

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday February 14, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1(On Zoom)

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Jon Neal (JN) – 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 clarification 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 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:

Discussion with Court staff regarding upcoming renovations and new detention center, watching significant bills in the legislature, financial planning.

Public Comment: Paul Sisson thanks BOCC for work on Tunk Re-Zone, Dave Mullens comments regarding EMS/ambulance service in the north county.

Public Hearing on proposed public record request fees – a lot of discussion regarding getting information to public when a legal notice/hearing is required. Looking forward to a public records officer/position.

Getting organized for opioid settlement monies process.

Auditor discusses need for bullet proof safety glass in office and need for overflow room during elections – reports that there are 4,000 new registered voters since her election. Approved hiring of 2 security officers from Pacific Security.

Public Works update: road restriction exemption from midnight to 9am should help keep calls down as it is still freezing at night, BOCC agrees to maintain Libby Creek Road (Forest Service Road) extending to the Sky Ranch turn-off, will be advertising for open position in the Commissioner's Office.

Adjourn at 11:45, Public Health Meeting at 1:30 PM

8:30

Dennis Rabidou (DR), Court/Jail Administrator and Judge Hank Rawson meeting with the BOCC.

DR states he has been reaching out to legislators regarding the new age jurisdiction bill that will make considerable changes to how the Juvenile offenders are handled.

DR wonders about upcoming renovations and construction, given the age of our courthouse and that is on the Historical Register. AH would like to impress upon lawmakers the differences between eastern/western Washington courthouses. CB states it is more of a small county issue – not just

eastside/westside. DR asks whether the Juvenile detention center should be built first before renovations of the courthouse. There is funding from the sales tax designated for Juvenile. AH explains that the site engineering/utilities RFQ's have been received and awarded. AH asks CB if he could arrange a pre-design meeting with the City of Okanogan? CB states that he could get something together for a conditional use permit and cautions about public disagreement possible. AH state we won't be able to do bonding again for a few years. CB suggests a phasing-in program. DR hopes we can get as much as possible complete before 2027, (*This appears to be a deadline for changes in holding juveniles.*) DR states that we can do pre-design stuff at least. DR has some resolutions that he will be working with Shelley K (HR/Risk Manager) to bring to BOCC next month.

9:00

County Auditor e-mailed BOCC regarding the security glass needed. Courthouse Security meeting is in the morning. Next Thursday is the CAMIS (?) meeting.

AH would like to have the Natural Resources director from Chelan to come up to talk about Tunk Creek. It is not a high priority stream, apparently.

9:16

Public Comment: Paul Sisson (PS) comments on the Tunk Valley re-zone; regarding investment risk to residents – it is an unrealistic expectation that value of property will always go up. With the water shortage in the Tunk, it would have been irresponsible to not do anything to address this. PS states that he thought the re-zone was a responsible thing to do and thanked the BOCC for their decision.

Dave Mullens (DM) states that he is fighting for the Emergency Management Services in Okanogan County. I've (DM) stayed away because bringing up the problems with the EMS/ambulance system has caused him to be censored. He feels that Oroville needs to be manned 24/7, like Tonasket & that when the ambulance comes from Tonasket, it takes too long. This adds a 15 to 20 minute response time d/t coming from Tonasket & can make all the difference. He is attempting to read the (EMS) budget and does not understand. AH explains the EMS budgets and that the BOCC is in the process of negotiating EMS contracts.

9:30

Public Hearing – Code Amendment Public Records OCC 2.88 with Civil Deputy, Esther Milner (EM). This was last revised in 2006. There have been law changes since then. Even electronic records cost. She has written up a new fee schedule to bring more in line with the Attorney General's Office. EM states Ok County has been behind times in their charging for scanning record and electronic records. EM notes how the legislature allows Police Departments to charge for redacting body cams.

Public Comment: Ruth Hall (RH) states that supporting documents need to be free when associated with a legal notice/public hearing. At least, electronically.

