

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 9, 2021

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice 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/Commissioners/Minutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.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:

Fairground update/projects, HR/Risk Manager update, Replacement of Veterans Service Officer, CBA approvals with Union & Solid Waste, Discussion with Auditor re: changes in reporting requirements & possible voter pamphlet for Primary, 8.2 Million \$\$ in relief funds direct to County from Federal Covid recovery funds.

9:01 – Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Mgr – update of new release/advertising the fairgrounds Planning for County Fair in September – Basic registration requirements Update on projects; irrigation and power for RV Sites.

Meeting every friday with Commissioner Hover.

Planning for outdoor events. Upgrading Arts & Crafts building.

9:19 NP requesting permission for another FT employee at the fairgrounds, upgrading from part time. \$10,000 allocated for 6 month temporary positions. This position would stagger times with Kyle Haugen. BOCC authorizes this upgraded position. Resolution needs to be written up.

Joe Paulson, Maintenance – working on fair upgrades. Joe & Kyle will be checking out the track later today.

9:30 – Maurice Goodall, Emergency Services – Still working with Ok County Public Health. 700 vaccinated last Friday @ the fairgrounds.

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director – update of hearing on Comprehensive Plan. 1 hiccup on AV Capture, 28 people online, mostly from the Methow Valley. 116 written comments received. Public Hearing not completed, but public testimony (written & verbal) complete.

Will be going through comments this week.

Most concerns: Water quality and quantity, Environmental Impact Statements-addendum, Critical areas. Suggesting advisory groups to continue,

Hearing will resume on March 22nd, at regular planning meeting. After that meeting, should have Planning recommendations.

AH – Public hearing for BOCC will need to be scheduled within 60 days of recommendations from Planning. The sooner the better.

9:39 –***** Executive Session with Dave Gecas, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney regarding possible litigation.***** until 10:03

10:04 – Tanyia Craig, HR & Risk Manager, other Staff – Shelley H
Changes within the Veterans Advisory Group; Tom Even to replace previous Veterans Service Officer (Pam) for the County. He is accredited through VA. Effective 4/1
Moved, Seconded, and carried for resolution for new contract and giving signing authority.

10:13 – Draft resolution needed for weed technician
Resolution for Senior Planning in Planning Dept
Solid Waste/ Union Collective Bargaining Agreement to be signed
Also, the agreement with City of Tonasket for Law Enforcement Services.

10:21 – JD discusses the Driskell Road issue – wants to expedite and add language to the bid, regarding the fact that Okanogan County is an economically distressed county – every single dollar matters.

10:25 – Cari Hall, County Auditor, along with other Auditors Office staffmember - Working on annual report, new reporting requirements since Covid.
Reaching out to different departments regarding to accountability. Long term effects of Covid limitations/effects and what the legislative body has done to make allowances for.

There ia tentative retirement in the Auditors Office 10/2021. Would like permission to hire a replacement in August 2021 for training purposes.

10:32 – more discussion regarding the \$8.2 million dollars to come directly to County from the new Covid Relief/ American Resource Act. There are fewer restrictions
House Bill restricting covenants based on racial restrictions (historically)
Also, Senate bill setting up a statewide committee of Auditors that will help with uniformity.

Voter pamphlet needs to be done for the Primary d/t new law. We have an election this fall.

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10:45 - Changing to Windows 10, Will need to do supplemental budget request.

*****Executive Session 10:48 – 10:56***** with Auditor

11:00 - Josh Thomsen, County Engineer, Public Works
some road restrictions lifted on lower elevations.
Discussed the State Projects list through DOT

CB & AH discuss advocating for projects that could be funded by the State.

11:10

Discussed whether county employees should be able to bid on surplus equipment

CB & AH discuss putting together a policy regarding this. Requesting Clerk of Board to write up resolution.

11:18 Approve and signing the Union Contracts

Also, further discussion of projects to include in Economic Alliance list. BOCC could advocate for different projects.

AH is interested in things that make economic sense and also safety issues.

11:47 USDA to change the way we operate the Pest Board.

Sheila is non-voting member of the board.

Vouchers approved: for Methow Valley EMS District \$58,867

Oroville Rural EMS District \$9,680

Tonasket EMS District \$16,200

Oroville Housing \$186.60

12:01 Adjourn until the Board of Health Meeting.