

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday June 1, 2021 AM**

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1  
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice-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://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>.

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: Discussion of Forest Service building acquisition feasibility and study. Planning Dept update – Comp plan ongoing, EIS complete, deliberating over comments given in Critical Areas Ordinance, and more with advisory groups, fairgrounds update, including last weekend's use of fairgrounds by HS Rodeo Finals Group, upgrading of RV spaces, septic, and electrical needed – will be full agenda item in the near future, Update from Dispatch/Communications; new generator with need for different transfer switch. Update from County Engineer.**

*9:06 Live streaming turned on, and then Zoom.*

Maurice Goodall, MG – Emergency Manager – Discussion of problems at fairgrounds while HS Rodeo group there. Also continuing to do Vaccination clinics on Fridays – working with the Court, Public Health in coordinating this.

9:15 – Judge Culp discussing the FS building purchase proposal and feasibility study. Feels the City wants the building occupied, so should be very cooperative.

9:22 \*\*\*\*\*Executive session re-acquisition of land – under 110-1B\*\*\*\*\*

9:31 – Pete Palmer (PP) – Planning Director; schedule for the month.

Comprehensive Plan is ongoing, final EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) completed.

Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) – Planning Commission is deliberating on the comments received Will report at next regular meeting.

9:32 – next working on the Open Space designation, researching other counties like ours.

9:36 – PP sat down with Lorah Super to discuss advisory groups. Lorah will talk with some people also.

AH – is wondering how BOCC could financially assist  
PP – each community advisory group will have a staff member involved.  
Mazama group is still meeting, taking minutes. Very organized.

PP is also doing research for an updated fee schedule. We need to re-cupe time and materials, which is not currently happening.

9:40 – Joe Paulin, Maintenance Supervisor – looking at the different wells servicing the fairgrounds, etc. Told BOCC that the issues arising at the Fairgrounds this last weekend indicated the need for Wi-Fi calling. It appears their phone plan needs to be updated.  
LJ – data is needed on their plan. - will need to upgrade.

More discussion re; upgrading the fairgrounds to be up to it's potential and could pay for itself with the RV park, as a venue, etc. But, it needs to be competitive per CB

Naomie Peasley (NP) fairgrounds event coordinator will be submitting a plan with numerous possibility. She will need to be a full agenda item in the future to present.

Joe Poulin, maintenance reports that AC is down in the Admin Building.

10:00 NP will be working with chambers of commerce around the County for utilization and partnering regarding the fairgrounds. Recently met with Grand Coulee.

10:07 – Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize NP to purchase the need number of ecology blocks. Public Works will transport.

NP – Monday June 21<sup>st</sup>, NP will be on the agenda to discuss different odds and ends. Also reports applying for grant.

10:13 – on the fee schedule change for the fairgrounds, MG states that we want the wording to be correct.

10:15 – NP – one more thing, the HS finals was a huge success. They want to come back next year.

10:17 \*\*\*\*\*Executive session with Dave Gecas regarding lawsuit\*\*\*\*\*

10:31 – Mike Worden (MW) – Communications Dispatch presentations. Spoke with Patty Murray's office regarding federal funding for infrastructure.  
Full project upgrade would be \$2.5 Million.

CB – also brought up to MW the new FS building for Superior Court. MW hasn't checked that out yet. MW discusses how high ceiling work the best for electronic communication devices.  
It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the purchase of the new transfer switch for the generator.

10:50 Quinn Owen, member of the public, brought some paperwork to the BOCC. Wants them (BOCC) to see something before he goes to the Justice Dept. More information is coming. ????

11:00 Josh Thomsen, County Engineer – road updates and watching river levels. Old 97 Project should be completed before cherries need to be picked.

Also, discussed repairs to Loup Loup Bridge and completion of Sinlahekin Bridge, which is working

well.

JD asks if PW or contractor will be putting in new culvert on Greenacres Road?

JT – Yes, there will be about 100 feet of disturbance. Unfortunate planning, after chip seal.

11:11 Adjourn until afternoon