but I don't want to have half a million dollar bill going out somewhere else because we're taking more people now but we're just shipping them out. As long as we're on the same page, that we have to do a diversity of things to lower our jail population until we can figure out how to get more corrections officers.

PB: So you know, we will be going out to the towns who have contracts with the jail... and advising them that if we ship their person out here, this is the bill, it's not a county bill, and we're not going to pick and choose and say "all the towns are going out and we're

keeping our county people. We'll go through and work with the prosecutor's office. This is 100% above board and that we're trying to make this work for our county.

AH: If they wanted to save money they would have to not send us prisoners.

SK: There's some fine tuning there as far as the city billings and how it's going to look like in my world.

PB: This is just a security safety. We need to do something.

AH: We need to do something right away. And it might be an after-the-fact sort of deal where we say to the citizens "We're under emergency situations, we're sorry, this is the way it's going to be."

PB: You asked for numbers as far as the DOC coming in and supplanting that six and running the actual numbers that we have left, body-wise, we might be able to pull one-time use (*inaudible*).

SK: And then we'd have to go through union process before we bring anybody in.

PB: I wouldn't have to worry about that. I have emergency powers.

SK: I talked to Stefen (*Wolak*) and he has officers that just don't want to lose overtime.

AH: Those people are getting worked to death. That's craziness...

SK: I don't want to—

PB: I could make that happen if I had to and it wouldn't affect anybody's overtime. We're just giving one or two people a day off if they want a day off.

AH: There's got to be a measure of safety, with the number of hours you've got to work. ...What is our time frame to get down to 75 (*inmates*)? Immediately?

PB: We are to that point now, just for the mere body count. We're at critical and we're done, we're stuck, we need to figure out how to relieve some of the pressure right now...

AH: 25 people at \$100, let's say is \$2,500 a day, times 30 is \$60,000 a month, we've got seven months left, that's half a million dollars just for 25 people. We would have to dip into the reserve of an account that we don't really want – I think that would be the only place that we would want to take money from.

CB: We know this isn't sustainable.

PB: (*Agrees*) This is hopefully until we can supplant our bodies, our personnel.

SK: Well it does sound like you should have the finalizing in contracts so we can start advertising at the higher wage, hopefully starting next week.

AH: How long does it take to get to 19 years old, with civil service?

PB: I have a civil service meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>. *(AH asks if they should wait to advertise, see if they get the age to 19.)* I think so.

CB: Do you expect that to be a challenge?

PB: Civil Service doesn't like to do things right away... I'm going to push. *(It's an emergency, says AH.)* It's just for corrections, it's not for patrol. I think I could get it pushed through. It's just a matter of getting them to realize... *SK will get something sent now so they can read it before the meeting. AH says that works for him.*

JN: What's the plan for transportation, if this does get implemented?

PB: Ferry County will transport but they'll charge \$100 per person but we'll have a transport team already, we'll just have them transport over, we'll probably cut that in half, just for fuel costs, because they're already there.

3:19 -AH: Rent a bus from Trango. *(Laughter. CB talks about transporting by plane and if you misbehave you have to get out.)* They talk about salaries for corrections contracts. \$100,000 would be the impact to the budget *(for a lieutenant, per year)*. There's going to be that position and then there's going to be movement in the top three positions, so what I was looking for was the overall impact to the budget. *SK says the lieutenant would be a union position, that there would be a 4% difference between each of the top positions. They pour over the proposed salary changes.*

*PB: The difference between today's bill and that, if we put someone in the level two right away, would be \$122,622. In today's numbers, says PB, it would be a difference of \$112,460. \$10,000 without the second step, says AH. The union negotiated the two steps. A "12-month deal" to reach the second step.*

AH: It's going to cost us \$60,000 to implement this, and then over \$120,000 the subsequent years, with the increases and all that.

SK: Next year sergeants will be getting a 7% raise spread over the year. *They calculate some more. All in all AH sees about a \$200,000 per year increase over current costs. Asks JN about making the lieutenant a step 2, he says it's going to be hard but it looks like a necessity in order to keep the personnel they have.*

AH: You weren't here when they talked to Chief Barcus. She explained to us what she's doing, going out on all these calls, doing what her job is and then all these extra things that she's having to do because we're down to one detective... *They're saving this year on a detective sergeant.* The thing that's scary about our budget is that it's the carry-over that we're budgeting on and... we're cutting into what we're *(inaudible)* so we're going to *(doesn't finish)*

CB: I remember this conversation from before we took office. *(Laughter)* I was witnessing it.

AH: Well, my idea would be to just go with it, and see how it goes.

PB: It will definitely help with oversight and for things with the prosecutor to go smoother. Jody (Chief Barcus) is on the road 24-7. *He rejoices in AH's suggestion to go ahead with it. CB laments that he's too busy to help them with strategies to "dig us out of the hole". AH asks JN what he thinks. JN says it's necessary.*

4:38 -AH: Why can't people just follow the law? *(Laughter.) They go into an executive session for ongoing potential litigation with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Esther Milner and Jenna Mandell-Rice. JN has to quit Zoom and go onto Teams.*

4:27 - *Executive session terminated, CB moves to approve an application having to do with the irrigation district of Oroville. There are loud buzzing noises and it's impossible to hear what they are saying.*

4:28 - *Meeting adjourned.*