

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday June 28, 2022 AM & PM

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – Absent (on vacation)

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 by <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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click 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: Brewster Business Group in with Economic Alliance Director to discuss street vendors 'not playing fair' with established businesses, wants ordinances and laws to be enforced. Public Works/Solid Waste update, approved Resolution for restrictions on Transfer Stations, road maintenance update, Chip seal happening. Suggests rejecting bid for new shops – too high- over \$4 million. Discusses difference between steel and wood buildings. No need for Wednesday meeting this week. Discussion in Department Head meeting; 20 year master Plan #2 discussed by all Departments along with what's happening in each individual department, Contingent of landowners along lakes (Osooyoos) in to understand process to remove name from paying for the Lake management – claimed poor communication, and disagrees with using chemicals in lake.

9:00

AH & CB in attendance. Went into Executive Session 42.30,110.1.i for ongoing litigation. They took Zoom with them until 9:30.

Then entertained Public Comment. I, Ruth Hall was the only one commenting on recent Chip Seal on the Chiliwist Road.

After this comment, they went back into Executive Session until 10:13. Then, went into a different Executive Session under 42.30,110.1(g) with HR Director/Analyst Shelley Keitzman regarding qualifications of an applicant.

10:30

Roni Holder-Diefenbach (RH) – Director of Economic Alliance, brought in 4 small business owners from the City of Brewster, that have formed a Brewster Business Group – separate from the Brewster Chamber of Commerce due to some business owners speaking only Spanish.

They have noticed a decrease in their business due to street vendors in the area – by the Weigh Station, and the H2A camps, and Bridgeport selling same items as them without the need to pay taxes or other overhead. They just want everyone to play fair. They want laws and ordinances to be enforced. These

Brewster businesses are here year-round. These vendors are just here for a season. The Brewster businesses make most of their money in the summer, and this tides them over in the winter when business is slower. These street vendors are setting up outside city limits, so they come to the BOCC for help. These street vendors have been setting up by the Weigh Station at the Y off Hwy 97, and the H2A camps, and outside quick Mark in Bridgeport (Douglas County). They are only in business on the weekends, and paydays.

There are 2 types of ordinances, on the books, that speak to this; 1) business for secondhand store – purchasing, selling and trading and 2) pan handling.

But, also there is an old “hawking” license (business license) that might apply to these folks, but the permit would need to be purchased from the BOCC. Also, they would need a permit from the Health Dept if selling food, and Liquor License if selling alcohol (this is through BOCC)

BOCC sympathized with their plight, thanked them for coming, and will look into what they can do to remedy this situation. Make sure there is a process for enforcing the “Hawking” permit. This Hawkers license is from 1976.

AH asks Josh Thomson if he could speak with his DOT contact regarding the vendor at the weigh station.

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director explained how Planning could be part of this solution. She gave her contact information to the business owners so the County could compile and list and deal with these illegal vendors.

This discussion went on until 11:01

11:02

JT, County Engineer and Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid waste Manager in to give updates for Public Works. KK is feeling the impact of the fuel price increase on their diesel trucks. He is expecting to be paying \$86,000 to \$100,000 more than 2021. Asks BOCC if he should increase prices or wait until it really impacts County business. AH wants to absorb for now but will re-visit this later. KK brought the Transfer Station resolution. 96-2022. It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt these new rules.

JT discusses road and maintenance projects. Chiliwist road project complete but the Chip Box broke. This has apparently happened before. JT states they received one bid only for building of the 2 County Shops (Twisp & Tonasket). The bid came in at over \$4 million. Suggests the BOCC reject this bid and put out for bids again. AH states that the start date will be fall of 2023, rather than fall this year. Moved, seconded, and carried to reject the bid. There was considerable discussion about using steel buildings versus wood. JT updated on the Twisp River Road project and Salmon Creek Drainage project.

(I was kicked out of Zoom, but watch the last of morning session on AV Capture)

Meeting was adjourned around 11:39.

1:39

BOCC back in session

LJ called me to see if I could get back into Zoom, which I could.

AH & CB determined there was no need for a Wednesday meeting this week.

1:41

Paid voucher for the Tonasket EMS District \$1833.60.

Approved Consent Agenda with the exception of #1 due to rejecting the Bid.

1. Bid Award/Recommendation for Public Works Shops
2. Contract Salmon Creek Drainage, CRP 9221-06 with Selland

3. Ratify LOA public Works Road Division – Teamsters
4. Ratify LOA Courthouse Employees – 6 years – Teamsters Union
5. Resolution 92-2022 Risk Pool/Designations
6. Resolution 93-2022 Signing Authority to Shelley Keitzman

2:00

Department Head Meeting: This is a quarterly meeting.

Discussion regarding the 2nd option of the 20-year Master Plan for County Government. There will be a reconfiguration regarding where different offices are located, along with building plans. AH states it is related to having space for everyone and looking ahead at future needs. Courthouse security has also been an ongoing concern.

2:18

AH recognizes Tanya Everett, HR Manager/Risk Management, contribution to the County Government. She has resigned her post and will be moving.

Different departments updated BOCC on current staffing, projects, issues and successes. Licensing fees going up, shortage of license plates, ballots going out on July 15th for the Primary Election, Sheriff's office Mental Health training helpful, and the Sheriff's office is working with OBHC for crisis intervention services. Shelley Keitzman will be the new HR.

These discussions went until 2:50

3:00

Landowners in the Lake Management District (Lake Osoyoos/Veranda Beach) wanting to be removed from having to pay the lake management assessment for removing milfoil from the lake. She was unclear about the process for this. Apparently, this request had been denied in 2018 by the BOCC. Treasurer was on hand to explain their role in the process – they collect the money and disburse. They do not determine assessment. Any issues need to go to the BOCC. The weed spraying is contracted out. Property owners had voted on forming this district in the past.

Landowner (Diana Hertog) asked if the lake is owned by the state, why don't they pay for this? AH explained this is like a fire district, weed district, or irrigation district. If you are in the district, you pay because you have that benefit – whether or not you utilize it. Diana does not care about about the milfoil. She doesn't like the poison that is being used.

BOCC will see about communicating to landowners their ability to appeal. The hearing this year is not until December. BOCC to send an e-mail.

3:52

Adjourned until Tuesday next week. Monday is holiday (4th of July)