

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday February 21, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chairman, 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 are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting.

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:

- 2 vacancies on Fair Board Advisory group – need to advertise the positions and advertise for RFP's for livestock market sale at the fair.
- Central Services: need for generator in case of outages, Emergency Management considerations, and website changes.
- Finance: current cash on hand and money market interest rates increase to 4%, expenditure and revenue reports, structure for accepting Opioid Settlement monies - \$48,000, handling of cash/credit cards. some agreements with Public Health and Community Action regarding ARPA monies, Bid openings for Soil Stabilizer and Asphalt.
- Solid Waste update – request from Town of Twisp for possible trail by Methow Recycling for pedestrians and children to access ballfields & possible hazards associated with.
- Public Works update on roads and maintenance – road restrictions – ongoing evaluation.
- Adjourned at 12:00 until 1:30 PM.

9:00

CB brought meeting to order via Zoom.

AH reports there are 2 Fair Advisory Board members that have resigned and the market sale vendor has also resigned. We need to advertise for 2 new fair board members and also send out for RFP's for auctioneer services. JN asks about what to do about the \$60,000 money left from previous auctioneer. JN is curious as to why. CB states there should be a record of their accounting. AH wonders what grounds the BOCC has to ask about this. CB states they, too, are subject to public records. JN states that Brent (?) has no problem sharing with us if we ask. JN states there is a perceived lack of transparency, but he believes the right person wasn't asked, nor the right questions.

CB suggests that they might talk with the Auditor to get an opinion on how the County conducts Fair business in the future.

9:25

Discussion of letter to send to Senator Patty Murray for Communication project funding for the Sheriff's Office. The chairperson needs to sign the letter of support.

CB is looking forward to having a Public Records Request Officer hired. He recently got a PRR regarding water rights issues that CB has been involved with. There is currently a request from the Omak Chronicle for information about contract services for the auction at the fair, and how BOCC is planning to fill the 2 vacant seats on the fair board. BOCC will be sending out for them. The plan is to use a contractor, and they may want to use volunteers, which is fine too.

JN asks if we need a motion. LJ will send out the RFQ's for auction services and advertise for the 2 vacancies as early as this Friday.

There is a lengthy discussion about auction services and need for the payments to the participants by a certain date.

9:44

Karen Beatty(KB), Director of Central Services to give a quick update. They have received all parts of switches they needed for changeover but waiting on power cables. Work to be done on weekends.

KB also went to the recent Security Meeting and was reminded of the power issue, especially at the Grainger Building. This will require an investment of a generator due to no backup power. AH states that we need to go to the 20-year Master plan. LJ states that we still pay a utilities charge for Admin Building. AH believes that we need a generator right away and would like to be forward thinking. Admin building is connected to the Court house per KB.

CB states that we are now talking about emergency management. AH thinking of priorities and states that the Grainger Building is priority especially with the Sheriff's Office here.

KB is not only concerned about power, but phones. KB has been in a couple of discussions regarding Public Records Requests.

KB also reports there are some changes on the County Website. She has looked into prices for upgrades and has decided to do something of their own to save money. We are wanting to add links to how-tos. Her report ends at 9:58

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting with Pam Johnson (PJ), Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH), Auditor, and Lisa Schreckengast of the Auditors Office.

PJ submits the budget to the Board and LJ. Current expense/cash on hand is at \$4.9 million, with \$1.5 million being transferred to cash reserve. Money Market accounts are now up to 4% interest. She states that the County has 3 years to spend \$\$ (*IN BONDS, I PRESUME*) PJ expects some calls back on questions she has asked. AH states that we are on the 1-year mark with the bond. What will be spent this year: 1 shop to be done, 2 utilities, and Sheriffs/Coroners Building. (CB explains that the land on the Reservation is a bit tricky, as is under the Shorelines act under the Tribe. More will be revealed. CH and PJ wonder how often to pull revenue summaries/comparisons in the year as these reports are done manually.

10:10

AH states that he really likes the reports around budgeting time – toward the end of the year. So, it is suggested to do those reports quarterly until about September, then monthly.

