

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, November 14, 2022 AM and PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Vice Chair, District 2, absent
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management
LM—Leah McCormick, County Treasurer
EM—Ester Milner, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at https://www.okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php. To locate items in real time, the clock on the wall in the AV Capture screen can be helpful.

Summary of significant discussions:

- *Commissioners correct an error on the county zoning map.*
- *Commissioners discuss the 2023 budget for the Treasurer's Office, and decide to continue the discussion later on.*
- *Commissioners discuss the budget for the Noxious Weed Control Board because a constituent contacted Commissioner Hover, thinking that the salaries paid are too high.*

AV Capture begins at 9:15.

00:00:30—AH—There are no public comments.

AH—to JD—Did you go to the Weed Board meeting?

JD—No.

AH—I got a letter from a woman who was worried about the huge amount of the Weed Board budget shortfall. Thinks it's caused by a proposed raise for Larry (Hudson).

LJ and AH discuss tomorrow's budget hearings for junior taxing districts.

LJ—The Pest Control Board can hold a public hearing and propose a rate increase, and the BOCC has to agree. Without a recommendation to increase the rate, the BOCC can't increase it.

LJ—Another change for the agenda. Tomorrow's Central Services update is cancelled.

AH—Maybe you can schedule a budget work session for then. 10:30 AM.

00:11:00—LJ—We're going to have (*unclear*) coming here.

AH—In the Finance Committee meeting, we'll work on the 015, current expense revenue and general revenue. Do they have the Lodging Tax stuff? By the way, the Lodging Tax budget may change.

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, November 14, 2022 AM and PM

LJ—With the inclusion of the Merc. \$7,000.

AH—Maybe include it in the budget as if it were approved, just in case.

0013:50—AH—It's 9:30—Commissioners' Staff Meetings.

PP—I have only one quick announcement. The whole Planning staff will be getting training in the Public Records Act on Wednesday, December 7 in the Commissioners' Hearing Room. Training is not specific to Planning records.

LJ—AGO (Attorney General's Office?) is coming to do the training.

AH—to PP—In the Board of Health meeting, they said they were interested in the building permit software. The BOH has discussed septic permits before. The software could prevent people from spending lots of money to put in a septic system and then discover they can't get a building permit for the lot, for example if it's the floodplain.

PP—Great.

00:17:10—MG—Emergency Management update

MG—We had some power outages last week, but no big issues.

MG—We sent out notices about Public Works and closed road due to drifts.

MG—Tomorrow we're having a tabletop exercise with the Bureau of Reclamation.

AH—When do we do your budget?

MG—Next week. It needs a few changes but it's mostly set.

MG has just been reimbursed by FEMA for expenditures several years ago. He and AH discuss how to handle it in the budget. Also they discuss how quickly the big snow storm hit and caught people unaware.

MG leaves.

00:26:25—AH—to JD—Did you see they're starting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) about reintroducing grizzly bears in the North Cascades. I got a call from the state director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and then from the Capitol Press. They're going to have four comment periods: two this week and two next week.

AH and LJ discuss the agreement template between the county and the cities for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. AH wants to be sure the cities attest that they'll follow all the regulation for receiving federal grant dollars. They also discuss whether the agreements should be for a "grant in the amount of \$X" or "a grant up to \$X" or perhaps "a grant not to exceed \$X". AH would also like to add "no expenses after Dec.31, 2026 will be reimbursed, per ARPA guidelines". AH would like LJ to send these changes to EM for her input.

00:48:35—JD—I met with Jim Soriano. He expressed concern that Planning was still hung up on 20 acre lot subdivisions in the Tunk, but we're discussing huge ones—160 acres.

AH—There's a moratorium right now, but they're going to be working on that. Glad it gave him peace of mind.

AH—I met with Craig Nelson about the water bank. He met with the Office of the Columbia River (part of Washington Department of Ecology). We can apply for funding for Pine Creek. With water banking, 30% of the water has to go back in the stream, but it's already slated to do so, and it's a win-win situation. The Conservation District did an RFQ for a manager and Aspect (a consulting firm) got it. I'll look at it and see if the contractor can help up get a grant.

