



KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mark Cook, Director

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

July 10, 2017

THOSE PRESENT:

Paul Jewell, Laura Osiadacz (BOCC); Mark Cook, Candie Leader, Luke Huck (DPW); Dan Carlson, Stephanie Mifflin, Mike Flory (CDS)

GUESTS:

20 members of the public

WIEHL ROAD RID UPDATE:

Mark stated that over the last two years multiple conversations have been had on a proposed road improvement district for Wiehl Road. Mark gave background on the road stating that the roadway is county road right of way that is proposed to be improved for the purposes of assisting numerous county residents. There are about 60 properties that access this section of roadway. He added that Public Works spent time last year collecting survey data and a profile design that helped generate costs for bringing the road up to public standards. After that exercise staff became aware that it was cost prohibitive to attempt to bring the road to a full public standard. Mark continued that in recognition of that staff has held several meetings with area residents and believe that there can be significant improvement to the roadway including paving and guardrail installation. There are also numerous land use issues that are wound around the access issues. Currently, there are a handful of properties that are working on temporary occupancy permits and are unable to get final occupancy due to access issues. This proposed road improvement district would help clean up some of those issues. In attendance, were four area residents of Wiehl Road that have worked hard collecting petitions for the establishment of the road improvement district and fifty four of the sixty six were returned. Mark added that if the road improvement district was to move forward the costs would be about \$450,000 or about \$776 per lot. If, during, the establishment lots were to be removed that per lot cost could go up. Discussion was held. Commissioner Jewell commented that this is a substantial number of residents and asked if it represents the majority of the lineal frontage of the improvement. Mark replied that he has asked for an opinion on the matter early on and we don't necessarily have to have to levy on the lineal frontage and are electing to pursue on lots benefited by the road improvement. Mark commented that the way the roadway is configured the properties do not front Wiehl Road. They front numerous internal roadways. Further discussion was held.

One member of the general public spoke to the topic and answered the question regarding the lineal frontage and the number of petitions collected in regards to that.

Mark stated that the next steps will include a legal briefing for the Board on process and the specific manner business is to be conducted to get the road improvement district formulated. Then the formulation hearing would be noticed and docketed. Commissioner Jewell asked when the notice of public hearing would be ready for consideration and Mark replied early August. Commissioner Osiadacz commented that she is happy to see this project move forward and relieve the residents in the area of the stress of this issue. She continued mentioning the road standards, process and why it is so important to have roads built to standard from the beginning.

Board Direction:

No direction.

CARROLL ROAD TRAFFIC DISCUSSION:

Mark reported that recently Public Works had been contacted by residents along Carroll Road which turned into a productive conversation regarding land use in Badger Pocket. In particular at the forefront is recognition of aggregate versus agricultural usage. The area has a large dairy, a hay press operation and a fairly robust aggregate production component. Most recently, staff was noticed of an expansion of an aggregate mine expansion in the area with the delivery vehicles coming in along Badger Pocket Road by Wesco and turning onto Carroll Road and accessing the mines on Carroll Road. Mark continued that noise is an issue as it relates to truck traffic and one of the things that have come to light is that compression brakes are being used early in the morning and on the weekends. Public Works has considered some options and one that could happen is that the community comes forward with a petition to lower the speed limit for staff review. Traffic count data has been collected and is being processed. Mark added that staff has had conversation regarding potential mitigation. The hay press operation in the area has inflicted damage to the roadway due to heavy loads being hauled. In previous discussions the hiring of a commercial vehicle officer has been brought up and may need to be revisited since currently overweight vehicles are causing roadway damage. A section of Carroll Road has limited sight distance and is signed at thirty five miles per hour. There are multiple instances of agricultural operations pulling out onto the roadway are immediately come up upon at a rapid speed. The Kittitas Reclamation District also has ditch riders in the area that has expressed concerns about speeding truck traffic as well. Mark continued that with all of this information that he has told area residents that if they wanted to petition to have the speed lowered staff would prepare the necessary documentation for Board of County Commissioner consideration. Commissioner Jewell asked what the current speed limit is on Carroll Road and Mark replied it is currently fifty miles per hour. Mark added that he has shared in the past how lowering the speed limit doesn't assist in driver behavior however; this is truck traffic as opposed to car traffic. Commissioner Jewell brought up the issue of reader signs being deployed and how they could be useful in this sort of situation and other construction going on in the county and traffic diverting to avoid I-90 construction and traffic delays. Mark responded that staff has done research on speed interaction signs and will put some time into looking at reader signs as well. Dan Carlson, CDS Director, stated that the mining expansion is an active conditional use permit application that the Board will be taking action on in a closed record hearing. Therefore, no discussion or testimony of this permit is allowed. Discussion was

held.

Five (5) members of the general public spoke as to the condition of living in the area and the impact speeding and noise is having on the quality of life for their community.

Board Direction:

Provide the speed study data at the next study session and bypass the petition process since the speed study has already been completed and prepare documentation for public hearing and Board consideration.

