

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday April 12, 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 click on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html>

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Alaska Village People want to film interaction at the County Building Dept, more information needed for bids at fairgrounds grandstand so will begin bidding process with new information. Resignation of board member of Ok County Housing Authority – requesting new member, proposal from ADT for door lock upgrades and door readers. Exit Conference with State Auditor’s Office; overall county regulations in compliance – a very clean audit. Audit has a price tag of \$70,000. Staffing in the Treasurer’s Office (there is no down time); 1 open position, proposed adding a position, and upgrading another. There are 5 staff members in the Treasurer’s Office, along with the Treasurer which makes 6. Discussing with Maintenance Supervisor regarding cooling of offices, need to meet with Mike Beaman for new building, Decided there will be no Wednesday meeting – no issues. Discussion with County Auditor regarding bonding and breakdown of projects that will benefit from this and the ARPA funding. Best media coverage of the \$200,000 error in CARES funds is in the Methow Valley News per BOCC. Printing bid accepted for the Primary Voting Pamphlet. Public Hearing on Utility Franchise – Brewster Public Works. Update from County Public Works – all road restrictions lifted. Current bridge projects, talking about the possible new position to work on trails, GIS position hired. Also preparing for work on the Mazama Well project with Fire District 6 – planning on meeting with FD 6 for clarifications, some discussion of BOCC member on the Fair Advisory Committee (FAC).

9:00

Dan Higbee (DH), Building Dept. discussing request by TV group – Alaska Village People to film interaction at the County Building Dept. BOCC unsure of this and want to run it by Civil Deputy.

9:03

Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager - (on Zoom) reports needing resolution to establish cash at the fairgrounds office. Also, has received 5 bids for demolition of the old grandstand and building new, but more information has been received so will need to re-send for bids. Electrical and other items need to be included.

LJ has 2 appointment letters requested by the Ok County Housing Authority for new board members. Yvonne Bussler White resigned. LJ has received e-mail from Treasurer's office regarding \$150,000 being held from infrastructure fund. AH states would like to revisit the infrastructure fund refunding sources, processes, etc. LJ will put out information and agrees that it needs to be re-visited.

9:11 LJ reports that there is a proposal from ADT for purchase of new door readers in the Jail and Courtroom. Some upgrades are needed first. Needs motion to approve.

9:24 Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve petty cash fund at the fairgrounds. Resolution 51-2022

9:30

Accountability Audit exit conference with the State Auditor's Office on Zoom; Cinthya Medina, Alvara Loguro, Jake Santistevan. They've used a risk-based approach for the County. Examined landfill operations, Assessors Office – property tax valuations, use of Restricted Funds, Payroll, Open Public Meetings and Financial Condition.

Over-all, County complies with regulations “very clean audit” Next audit is for calendar year 2021. Report will be published on website of State Auditor's Office, along with a survey.

JD comments (again – yearly) that \$70,000 is too much to pay for an audit.

Moved, seconded, and carried for BOCC Chair to sign acknowledgment of the audit.

9:45

Jake Santistevan (State Auditor) comments that more will be discussed about the remote work possibility dynamic – off site and in the office.

9:47

Leah McCormack (LM), County Treasurer reports on employment situation. 1 position unfilled – now has 3 applications for this. There are 5 staff members in the treasurer's Office + the Treasurer. There is no down time, so unable to cross train staff. Recommending hiring another staff member up front and increasing pay grade of Closure Deputy from a Grade 16 to 17. BOCC moved, seconded, and carried to grant permission to go to the union for the new position and upgrade other position.

10:02

Joe Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor talking about the cooling system in the new building, and other buildings. Divco and Cascade Mexchanical have taken a look. CB states that the court can go back to the other court room if needed. Ongoing discussion of cooling problems, swamp coolers, etc.

10:18

DH comes back to talk, once again, about the possible filming in his office. BOCC is still thinking about it

AH asks if there is any reason to meet on Wednesday. It was determined there is no need for Wednesday meeting.

10:25 Cari Hall (CH), Auditor & other staff member give packet to BOCC. Has been working on the 'bonding thing'. CH would like a breakdown of the projects this money will be used for, along with ARPA funds; 2 Public Works Shops, Sheriff's Building, the new Courthouse Complex. Justification for is lost revenue on any governmental service. More discussions regarding budget allocations and how to pay the different recipients such as fire districts. Reminder that Okanogan County is the recipient of the ARPA funds due to loss of revenue.

10:40

AH states that the easiest way for Public Health bill is to send timesheets. CB discusses how Economic Alliance did their billing. LJ talks about using the A-19 template.

10:47AH to LJ – Have you heard back from the Department of Commerce. No. LJ will follow-up. Will put this on hold until we hear back. Will need to set up a restricted account for the returned money. Then, tell Public Health to pay back right away.

AH states we can do this today.

10:53 CH states the lowest bid for printing of the Primary Voters Pamphlet is Consolidated Press. Moved, seconded, and carried for Consolidated Press to print voters' pamphlet.

11:00

Continued Public Hearing for Utility Franchise with City of Brewster Public Works.

Jo Ann Stansbury of Public works and Josh Thomson, County Engineer presents.

No public comment. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve 47-2022.

11:04

Josh Thomson, (JT) County Engineer reports a problem with the scales in Twisp. This has been reported to the police.

All Road restrictions lifted. Working on Miller Pit Road. Starting to gravel on the Bill Shaw Road.

JT is still working on the road speed limits. He gave the BOCC a list of the roads.

AH states that we should put this item on the agenda for public comment/awareness. Work session/public meeting.

11:16 JT talks about the possible position to work on trails and part of duties being to search for grants. JT also working on the 6-year planning. JT will put a proposal together, working with Pete Palmer, Planning Director.

JT needs a formal proposal for engineering position. Have hired the GIS position. Most permanent positions are filled in public works. Some difficulty with the temporaries.

Also, working on the District 6 Well. The county is going to be paying for the infrastructure (through ARPA funds) so the question of who maintains and other details. Need to discuss with District 6 for clarification. Next Tuesday.

Some discussion of Roundabouts, working with DOT on Hwy 153. Tribe wants a sidewalk.

ALSO, are there some roads affected by forest products? JT there is not enough logging activity on our roads.

11:42

Natalie Carriker, landowner in Omak/ Kermel Grade scheduled time to talk about issues relating to water and road. She wants to present her research.

There has always been a lot of water there – not sure if it is natural or having to do with the irrigation on the top.

BOCC discusses their involvement in the Fair Advisory Committee.

12:00 Meeting Adjourned. Will re-convene after Dept of Health Meeting this afternoon.