PJ also spoke of creating a cash policy for the different departments, along with credit card usage. We'd like to start working on a policy if that is okay with the BOCC.

10:17

There is strict cash handling guidelines in the Treasurer's Office.

10:19

PJ also asked about the distribution of Opioid Settlement funds. Will the county be getting this direct and will an account need to be created for this?

CB reports that there is more than 1 settlement. It appears they are going to set the payments up as a regional thing between 5 counties. There are a couple of entities that might be doing the distribution of these monies. Whoever we choose to receive funds will receive some compensation and distribute funds. CB states there is a request for a meeting with everyone in the 5 counties regarding this. CB unable to answer PJ's question about whether a special fund will need to be created. CB states there is \$48,000 I believe.

CH also states that we are nearing annual report time. Beginning in May, we need to be able to meet about the annual report.

JN to participate in the canvassing board today.

LJ has a couple of business items to bring up to the Board.

She has been contacted regarding the grant agreement between the County & Public Health. BOH is going to make some changes per AH. He will call Laurie Jones to remind her. This should all happen before the next BOH meeting in March.

CB to JN – Did you have time to ask the City of Oroville about the trail property? JN is not sure anyone has spoken to the adjacent landowners.

LJ asks can they (CAC) submit an A-19 for \$1 Million of ARPA funds before spent? AH answers yes, as long as there are invoices for it.

10:38

CAC would like to request their emergency funds through ARPA in order to get a discount on the building rent (*they will be renting to store food*) They would like to pay 17 months' rent out of the \$50,000 allocated to CAC for food. The contract is reimbursable.

AH suggests that we write a resolution to do this to make use of a discount for paying early rent. LJ will get this together for the afternoon meeting today.

10:48

CB regarding the across the river permits along with shoreline. This is regarding the Sheriff/Coroner new building. CB asks AH if he has a Plan B in case this doesn't get approved by the Tribe.

AH was at a TranGo meeting and learned there is some money available to cleaning up different sites in order to utilize the space.

10:53

JN off to his meeting with Auditor. Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer tells CB that weight restrictions are still on some roads, but that the supervisors are out driving around to take stock of them, and not just keep the restrictions ongoing until a certain date, but definitely depending on the conditions.

11:00

Bid Opening -2023- for Soil Stabilizer: Shasta Stidman (SS), Public Works and JT

1. GMCO Corp. - \$203, 995
2. Environ-Tech - \$252,910

11:10

Bid Opening – 2023- Liquid Asphalt; Public Works – SS 7 JT

1. Ergonne - \$1,033,914.
2. Idaho Asphalt - \$1,395,837.50

11:16 JN back from Auditors meeting

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager discusses possible no- flow agreement with the City of Omak. This would allow a customer to haul waste outside the area. It would require a legal document as this goes against the Comprehensive Plan. This needs to be passed on to the County Attorney. KK asks the BOCC if they want to allow someone to ship waste out of the county, but with surcharges to the county. CB asked KK to talk with the Civil Deputy about this.

KK also brings up a request from the Town of Twisp to have an easement for a walking trail near Methow Recycling. JT and KK have both been in contact with the Town of Twisp.

11:30

AH states that we should not give an easement for anything that goes through our County Property. JT states that at first, he thought this was a request from a developer, but the town wants the path and to not incur new costs. A poorly placed hydrant needs to be moved.

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding problems with walking paths in a hazard location. Pedestrians and solid waste facilities do not mix.

11:45

KK – they would have to have a fence. It is just a matter of time for an accident to happen. AH states again, that he doesn't like the idea of kids, dogs, and bikes, etc in that area. If they go with where we might allow this, I would talk about trading value of easement for fencing and change of entrance and fire hydrant. AH might look at this in order for kids to be able to get to the ballfields safely. JT states that the City of Twisp could give other property to Methow Recycling.

11:55

JT reports on the maintenance and roads – road restrictions, but continuing to re-evaluate.

KK and CB set up a meeting for this afternoon.

JT reports that he has virtual training for the next couple of days, so will not be as available to phone.

12:00

Meeting adjourned until afternoon session at 1:30 PM