**FLOOD CONTROL ZONE DISTRICT (FCZD) CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD
QUESTIONNAIRE:**

Mark stated that for the past year staff has been engaging the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on a proposal to bring a rate payer advisory group to help guide the FCZD in both in the level and intensity of investing and to be an advisory board to staff to vet issues for the BOCC. Staff has been moving ahead and today presented a proposed questionnaire that staff would recommend would be part of the first outreach process to be conducted. The questionnaire has an error in the first sentence and will be corrected. Mark continued that if the Board feels the content and aim is appropriate to the Board then open houses would be held, one in upper county and one in lower county; press releases in advance and then when a pool of applicants will be compiled. The Board would go through the questionnaire to help select the advisory board. Commissioner Jewell stated he reviewed the questionnaire and thought it was more extensive than necessary and would like to confirm that the error will be corrected. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Make correction to questionnaire and any other changes suggested by the Board after a more thorough review.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER LEASING
LOT C-7 OF THE KITTITAS COUNTY AIRPORT BINDING SITE PLAN TO VALLEY
FENCE, INC.:**

Mark presented the Notice of Public Hearing to consider leasing Lot C-7 of the Kittitas County Airport Binding Site Plan to the Board for consideration. Mark gave background stating that Valley Fence, Inc. is proposing to use the lot to store fencing materials and was seeking to use some of the property for RV storage; however, the current zoning does not allow this. Mark continued that the applicant requested that staff petition a code amendment to allow some level of RV storage at the site. Commissioner Jewell inquired as to the level of RV storage being asked for and Mark replied it would be a minimal level due to the size of the lot but it would include motorhomes and boats being stored along with the fencing materials.

Board Direction:

Commissioner Jewell called for a motion. Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Notice of Public Hearing to consider leasing Lot C-7 of the Kittitas County Airport Binding Site Plan to Valley Fence, Inc. Commissioner Jewell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BAR 14 BRIDGE:

Luke stated that staff had a site visit with the structural engineer this morning and the water was put back under the bridge about a week ago and filled in the side channels where we had to dig around the abutments. Late last week upon inspection significant damage was found to one of the girders, number eleven rebar hanging in the water and missing concrete. The structural engineer found that the girder cannot maintain traffic so the bridge needs to be replaced or one lane to be maintained. Luke continued that he asked the structural engineer to put together a memo for the one lane option, deploy barrier, stop signs and stop bars. Staff would like to get the roadway opened within the next month. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

No direction.

UNIVERSITY WAY BRIDGE REPAIRS:

Luke spoke about the University Way Bridge and reported that staff had received final plans for the project. This includes repairing the approach issues and some damage to the substructure. These repairs are a part of the agreement with the City of Ellensburg that the department would follow through with the repairs prior to the annexation and turn of that portion of the roadway. He continued that the plans and specials were received late Friday evening. It is staff's intention to try and get plans finalized, advertised and begin construction after the Kittitas County Fair and Rodeo. After conversation with several contractors it was determined that a two week closure would be required to complete the project. Initially, staff was rushing to get the closure coordinated with the closure of Dolarway and have the closure scheduled all at once. He added the Washington State Department of Transportation was not in agreement with the idea and neither were their contractor on the Dolarway project. Staff is now working on finding dates for the closure and will start public outreach and contact the local businesses that could be affected and the current dates decided upon do coincide with the Central Washington University football beginning schedule; however, it does not appear to be any home games during that time. The only hindrance is that school will have started by then. Closure dates would be September 10 through September 25, 2017 and that's with accelerated construction in regards to high early concrete that is early curing high strength concrete that is a little more expensive but will lessen the closure time by about a week. Staff is also working with BNSF Railway in regards to the project. Commissioner Jewell inquired as to where the closure would start. Luke replied at Reecer Creek Road to allow some room if vehicles need to get turned around but staff is still

exploring options. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

Schedule a meeting with Central Washington University to discuss the closure and impacts on the move in of new students and other University activities.

SEALED BID – FENCING:

Luke stated that recently staff put out a Small Works bid request for a fencing contract to fence the frontage of Pat Kelleher's property where we worked with him to remove trees that were within county right of way that caused a sight distance issue. It took about four to five months with the homeowner to get the trees removed and had a survey done to show the property boundary and county right of way. The bid request also included the parcels in the industrial area at the airport where we are now stockpiling our rock material for the chip seal program. The engineer's estimate for the projects were in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 range and the bid came back at approximately \$53,000 which is around 30% over the engineer's estimate. Luke reached out to some of the area construction companies and found that statewide, particularly in the northwest bids are coming in at 20% – 30% over on bids. Staff would still like to award the project but it is troubling to see the bids so high. Discussion was held.

Board Direction:

No direction.

MOUNT DANIELS COMPLETION:

Luke stated that the Mt. Daniels Drive project was completed on Friday. Crews put two shots of chip seal down and the plan is to let it set, sweep it and then one last shot of chip seal and then apply the fog sealant.

Board Direction:

No direction.



Mark Cook, Director