

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday January 31, 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 AV Capture. 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](https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php).

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: Creating the RFQ's for Architectural Services, Public Comment; concern and praise, from north end residents, for the Oroville Road Crew staff regarding difficulty of maintaining roads during this early, significant winter weather. Advertising for open positions on the Planning Commission Board – letters of interest due February 17<sup>th</sup>. Sending letter of support for Match programs for upgrading Courthouse Security, Discussion of moving surplus vehicles around to other county offices, such as the fairgrounds, Bid Opening for 2023 County Wide Guardrail Safety Project, Update from Solid Waste Manager regarding current legislative bills in the State Legislature that could affect how County takes care of waste and recycling. County Engineer to send CRAB report with numbers from County Assessor. Executive Session to discuss the Hunter Mountain sale decision.

9:02

*Technical difficulties with audio, CB on Zoom and JN , AH, and LJ in person.*

Public Comment Period: Tina Yolland not really complaining but explaining how the Aeneas Valley Road was so bad after the early snow and County not getting to the road sooner created a real icy, rough, messy road and a few people went into the ditch as a result. AH explained how there was only 1 truck ready, so they decided to wait until Monday and not work on Sunday.

Two Other residents, Pamela Sleigh and Mark Kerr commended the Oroville road crew staff as doing a great job under these conditions. They praised the customer service. They reported that Havillah Road is good, and now Aeneas Valley Road is in good condition, too. They all left thanking the Board for all they do.

9:25

LJ brings up the need to complete the RFQ's for the Architect job. AH states that utilities need to be

added in the duties. They discussed the point system for determining who gets the job – there are 7 categories for points + references.

9:40

LJ reports that she has advertised the openings for the Planning Commission. 4 terms are ending, and vacancies are listed on the website. Notes of interest are due February 17<sup>th</sup>.

9:42

LJ discusses e-mail received on January 19<sup>th</sup> regarding court security and match programs to help fund. A show of support letters would be helpful. AH worries what that might obligate BOCC to do. He would like it to be fully paid, rather than the need for a match, especially since small counties (like ours) have old buildings that are difficult to renovate, and especially since they are on the historic register.

3 things about this funding. 1. cost of covering security offices, 2. the funding is ongoing, and 3. it is voluntary participation, which allows localities to be more involved. Both CB and AH think a letter of support is a good idea.

9:46

LJ will draft the letter or support. She also brings up the Conconully Services Fire Hall letter that was received. (*I gathered this might be a request for ARPA funding*)

AH discusses the pickup being offered for \$3,000. This would require a hearing said LJ, due to \$2500 being the threshold on whether a hearing is needed.

AH stated 'we' have the titles to all vehicles, and we should have a list. LJ states that they should be on the capital asset list and Shelly K keeps list for insurance purposes.

AH to LJ: Please draft resolution for car from Auditors Office to be bought for the fairgrounds.

Then there is the truck – JN asks if the truck has been published yet. It is surplus, and we can just buy it back from the building dept. We'll need a budget supplemental. AH to ask Auditor to do this as will be paying from contingency reserve to current expense.

10:00

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to go into Executive Session with Shelley Keitzman, HR, Esther Milner, Civil Deputy, and Paul Budrow, Sheriff for 30 minutes. RCW 42.30.110.1 (i)continuing litigation\*\*\*\*\*

10:33

Naomie Peasley gave 2 dates for the Surplus Auction; May 13<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>. It was determined May date would be the best. Will need to get back to Naomie.

10:51

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Voucher certification for the Tonasket EMS district in the amount of \$66.04

10:52

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Voucher certification for the Oroville EMS district in the amount of \$66.04

10:53

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Voucher certification and other expenses in the amount of \$17,256 for the Lake Management District #1

11:00

Bid Opening for the 2023 County Wide Guardrail Safety Project with Shasta Stidman & Josh Thomson

(JT)

1. Frank Gurney for \$449,972.
2. Dirt & Aggregate Interchange, Inc \$489,975.00
3. M2 Industrial Incorporated \$380,203.00

Will give these to Public Works for their recommendation.

Public Works Update:

Kevin Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager; Looking for 2 people to hire – also notes that the new Capital Projects Manager, Josh Umser used to work at the landfill. KK reports there is a fair amount of leaching this year due to the amount of snow. He also brings up current bills in the legislature that he is watching for their effect on our County landfill;

HB 1085 reducing plastic pollution and wanting to get rid of polystyrene floats.

HB 1185 regarding recycling of light bulbs- no light bulbs in the landfill

HB 1131 Alkaline batteries are garbage – there are no toxic chemicals in them now. But all batteries will need to be recyclable.

There is also a bill for free curbside service for recycling. AH comments they are paying for it anyway – certainly not free. KK states that we may need to consider a surcharge to cover this expense.

KK state that we (the County) is not big enough to handle big jobs/Special Waste.

11:40

JT to report on road and maintenance. AH reports to JT what was said in Public Comment.

JT brings the County Roads Administration Board (CRAB) list with #'s from the Assessor, which needs to be signed by the BOCC.

11:42

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to send the list to CRAB and authorize vice chair to sign.

11:44

AH brings up that BOCC needs to make a decision on the Hunter Mountain Property because WDFW is not expected to change their bid and if we're not going to sell, they will designate this money for other projects. AH and CB both question the wisdom of holding out for more money.

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to go into executive to discuss this under RCW 42.30.110.1 (c) until noon and then recess for lunch.