EM discusses the best way to get this information out is to post it on the website at the same time as the notice. Other questions arise about how the ordinance/resolution is only in draft form, but CB states that it is necessary in order for the Public to be able to comment at the hearing. Both AH and CB agree on this, and LJ brings up how continually making changes to website is also a work issue. EM also discusses how some other counties waive fees under \$5.00. AH questions what is it that we are most concerned with? RH states the supporting documents – especially the ordinance/resolution that is being changed. AH wants to wait until they hire a Public Records Request Officer. However, it was moved, seconded, and carried to approve Ordinance 2023-2 Other changes to come

when PRR Officer is hired.

EM states that she has 10 more ordinances to present to BOCC. She also states in her review of MRSC, not all changes require a public hearing. AH states he would prefer to do hearings, even if not necessary.

10:00

This was time for an update from the Treasurer. However, BOCC has not heard back from her.

CB and AH talk about the process in the upcoming opioid settlement monies. AH was the initial contact, but that was when he was the Chair. CB should be contact now. CB is interested in the structure for paying out these settlement dollars.

BOCC decides there is no meeting for Wednesday. They each have other meetings to attend.

10:23

Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor and Deputy Auditor in to update on Auditors Office.

There is a small election tonight. CH is concerned with security glass in the Auditors Office and also space issues during elections. She would like to utilize the jury room for overflow during election counting. CH states that there have been 4,000 new registered voters since she has taken office. She praises the election workers/volunteers and explains the need for more space. Hopefully, we can get the security issues and overflow needs taken care of by June 2023.

10:33

AH has been working with DNR Glass works for bullet-proof/safety glass and should have an idea of cost in the near future.

Tonight's elections are School levy and fire district. This election will be certified on Friday the 24th.

10:38

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve February 6th & 7th proceedings as amended.

Also, Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

1. CDBG Services = 22-2023-Request #7 Dept of Commerce
2. CDBG PSCV -1 Grant 20-6221C – 119 Request #25 – Dept of Commerce
3. Agreement – Affordable housing funds – Ok Community Homeless Shelter
4. Agreement – Equitable sharing agreement & certification - Sheriffs' Office
5. Cattleguard Renewals
6. Approve -Purchase Traffic Striping Materials -Sherwin-Williams & Alpine Protect. Inc
7. Bid Award – 2023 Countywide Guardrail Safety Project – M2 Industrial, Inc
8. Resolution 20-2023 Authorizing additional Per Diem RN Nurse Care Manager
9. Resolution 21-2023 Budget Amendment, ER&R payment – Assessor

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Vouchers for County, Public Health, Oroville EMS, and Tonasket EMS.

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve resolution 22-2023 to hire 2 security officers from Pacific Security.

10:47

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Okanogan Community Action ARPA #1 food crisis funds in

the amount of \$43,487.46

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reporting on Public Works.

JT reports road weight restrictions exceptions are from midnight until 9am, due to freezing temperatures at night. This should cut down on phone calls.

11:07

JT and AH discuss Libby Creek Road maintenance. JT states the County can probably do the maintenance by utilizing the turnaround at the Sky Ranch. This is a Forest Service Road, but they could pay for the work, initially. It was moved, seconded, and carried to deliver a proposal to the Forest Service extending the County maintenance to the Sky Ranch turnoff. Past Sky Ranch, it narrows considerably per AH. If we take this one, we will need to post warning signs as this will not be considered a primitive road.

JT discusses the old shop property that the Sheriff's Office is using – working on a resolution. This won't be a big problem as this is already county property.

BOCC authorized Mike Worden, Communication Deputy to sign the agreement.

JT reports there are some new requirements for CRAB, anything that is in the County right of way.

(there is more discussion regarding Oroville EMS and whether to meet again with Dave Mullens)

LJ received a revised ARPA agreement from the Town of Twisp, everyone seems to be in agreement with this and it has been reviewed by the Civil Deputy.

LJ also has a document regarding Public Health that EM has already reviewed. \$285,000 for salaries & benefits for 2023-2024.

Discussion of whether LJ or ES should prepare the fee schedule for the Public Records Request Fee changes.

LJ states she has one more thing. Amber is leaving the Commissioner's Office to go to work in the Treasurer's office, so will need to advertise for her position. Permission granted.

11:45

Meeting Adjourned until this afternoon. Public Health meeting at 1:30