

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC , District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of 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 officialy approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see

<https://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock 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: Planner bringing maps for boundaries of advisory groups for Comp plan, Special Planning meeting tomorrow night @7:00 – details on Planning Website. Update with Emergency Services, Fairgrounds project updates, County has lots of vehicles for surplus auction this coming Saturday the 10th of April. Acceptance of contract with architecture consulting firm, Discussion of the monies (\$8.2 million) from the American Recovery Act , which are coming directly to the County – Unsure of the strings attached, suggested to create a fund until more information is received. Discussion of having Chief Deputies in Assessors, Treasurers, Auditors, and Clerk's Office for when elected official is unavailable – pay range discussed. More discussions to follow when all Commissioners are present.

9:01 – Pete Palmer, Planning Director – bringing boundaries of the Advisory Groups for the Comprehensive Plan, and brought Map Special Meeting 7:00 tomorrow night (details on Planning website) to re-iterate and solidify last Monday's meeting.

9:05 – Maurice Goodall, Emergency Services Manager – Signs are available through Public Works for 911 signs, which are required on all properties. This is to help the First Responders

Maurice from Emergency Services reported on Vaccination progress. Still doing them but we're getting down to smaller groups. These are still happening on Fridays at the Fairgrounds.

9:21 – Joe Paulsen, Maintenance Supervisor – 2 people applies for fairgrounds maintenance position. Progress on the Art Building, roofing and lighting projects. Surplus auction is this Saturday the 10th at Larry Campbell's Auction grounds.

9:27 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – last week – another theft at the Fairgrounds office, \$1,000 of equipment was stolen from the previous break-in. Fed-Ex dropped package off on Saturday that was stolen. Security camera being installed.

RV park to open in May. Water to the arena won't be turned on until the end of April.

Budget-wise – we are only at 23.8% of projected revenue. Event scheduled this weekend but the heating and the water is not working in the Art Building

NP will be working this Saturday. She reports being on vacation April 26th – the 30th. She is asking whether a Volunteer could be used to staff the office while she is gone. Or whether to close the fair office during that time. She has a volunteer that would work nicely – Kevin Cunningham.

9:42 – Moved, seconded, and carried to sign the contract between the County and Beeman Architect for the Shop Buildings. \$102,366.

CB to JD – WVC is looking to put a Health Science Center at WVC/ Omak. Moves, seconded, and carried to send a letter of support for this.

Per JD, there is a \$1million private equestrian facility being planned on top of Ross Canyon. Behind the Wildwood development.

10:35 Shelley from HR reporting that Covid vaccines are now open to all ages. Would like to notify all County Employees of this availability and how to access.

Also, there is a Cobra subsidy program – part of the American Recovery Act that requires Cobra be subsidized on people who has lost their jobs in the Covid Pandemic time period by adverse action or reduction of hours.

There are only 2 people this would affect, but this will require outlay of money – somewhere between \$750 and \$1100 per month. Unfunded mandate. There are tax deductions allowed for this cost.

11:00 Discussion of the American Recovery Act Funds with Auditor Hall, Treasurer

McCormack, and Assessor Gilman. \$8.2 expected to receive, but stipulations are not clear yet. It is recommended to create a fund for these monies until it is known what it can be spent on and make plans then.

CB – I have it my mind to help small businesses like we did on the previous Covid recovery monies.

LM, Treasurer, states the county as a whole has needs.

CB – We need a brainstorming session. Maybe get a list from the department heads and decide after that.

There is going to be some funding to the state for Broadband - \$4 million.

JD – it sounds like they are putting an emphasis on broadband, which is fine.

11:30 – Charleen Groomes, Clerk comes into the discussion.

LM, Treasurer brings up an idea that the Assessors, Auditors, Treasurers, and Clerks office have been discussing. They would like to have a Chief Deputy in each of these offices to cover in case the elected official is unavailable. This would be a lot of responsibility and needs to have pay accordingly. After researching other Counties, they determined that this person should be getting paid at least 85% of elected officials' salary. This would be the highest paid person in each of these offices.

They would like the Commissioners to consider these 4 position as they are key players. Would like this change to happen in May or June.

Will discuss during finance meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

12:00 Adjourned for lunch.