

ASOTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 25, 2019

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Asotin, State of Washington, met this date. Present was Brian Shinn, Chairman; Jim Jeffords, Vice Chair and Chris Seubert, Member.

Regular meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

(1)

Seubert moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2019 as written. Jeffords seconded, motion carried.

(2)

Shinn announced the County Sheriff would be presenting, under miscellaneous, information on a safety grant.

(3)

Open to the Public: None

(4)

Public hearing held at 9:15 a.m. regarding consideration of revenue sources and an increase in property tax revenues, with eight public present.

Chris Kemp, COO informed the Board, there are requirements for the dates on some of the levies to be set so revenues will be separate from the public hearing for the 2020 budget. Kemp explained this is just a new process, the property levy is still at a 1% which is the highest lawful level in the previous year excluding new construction. Kemp explained since the Implicit Prices Deflator (IPD) is at 1.396% the County is allowed to levy the full 1%. Kemp presented a resolution directing the Assessor to set levies for Current Expense and County Road District and the Flood Control District.

Kemp informed the Board, the 1% for Current Expense would be \$26,345.00 and for Road would be \$17,720.00 and \$2,143.00 for Flood. Shinn commented that there was still \$20,000.00 of the \$26,345.00 going back to the Department of Revenue due to an error by the previous Assessor. Kemp said that was correct, this was the last year of the three years repayment.

Kemp discussed the funding revenues for Current Expense and Road.

Jack Worle, 2714 6th Avenue asked what the budget shortfalls were going to be. Kemp said approximately \$480,000.00 short. The anticipated revenues and expenses for 2020 is approximately \$480,000.00. Kemp said there is some cash but we try to have strict guidelines for the reserves in case of emergency. It is recommended by the State Auditor to have 15%-20%. Kemp said if we collect all the revenues and use all budgeted expenditures we would be at about 15%, but due to sales tax changes there could be revenue changes plus not all departments spend their full appropriated budget.

Seubert commented that all departments are told during budget workshops that if a budget cut is required they would have to look towards reductions in personnel.

Kemp said we have some agreements that have not been finalized yet so the numbers could change.

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Worle asked if the County misses any opportunities with match money on grants because of our small budget. Kemp said not so much for smaller grants, where we get hurt is with federal grants. Jeffords said sometimes with Department of Commerce it can be as bad as with the state. Kemp said it can be but that is usually because they are using federal money.

Worle commented that the County still could look at selling the Evans Road property.

No further comments, hearing closed at 9:32 a.m.

(5)

Shinn said because of the change in the dates that the resolution need adopted for directing the Assessor to set levies he would entertain motions.

Jeffords moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-33 "A Resolution Directing the Assessor to Set Levies for Current Expense and the County Road District. Seubert seconded, motion carried.

(6)

Seubert moved to adopt Resolution No. 19-34 "A Resolution Directing the Assessor to Set Levies for the Flood Control District for the Year Ending December 31, 2020". Jeffords seconded, motion carried.

(7)

Public hearing held at 9:30 a.m. regarding a temporary winter closure of Cougar Creek Road, with seven public present.

Dustin Johnson, Public Works Director reminded the Board, he has previously discussed the temporary winter closure of Cougar Creek Road with the Board. Johnson said this closure is at the request of the Washington Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). Johnson said the WDFW will be putting up the gate and will supply either a key or a code to property owners that the locked gate might affect as well as the County. Johnson said he believe the WDFW has sent letters to the affected property owners.

Shinn said last year the WDFW had a sign posted that said open April 1st but then people got ticketed if they went beyond the gate. Johnson said by RCW it has to be clearly posting for closure. If it is going to be closed beyond the posted gate he will make contact with WDFW to re-post with County approval or open the gate. If the WDFW does not do either the Public Works Department will open as the County is the keeper of the road. Shinn said he just wants to make sure there is compliance.

John Hilderbrand, County Sheriff asked if the landowners with cabins on top would have a key/code for access. Johnson said there are no structures. Hilderbrand said there are on top. Johnson said any property owner behind the gate will have access.

Seubert asked if WDFW was going to put access to 4-wheelers at the size of 50" or under. Johnson said that was not in the agreement and there still would be a concern to roadway with wet weather.

Shinn said there will be no action on the ordinance until next week. No further comment, hearing closed at 9:45 a.m.

