

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday May 17, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via Zoom. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see :

https://okanogancouty.org/officesa/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Building Dept permits are catching up, site analysis a little slower, but a 2-week turnaround rather than being 6 months behind, introduction of new team member. Planning Director asks BOCC if they want to make any changes to the RFQ for zoning changes, discusses process – BOCC agrees on 3 weeks to advertise the RFQ before hearing, discussions about making amendments first, Planning Dept is following up with Building Dept – processed 52 site analysis' in the last month and trying to keep good track, also reported on progress with Veranda Beach permits. Emergency Services Manager reports on Wildfire Protection Plan meeting this evening in person at Commissioners Hearing Room. Northwest Management, along with other agencies and the public will be in attendance – ES Manager would like to record meeting for a good background of information. Prosecuting Attorney in attendance to request additional staff; Legal assistant II, BOCC approves/directs PA office to work with HR on establishing this position, Finance Committee Meeting with Treasurer and Auditor – Treasurer gives special kudos to her staff as, though a busy tax season, 61% of the taxes are now fully receipted. Discussion regarding how to utilize revenue, bonding payments, and investing for greater returns. Public Works presentation of purchasing, and entering into contract with Samser (sp?)for fleet tracking, BOCC authorizes Public Works to go forward with this purchase/contract, Trails position will be from Public Works. reports from Solid Waste and Road Maintenance – Chip Seal work to begin in July – preparation is happening now.

9:00

Dan Higbee (DH), Building Dept introduces new team member, Kelly. Reports they are catching up with their permitting process, about 60 in the last month This does not count cannabis permits. Site analysis is a little slower. 2-week turnaround on planning issues, especially water. Progress- 2 weeks behind, rather than 6 months.

9:04

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director asks the BOCC if they have any changes to the RFQ (request for qualification or quotation) for zoning changes. AH requests to understand the process. Is curious about the entity that will come in and what their scope of work will be. The Planning Commission will make their recommendation, and then it will come to the BOCC for approval or to be remanded back for changes. AH for instance, curious about the Tunk zoning. PP asks about how long to advertise the RFQ – it is agreed that 3 weeks would be best. CB asks about making amendments to zoning code. PP states they are looking at sections along with the Yakama Tribe. CB- if we need to make amendments first, there is still the appeal process. CB suggests keeping the zoning format the same so as not to create confusion. AH states that a lot of the zoning interest comes down to along the river/shoreline. Certain parcels in the flood plain unable to build, also channel mitigation zone. AH also remarks one good thing about amendments has to do with urban expansion. CB has concern about incentivizing annexation (*for cities?*)

9:19

PP asks BOCC about the Eastern Wa Coordinator for trails. BOCC will need to follow up and will talk with Josh when he comes in later this morning.

9:22

Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Services Manager reports Community Wildfire Protection Plan meeting this evening in the Commissioners Hearing room. This will be the first of many. At first, this was going to be with agencies/stakeholders, but he has since invited the public also. MG would like to record this meeting for a good record-keeping of discussions.

AH asks how this planning helps strategically to include locally community plans. It will be helpful to interface with other agencies and over-all emergency management.

After MG leaves, AH suggests that MG go ahead and buy a video camera today.

9:42

Albert Lin (AL), Prosecuting Attorney in meeting to discuss asking for more help in the Prosecutors office. He is asking for a Legal Assistant II to help support staff. AH asks if he has spoken with HR/Tanya Everett yet. He has spoken with HR. AL states that he is looking for some flexibility, and is comfortable with a II position.

AH & CB would like to go into a closed session with AL to ask questions and make comments. CB did state that previous Prosecuting Attorney was asking for 5 attorneys. AL wants to work within the budget, but this new position would give more support to his legal staff. AL states that he doesn't need attorneys and it not sure how he could fill those positions anyway. He is having difficulty filling the positions that he does have.

9:50

*****Closed session under 42.30.140 (4)(b) for Union issues*****

10:01

Moved, seconded, and carried to direct HR to work with Prosecuting Attorney in creating a Legal Assistant II position.

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Communication Director Mike Worden's request of \$6,306 Voucher for fire hardening of the Tunk Mountain Communication Tower. Resolution 61-2022

10:03

Auditor, Cari Hall (CH), Deputy Auditor, Lisa Schreckengast (LS), and Treasurer, Leah McCormick

(LM) in for Finance Committee Meeting.

Staff handout budget to BOCC

10:06

CH wants to clarify procedure for utilizing of ARPA funds for different department.

LM first wants to give kudos to her Treasurers Office staff for doing such a fine job during the tax season crunch. 61% are fully receipted on their property taxes. This is up from previous years. We also appreciate BOCC allowing another staff on Fridays to come in and help.

Difficult to follow along with the budgeting, finance reporting and discussion as I am not privy to their document.

There is currently \$4 million in current expense, County Road has \$7.5 million. Capital Facilities has \$11,600,000 and investments are up to .35. per LM

AH – Beaman (Consultant) has come back with agreement for Sheriff's office equipment and morgue redesign. LJ states there is no contract, yet, for the Justice Building.

AH talks about holding 10% of bond payment back to invest. LM states investments are all at 30 day rollovers.

Discussion of contingency reserve fund, attempting to invest 95%. County received \$650,00 (yearly?) for being a distressed county, there is a revenue and expenditure summary

CH is quick to point out that even though, revenues look good, some departments are higher in expenditures also.

AH states that we have enough \$1.8 million in cash to pay our contracts.

(Finance committee discussion lasts until 10:59)

11:00

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager, Public Works Staff member/Supervisor, Jerry Paul, Public Works ER&R, and Josh Thomson, County Engineer in BOCC meeting to discuss a new fleet tracking tool by Samsera that allows road crew to see when plowing or sanding is engaged. This is for efficiency and safety, not for monitoring employees.

Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize Public Works to purchase and enter contract for this tracking system.

11:20

KK reports on problems with a 25 HP pump for fires suppression. There are regulatory requirements on this and right now, they have no good solution to problem, but are working on it.

Solid Waste would like to change 4 P/T positions to 2 F/T positions.

Also, need some regulating at Transfer Stations as they are not set up for large use. He would like to require that no more than 4 yards of debris allowed to be dumped. If more, customer needs to go to Central landfill.

KK reports also having problems with people who have mixed loads not wanting to separate. This creates more work for his staff. Would like to increase mixed load fee. BOCC agrees with these changes. KK will write something up. CB asks that he get the work out prior to the change.

11:39

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports there are dump trucks, loaders, graders for surplus auction. This will be done online. LJ will announce public hearing

JT reports there are 3 apprentices in CDL school. Due to testing schedule, they were needing to work

60 hours per week, which does not work for all that overtime and payment of the course. This has been remedied with the school.

JT also spoke about the Trails Position being in Public Works. Will have one person working as the contact person for Trails.

11:50

Adjourned until 1:30 Public Comment Period.