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, November 14, 2022 AM and PM

00:54:15—JD—Brent from Trango did a study about electric buses. They'd need twice as many buses because they'll only run half shift.

AH—Also looking at hydrogen. A hydrogen plant in Okanogan County would be great. If you can come up with the safety protocols... I've always thought, if you can create fuel from water, and water is the byproduct, you're way ahead of the game.

More discussion about grizzly bears. AH and JD agree that establishing grizzly bears in the North Cascades is a bad idea.

1:12:20—AH—It's 10:30 and time for the public meeting about the mapping error.

PP—The error in zoning codes was made sometime between 2014 and 2016. Eleven properties are affected. They were originally zoned "rural residential", but the final map showed them "low density residential". They're along Highway 20 between Winthrop and Mazama near Big Valley. When the area was rezoned, they should have followed the property lines, but they didn't and some properties were bisected.

PP—I've drafted an ordinance for the change. The Planning Commission had a public hearing and approved the change unanimously. There was only one commentator and that person approved of the change.

JD—I move to approve Ordinance 2022-9 to correct errors in the zoning map. Passes 2-0.

AH—Make sure GIS makes the changes, too.

AH—Can you get us an official zoning map, like the draft map on the wall?

PP—Will do.

1:24:45—JD—When's the next vote tally?

AH—Tuesday, I think.

JD—Do they still have a lot of votes to count?

AH—Yes. But the vote tally will be released tonight at 6:00, not on Tuesday.

1:30:05—AH reading from his computer—That's good. ARPA money's not subject to the Davis-Bacon Act (*requiring the paying of prevailing local wages*).

1:39:40—Budget Work Session for the Treasurer's Office. Commissioners aren't able to finish the discussion, so they will return to the Treasurer's budget later.

2:56:35—Recess for lunch at 12:15.

AV Capture returns at 1:46.

2:56:35—We're back in session (after an executive session).

JD—I move to approve authorizing of conditional defense through discovery for Isiah Holloway, a former county employee. Passes 2-0.

JD and AH discuss the Weed Board's budget.

3:08:30—EM—Before I go back, did you look at my response concerning the ARPA contracts.

EM—Here's a quick summary: Davis-Bacon doesn't apply, but compliance still includes paying prevailing wages.

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, November 14, 2022 AM and PM

AH—Is the “not to exceed” portion OK?

EM—Yes. Lengthy discussion about ending dates for funds to be obligated and ending dates for funds to be spent.

3:31:45—JD and AH return to discussing the budget of the Weed Board.

JD—They want us to adopt it next week.

AH—I’m not ready and we need Commissioner Branch’s input.

3:40:20—AH—It’s 2:30 and we have a public hearing to consider surplus of a county property—a Sheriff Department’s vehicle.

Laura Wright, Chief Criminal Deputy, Sheriff’s Office—The vehicle was damaged in a collision in 2020. There is no public comment.

JD—I move to approve Resolution 155-2022—to declare a totaled vehicle as surplus and acknowledge sale of the property and offset the cost of outfitting a replacement with the surplus sales proceeds.

Passes 2-0.

3:55:20—It’s 2:45 and time for the Public Hearing about the Budget Supplemental for the Fairgrounds Fund 001.028.

AH—I’ll do the staff report. This is a supplemental from the investment interest being allocated for a new tractor for the Fairgrounds for \$38,000.

JD—I move to approve Resolution 168-2022, a budget supplemental for \$38,000 for a new tractor.

JD—How soon do we take delivery?

AH—The tractor is in Okanogan, but we’re waiting on the loader. Passes 2-0.

LJ—There are still a few items left to do.

JD—Move to approve Resolution 172-2022, allocating ARPA funds for Okanogan County Public Health. Passes 2-0.

JD—Move to approve Resolution 173-2022, allocating ARPA funds to the town of Winthrop. Passes 2-0.

JD—Move to approve the vouchers and payroll--\$2,126,662.06. Passes 2-0.

JD—Move to approve the vouchers and payroll for Public Health--\$170,237.34. Passes 2-0.

JD also makes motions to approve a batch of late fees waived by the Auditor’s Office.

Adjourn at 2:55.