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Dustin Johnson, Public Works Director:

(8)

Johnson presented for the Vice Chairman's signature the Department of Ecology Agreement No. WQC-2020-AsCoPW-00052 for the Ridges Urban Stormwater Retrofit Design Ecology Grant for \$200,000.00 with a \$30,000.00 County match for the period of 9/1/2019 through 1/31/2022.

Shinn pointed out this is being signed by the Vice Chairman, Jeffords for continuity of the program.

Jeffords moved to approve the agreement. Seubert seconded, motion carried.

(9)

Johnson presented a renewal of the recycling site sponsor agreement with the Lewis Clark Saddle Club for a location on 13th Street for the period of 11/1/2019 through 11/1/2024.

Seubert moved to authorize the Chairman to sign. Jeffords seconded, motion carried.

(10)

Johnson presented for the Chairman's signature the Local Agency Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the Heights Elementary/Lincoln Middle School ADA Ramp and Sidewalk Improvements.

Jeffords moved to authorize the Chairman to sign. Seubert seconded, motion carried.

(11)

Johnson presented Local Agency Agreement Supplements with WSDOT for the Snake River Road MP 20.55 to MP 21.97 and MP 19.00 to MP 20.55. Johnson explained these two supplements are to obligate funds to keep the project(s) on the list. Johnson informed the Board, originally these were two projects are still referred to as two, but they have been combined into one. Johnson said if the funds are not used by 2022 then they will be pulled. These agreements will "bridge" the gap on both projects by \$10,000.00 each until 2022.

Seubert moved to authorize the Chairman to sign both agreements. Jeffords seconded, motion carried.

Karst Riggers, Building Official/County Planner:

(12)

Riggers presented for final approval, Variance 19-27 for Brandon Barnea at 1824 Reservoir Road. Riggers explained the applicant is requesting a variance to construct an accessory building 3' from the side and back property lines. Riggers said the requirement is 6' from the side and back property lines due to the peak height of the structure. Riggers said the property is approximately 15,246 square feet with an existing home, with the proposed structure the 40% coverage will not be exceeded. Riggers explained, the proposed height is so the applicant can park their motor home in it. Riggers said there was no public comment. Riggers said the Planning Commission recommends for final approval.

Jeffords moved to follow the recommendation of the Planning Commission and grant final approval. Seubert seconded, motion carried.

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Chris Kemp, COO:

(13)

Kemp presented for the Chairman's signature the renewal of the Public Defense grant funds agreement for \$31,405.00 for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Seubert moved to authorize the Chairman to sign. Jeffords seconded, motion carried.

(14)

John Hilderbrand, County Sheriff presented information for traffic safety grants with the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and requested to apply. Hilderbrand explained, these funds, if approved would be used to cycle out the radars and replace them. Hilderbrand informed the Board, the grant could cover up to \$1,400.00 for each unit.

Seubert asked if these would be considered 2020 budget funds. Kemp said, if approved and granted then a 2020 budget amendment would have be done.

By consensus the Board authorized the Sheriff to proceed.

(15)

Committee reports.

(16)

Open to the Public: None

(17)

Media: None

Claims approved and ordered paid:

#001	Current Expense	\$	52,080.83
#101	County Road	\$	10,031.67
#107	Veterans Relief	\$	414.77
#109	Emergency Services	\$	42,029.56
#115	DUI County	\$	136.25
#126	Building & Planning	\$	3,830.62
#127	E911	\$	96.00
#128	Hotel/Motel	\$	20,187.65
#146	Special Real Estate	\$	37.08
#410	Landfill	\$	9,505.45
#460	Stormwater	\$	7,487.57
#501	ER&R	\$	748.02
#502	Central Services	\$	957.76

The following voucher (warrant) numbers are approved for payment:

294016 through 294089 for \$147,543.23

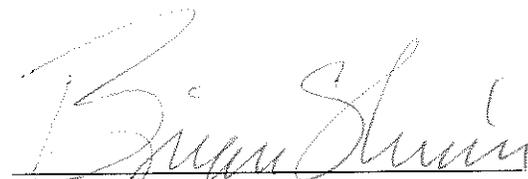
Executive session held at 11:48 a.m. for approximately one hour, five minutes regarding personnel issues per RCW 42.30.110(I).

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(18)

2020 budget workshops were continued with Chris Kemp, COO and Gloria Hancock, Financial Analyst.

Board adjourned at 12:20 p.m. until their next scheduled meeting at 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 2, 2019.



Brian Shinn, Chairman



Vivian Bly, Clerk of the Board

December 2, 2019