

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday November 8, 2022 AM

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC 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/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:

- Discussion of ARPA funding (\$100,000) for City of Winthrop bridge project,
- Reclassification of Court Clerk III to an Administrative Secretary with a higher level of duties,
- Discussion of changing jail billing with cities and towns, based on average use over the last 10 years.
- Public Works update: This amount of snowfall caught them by surprise – didn't expect it to be so much – trying to catch up; having problems with wiper motors and getting stuck, Corps of Engineer project in Conconully completed, Shed at the landfill roof collapsed under the snow, DOT planning on connections between Okanogan & Omak including Rodeo Trail. There is some state funding for wildlife crossing on Hwy 97, Still working with OCOG on new recreation trails position, County Engineer reports that our temperatures will go down in the single digits tomorrow,
- Meeting adjourned at 11:29. Public Health at 1:30

BOCC meeting started a little after 9:00 but there was no audio on Zoom or AV Capture until 9:23

9:23 Public Comment

Ruth Hall asked about wanting to meet with the Board of Equalization in person.

Also, questioned BOCC about snowplow not coming up the Chiliwist until 8:30 this morning. First time since all the snow of the last three days. *Later Josh Thomson, County Engineer did say that the Chiliwist Road was a priority road, but they got stuck at least once.*

9:30

Discussion with City of Winthrop Clerk, Michelle Gaines, Staff – Jeff (?), and the Mayor of Winthrop regarding the use of ARPA funds for Bridge (over the Methow River) project in Winthrop. Verella

Engineering is already starting with permitting and design. BOCC will be authorizing \$100,000 of ARPA funds for this project. For tracking purposes, this will be paid as reimbursement. The City of Winthrop and BOCC will need to sign an interlocal agreement, which LJ already has the template for. AH wanted to be sure they were able to satisfy all the federal requirements including Davis & Bacon wages. They agreed that they were able to do this. Jeff says thanks. This is significant to the Town of Winthrop. Michelle Gaines states excellent – Thank You.

(Treasurer's Office and Auditor's Office cancelled staff report today)

9:42

LJ brings up the request to change a Court Clerk III to an Administrative Secretary at a high level of responsibility. There was some discussion. Then BOCC moved, seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 167-2022 reclassifying the clerk. LJ will make a new one to sign.

9:52

LJ referred to BOCC appointing Terry LaBrue to LTAC board

AH discusses that the BOCC should take on the task of how to bill the cities and towns for the jails. He would like to do a history of their use in the last 10 years, average it, and come up with a figure for them to budget. Maybe they would pay for a percentage of the budget, and thereby, having a figure for their budgets. Shelley will research this and get back to the BOCC.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reporting on roads and maintenance. The 3-day storm caught everyone by surprise. First warm wet snow – trying to catch up. A lot of drifting up on the flats. Some mechanical problems and getting stuck.

JT reports the Salmon Creek Drainage project mostly complete. Paving done last Thursday, just needs guardrail.

JT reports Army Corps of Engineers project in Conconully completed satisfactorily. Last Wednesday opened the water diversion and it took 16 hours for the water to get all the way through where it had been dredged. JT will go back and take measurements.

JT met with DOT last Tuesday for coordination on roads. They have changed from chip seal to overlay on the Hwy 20 east of Tonasket Road.

The Omak bridge is fully funded with a pedestrian walkway.

SR 153 Bridges are all on the “Move Ahead Washington” identified list. Hopefully, they will be fully funded.

JT reports that DOT will be working on another road connecting Okanogan & Omak and will probably include Rodeo Trail.

JT also reports there is now state funding for more wildlife crossings on Hwy 97.

AH asked JT about the snowplowing on Chiliwist Road.

JT reports the snowplowing made it as far as North Star Road and got stuck. Chiliwist Road is a priority road.

JT has been continuing to work on bridge ratings for weight. Balking Hill Road is structurally competent.

JT reports re: OCOG position for recreational trails. Risk Managers recommend that everyone come up with their own insurance. May need an amendment to the agreement.

Right of Way Procedures are updated every year. JT reports single digit temperatures expected tomorrow.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29. Public Health meeting at 1:30 today.