

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting Monday, February 13th AM session

AH – Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2
CB – Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
JN- Jon Neal, BOCC member, District 3
CH- Crystal Hawley, Asst Clerk of the Board
LJ – Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
SK – Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources Risk Manager
PP – Pete Palmer, Planning Director
Joe- Maintenance Manager
ZK - Zak Kennedy, contracted lobbyist
DM - Dave Mullins, member of the public
Ms. Jackson (member of the public attending on Zoom).

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/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html](https://www.countywatch.org/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html) and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, click [here](#).

Summary of Significant Discussion:

- *Risk Manager report- jail personnel, courthouse security, settlement with jail inmate*
- *Brief discussion about funding for Twisp well*
- *Funding for Oroville EMS*
- *Lobbyist report – jaywalking bills and how they are an attack on pickup trucks, improved riparian bill*
- *Review of RFQs for work on new judicial center*
- *Discussion of potential grants for Fire Districts, pros and cons of annexation.*

The time stamps refer to the video that is published on the county's AV Capture site. To watch the video for this meeting, click [here](#).

06:30 – Pledge of Allegiance

06:40 – BOCC members discuss schedule for the day.

09:45 - Shelly Keitzman: RN nurse care manager in jail has requested leave. We are required to have someone cover for her when she is absent. We have found a qualified person to do this, she will be paid hourly, and funds will come out of the grant that is paying for this position. BOCC has a resolution in front of them. It can be approved on the regular consent agenda.

11:36 - AH – I got a call from Lanie discussing automobiles (Sheriff Dept). CB – says he spoke with them and they needed to make decision quickly due to deadlines. AH – discusses logistics about the financial requirements and budgeting. BOCC is in agreement.

13:00 - SK- reached out to 3 companies to get quotes for security services for courthouse. There are only 2 available to work in OK county. The quote from Pacific Security was \$560/day, Phoenix was \$1898.26/day. Suggests that they go with Pacific Security. AH asks for resolution

describing the reason they are doing this (in order to memorialize it). CB – says that SK can go ahead and draw up a contract and the BOCC can approve. Questions the need to have a resolution. Discussion about the need to be transparent with the process and have a resolution so that people can know the background of why this expenditure is needed.

AH – had a discussion with the bidders about the scope of their work.

CB- asks for public comment – there is none.

17:40 - SK- provides settlement agreement to provide kosher meals for a jail inmate, Milan Havlik Jr. BOCC votes to approve settlement.

19:14 - CB – says he had a conversation with Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody regarding the Twisp water project. Wants to make sure that project is moving forward. AH – says that they would like confirmation from Mayor that the scope of the project has not changed. Suggests that he contact her to find out where the location is of the proposed well. He is aware of two potential housing projects on different sides of town and wants to know where the well will go. Wants to make sure that Lanie is in the loop as she will be the one drawing up the documents.

24:30 - JN – states that the EMS is looking for grant opportunities. Brief discussion about the purpose of the meeting with RH (it is to inform everyone about what their goals are for securing grants).

LJ – says she cancelled the meeting because CB won't be present.

AH – says that the county contracts with Oroville and has not been paying out the full levy amount due to an effort to build up a reserve. We now have about \$500K which is about 2 years of funding. That is probably enough. We may be able to fund some things in Oroville.

JN – has a meeting scheduled on Feb 16th with Wayne (from Lifeline) and the city of Oroville to look at options.

Discussion about details of money that is available.

27:40 - PP shows up, but BOCC asks if they can meet with her later as they have some RFQs to review before CB leaves for a medical appointment. She says yes, but can one of them stop by for a quick discussion after their meeting.

31:25 - ZK – says he doesn't have much to report today. Reports on two jaywalking bills that have slipped under the radar. Nobody commented on them, but he feels they are important. [SB 5383](#) removes penalties for jaywalkers – and [HB1674](#) if you strike a jaywalker with a truck or SUV, there will be a higher fine than for cars. Looks like it is an effort to go after gas guzzlers from a different angle. One of the House Reps says it's a weight issue. AH states that the person doesn't know what they are talking about as physics proves that it is mass times velocity. It was pointed out that a Tesla outweighs "pretty much any pickup out there". *(Note taker fact check: Tesla weights range from [3862- 5185 lbs](#), the average light/medium wt pickup weighs [4000 – 7000 lbs](#).)*

This is related to trying to get rid of a right turn on red in school zones. A study looked at pedestrian injuries and it found that a high percentage were from pickups or SUVs. Another study showed that a high percentage were near school zones.

We have millions of people driving, how are we going to re-train them to the new rules? If pedestrians are getting run over, why remove the jaywalking law?

Discussion about details of turning right on a red light. AH suggest changing lights to red arrow rather than solid red. He can sort of understand how complicated it is with crosswalks and turning traffic.

