

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday September 27, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC 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/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: Discussion with Central Services and Risk Manager regarding WiFi access points and upgrading equipment, Received and reviewed 2 Title III proposals; Search & Rescue, and Ok Co Conservation District – there will be 45 days for public comment, Discussion of Architect recommendation for Coroner/Equipment Shed – possibly include with 2 Public Works Shops going out for bid. Landfill update and new legislation concern; HB 1799 dealing with composting. Public Works update; Bridge work, Salmon Creek Drainage Project, Cameron Lake Project, Mazama Intersection looking for funding from Economic Alliance possibly, Some discussion regarding what is recyclable and where costs over-ride benefit, Short discussion on feasibility of electric cars and how to get the road funds. Adjourned at 12:01. Will come back at 1:30

8:25

Meeting Opened but Superior Court cancelled.

8:47

****Executive Session with Civil Deputy and HR/Risk Manager regarding 'pretty serious' potential litigation under RCW 42.30.110 1 (i)*****25 minutes

9:30

Karen Beatty (KB) Central Services & Shelly Keitzman (SK) HR/Risk Manager with discussion regarding County campus WiFi access points. Currently on lowest possible speed @\$300 per year. Could upgrade to 40Mbs down, 6 mbs up.

KB ordered new radio for Guest Wireless. More access points are needed (18), to cover all buildings. They are \$1734 each X 18=\$31,217 + tax. There is wireless speed, and then a higher speed for people who are on Fiber.

KB explains Modules are \$5,000 apiece. 2 are needed. & of course, old batteries are not compatible. KB asks whether the BOCC wants her to go forward with these?

AH asks about the functioning of the generators. KB states these Modules are for back-up.

10:05

BOCC receives and reviews Title III proposals. LJ presents the 2 proposals for this funding \$94,928. Search & Rescue \$20,000 and Okanogan County Conservation District for their Community Wildfire Resilience Project = \$93, 992. There will be 45 days for Public Comment and then the BOCC will need to meet with these 2 entities and make their decision. *One thing that might be good to know is how many drones Search & Rescue already have as it appears this is included in proposal.*

10:25

Mike Worden (MW) – Sheriff's Office Communications Officer.

MW presented the findings from the Architect, Mike Beaman, for building a new building for the Coroner/Sheriffs Equipment. Estimated around \$3.6 Million.

Next step, is to engage the city of Okanogan for the pre-application process. MW asks if the Board wishes he proceed? It appears they, at least, want to go this far in the process.

AH states that he spoke with the Architect, who suggested that the best option for Phase 1 would be to do the utilities and groundwork. Public Works will be sending their 2 shops out for Bid in the Spring, there is the work on the Justice Center, and now this Coroner/Sheriff Office equipment building.

AH would like to follow up with the city if they are interested in this project.

CB asks whether MW knows of any restrictions on the property. MW states it is zones Industrial. There are considerations like 25 feet set back from right of way, a shoreline set back, needs to be excavated, and consideration of the Tribe.

AH states there is \$500,000 appropriated for the Coroner/Equipment Shed.

CB wants to be involved in the pre-application process.

AH also suggests that MW coordinate with Josh Thomson on Public Works Buildings.

11:00

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager gives a landfill update. If the urinalysis comes back clean, they will be fully staffed. 4A & 4B development is with the Dept of Ecology, also wants blessing from Public Health.

KK reports on a new law HB 1799 which is requiring Counties (even if they don't do any composting) to do a "Procurement" resolution which would utilize compost products. KK is hoping for an exemption. KK and AH both think this makes no sense, especially since we have no composting businesses here. KK also points out that we have an apple maggot quarantine, which should also guarantee the County an exemption. The closest compost facility is in Wenatchee. That is not cost-effective.

11:16

Josh Thomson (JT) County Engineer, Public Works update. JT asks how to access LTAC funds that have been approved for a bridge project? AH is the chairman of this Board and explained how to bill for work, LJ also explained paper process.

11:23

The Mazama Intersection project/consideration is doing an application for Economic Alliance Grant funding, utilizing the County as a sponsor?

CB explains how Economic Alliance funding works – they mostly prioritize for Capital Projects

11:32

JT states the Salmon Creek Drainage project is happening on time with road closure still expected between October 8th and 14th.

JT reports that he finally spoke with BIA regarding the Cameron Lake Road project and they only want to give the right of way for 20 years. JT alludes that it might not be wise to spend money to fix the road when it is only temporary. CB wonders why the BIA is not very willing – may be trying to discourage development.

11:35

JT reports on the equipment purchases on the list for 2023. Getting a Chip Box for around \$475,000 might drop another piece of equipment off the list.

JT and AH have a discussion regarding how the electric cars (of the future) will be able to pay for the roads. JT states it has been easy with a gas tax and expects road use has the most traction, but unsure. All speculation. AH thinks hydrogen cell vehicles would be better.

Public Works had some items on the Consent Agenda: Bridgeport Transfer Project, Cattleguard Franchises, and resolution for surplussing utility poles from the 2020 fire.

11:50

CB asks KK what he thought about assessing a mattress fee at the dump. He states they are difficult for the compactor. Also, some discussion between AH and KK regarding the best recyclables – plastic or aluminum. KK states aluminum can always be recycled. Plastic, not so much. Only 1 & 2's are taken at this time.

Short discussion about Naomie Peasley, FG Manager, wanting to go to the Fair Convention to get more ideas.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:01

More meeting this afternoon.