

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

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 published at a later time, see <https://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>

Time Stamps below refer to the clock on the wall in the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at <https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live.streamingofmeetings.php>. The clock can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Short planning update (*difficult to hear – microphone not turned on*) Funding discussion, planning Budget review with BOCC., more burn ban discussion/coordination with other entities - also Fire Advisory Board, Fairground projects – supplemental budget resolution, RV park priority with water, Support of Washington State Public Defense Grant for \$21,228, presentation by Conservation District for USDA Joint Chiefs project/initiative, discussion of upcoming Budget Review & purchase of FS building, Public Works and Solid Waste update.

9:08 – Pete Palmer, Planning (*difficult to hear – microphone off*) Something regarding budget review. Will meet with finance committee on this on June 21st @9:30

9:10 – Maurice Goodall(MG), Emergency Services – River are looking ok, Fire in Riverside – lost 1 house, 4 people displace. Burned 20-30 acres. Also Fire in the Methow, Discussion on burn ban starting on a particular day yearly. MG has developed a draft to be reviewed by BOCC before implementation. Will be sending out a letter for feedback.

9:20 – CB discussed the Fire Advisory Panel which includes the Fire Chiefs, Forest Service, DNR, Sheriff's Dept, This board should develop guidelines.

9:30 Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor – has phone quotes for the gates on North End of Fairgrounds,
AH questions re: maintenance budget JP reports the willow trees are a problem for septic
Discussion of getting them removed and possibly planning less (root invasive) species of tree.

9:50 – LJ – if we replace windows in annex, we need to keep Kigore (contractor) in mind.

More discussion re:priority watering at the fairgrounds, not enough pressure to do all. JP has spent a lot

of time watering, fixing water cooling system. Preliminary costs for the HVAC system. Will try to get quotes to present to BOCC.

10:01 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator, In her conversation with Kyle, concern with South RV Park bathrooms. & Can I use long term rate for fire crews? Only for DNR (official) firefighters.

10:10 – Tanya Crair (TC), HR & Risk Manager – reports on need for support of Wa State office of Public Defense Grant for \$21,228. Moved, Seconded, and Carries to sign the Grant Proposal. It is not a reimbursable grant. Funds are direct.

10:15 – NP, Fairgrounds – Budget Supplemental needed to get reimbursable funds from Farm Credit Services Grant back in December 28th. For \$5200.

NP still working with different Chamber of Commerces for Ecology Blocks. Superior Court is meeting with Public Health re: guidelines. No one has been hired for FT position at the Office of FG. NP says they are trying to keep the track in good shape – problems keeping it moist.

10:20 – LJ had received call from Kathy Powers – caterer , re: having a road to back entrance of kitchen at the fairgrounds.

10:25 – Public Hearing for Supplemental Appropriate Resolution for Fairgrounds. Project is done – we now need to pay for it. Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 66-2021 to pay this. *(This project made wheelchair accessible door)*

10:28 – Craig Nelson & Amy for Conservation District discuss the need to BOCC support for USDA Joint Chiefs Initiative/Program between Forest Service and NRCS. DNR has been leading the grant writing, DFW also involved. This is for creating defensible areas, and forest restoration. Will also be talking with Firewise groups in the Methow area. This will be \$4 million over 3 years. Moved, Seconded, and carried too approve signature on letter of support.

10:30 – AH and CB has larger discussion of upcoming Budget Review to help with planning future expenses and not just be reactive. More maintenance costs, HVAC systems purchase at fairgrounds. Fairgrounds Maintenance Budget is 102% overspent.

10:40 – extensive discussion between AH & CB regarding how to pay for FS building purchase. AH is not prepared to spend \$50 million in bonding for this. More discussion is needed This will be good for the economy. Both AH and CB discussing ins & outs of taxes vs what is good for county. CB explains previous Oroville project he was involved with.

11:00 – Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer, Public Works and Ken Kovalchenko(KK) – Solid Waste Dept of Ecology reached out re: \$\$ still available on grant for disposal of green waste. Will be doing more of these days for residential customers. Also, discussion with Department of Ag.

11:02 – JT reports on road maintenance; chip seal finished, still not sure if they can get pain for the roads. All material are extensive cost right now.

11:14 -

CB and JT talked about Industrial park needing improvement at Jennings Loop Road. Public Works will need to be involved. JT asked if there is something to add to 6 year plan..

11:20 Meeting Adjourned until 3:00, Public Health at 1:30.