JN – wonders if it applies to stop signs.

ZK – points out that it is already illegal to run over a pedestrian.

CB – says that if changes are made, you just put up signs at intersections announcing the rules.

Example: “no right turn on red”.

ZK – says that it would more likely be applied after the fact.

Discussion about the contradictions in the proposed legislation.

ZK – says this is a good illustration of how government works.

ZK- says that the Legislature must be short staffed because they are not putting out bill analysis like they used to. He hasn't seen a single one. It makes it hard to know what people are thinking. (*Referring to the people who wrote the bill*). CB and ZK have discussion on the difference between a “bill analysis” and a “fiscal analysis”

[HB1215](#) riparian bill is way better – everyone likes it except the Gov. Still working on [SB5440](#)-mental health assessment. Not sure where that will go – it's a tough one.

CB – asks about cannabis bill. ZK – there are a couple of bills regarding potency. We will see more at the end of the week.

CB – heard that it wasn't a high priority, but he would be willing to testify if necessary.

ZK – says that the on-line testimony has been working well – everyone likes it.

44:25 - Joe from the maintenance dept. shows up. Wants to talk to contractor for jail HVAC.

AH – asks CB if he wants to have Joe give a report. CB has to leave at 10:30, so they ask Joe to come back tomorrow.

46:15 - BOCC – starts reviewing RFQs.

Site utilities: We only had one firm give us a quote. They have done work in Eastern WA and are from Spokane. They are a full service firm that can do design, admin, and construction. BOCC approves Cortner Architecture to be the qualified contractor at the justice center.

Redesign: Cortner has also applied for that, which would be helpful to have one company doing the whole thing. Others are Design West, DOH associates, MJ Neal, Buddinger and Assoc. Buddinger is more geo-technical. They don't seem to be a good fit for a building redesign. We can narrow it down to the top two and then do interviews. AH reviews the scoring system that they use. CB – suggests that they (the BOCC) individually score the applications and then go over them next week to determine the top two.

AH moves to accept Cortner for the site utilities since they are the only one.

LJ – reminds BOCC that they had previously talked about narrowing to top three for other items and then doing a walk through with those applicants.

BOCC agrees to do scoring individually and have LJ tally the scores. They will then schedule a site walk-through with the top applicants.

59:30 - BOCC suggests canceling the meeting with RH. LJ says that she has done that. LJ says that there was someone present earlier who was interested in hearing that discussion, but he left. CB asks if it was someone they were familiar with, and JN says yes.

AH has left the room – presumably to talk to PP. CB says that he thinks it has to do with an email.

1:07:25 - JN – asks CB about the Columbia River COG and if it has changed. Wants to learn more about what they do. CB – says the name may have changed. They have a discretionary account for things like Sr Centers.

1:10:00 - AH returns. CB suggests adjourning and says that RH meeting has been canceled. AH says that she knows a lot about fire districts and grants they could apply for. The smaller districts don't have the capacity to learn about and apply for grants, and AH thought that Ronnie might be able to help them out. Many grants have to run through the county anyway so it might streamline the process to include fire districts in their grant management.

We can't get involved in grants for private companies like Lifeline, but we can do something for the ones that we are responsible for (referring to EMS districts).

CB – says that there is a lot of discussion to be had before committing to something. If we provide a grant writer for these other entities, there is a risk that they will become dependent on the County for doing their work.

AH- agrees, but also wants to make sure county is included in discussion if they are the sponsor. CB – recalls the experience with the Loomis FD and how there were some things that happened that the county got blamed for. Suggests that there should be more information for Fire District Commissioners to educate them on their roles and the implications of decisions they make. They need to know how the relationship works between them and the County.

AH – says that they could discuss the annexation process with other jurisdictions so that everyone understands how it works. Says he didn't even know about the Loomis annexation until problems surfaced.

CB – says that those sorts of things can be avoided if everyone is informed.

AH – gives some examples of current situations.

JN – says that in Oroville they always did a cost-benefit analysis to determine if it was worth it.

CB – says under our rules, cities can annex what they want, county does not have to be involved. But it works better if everyone is on board.

1:23:45 - Dave Mullins – public citizen, arrives who wants to hear the discussion about the EMS grants. BOCC informs him that the agenda item has been cancelled for today, and if he can come back tomorrow he can participate in the discussion.

DM – says he has had trouble getting information from the county about the Oroville EMS. He is getting more involved because of his concern about the reduction in EMS services in Oroville. He says he has an organization that can help county apply for grants. Short discussion with AH and JN about perceived lack of access to information from the county and other jurisdictions.

1:27:50 - BOCC adjourns at 10:28 AM until Tuesday Feb 14th at 9 AM.