

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday February 16, 2021 AM**

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1  
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2  
Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3  
Pete Palmer (PP) – Planning Dept  
Josh Thomson (JT) – County Engineer, Public Works

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/Commissioners/Minutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.html>

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:** Discussions of upcoming hearing on Comprehensive Plan (March 8<sup>th</sup>), process, logistics, following Covid safety guidelines, approval of contract vaccinations at the Fairgrounds, discussion of Lake Osoyoos Water/Sewer District, short update from Auditor, Bid approval for CFP #9155, Old Hwy 97 Driskell to Verestar, Update from Public Works with overview of bills in the legislature regarding long term transportation statewide issues and subsequent taxation.

9:01 – no quorum yet. CB in attendance only

Maurice Goodall, Emergency Services – 521 people vaccinated, went well at the fairgrounds. People need to be applying for a shot through Mid Valley Hospital.

9:05

Pete Palmer from Planning concerned about fire safety issues with regard to the Comprehensive Plan, still need to be addressed. PP will come back to BOCC later.

9:15 – quorum met

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the contract between the County and Public Health for use of the Fairgrounds for Covid vaccinations.

CB has ordinance prepared regarding the Lake Osoyoos Water/Sewer District

9:10

Pete Palmer, Planning back in the meeting – Concerned about getting information out to people regarding the moratorium on new building permits. Discussion of news release from the BOCC

PP also needing help with process of Comprehensive Plan hearing, scheduled for March 8. Suggests hiring a facilitator? Postpone hearing? What about in-person? Some people do not have access to internet. Process needs to be accessible to all the public that are interested in attending.

JD – Wish there were a way to do it better.  
Continued discussion until  
9:29

Discussion about the specifics of this hearing with respect to Governor's Covid guidelines.  
This is an agency (Planning Dept) hearing. Once this hearing is held, then the Comp Plan goes to the BOCC for approval. Discussion of whether BOCC will also hold a hearing, or just a public meeting to determine the fate of the Comprehensive Plan. Concern about doing things correctly to avoid litigation.

9:30 – MSC allowing Naomie Peasley, Fairground event coordinator, to work from home until next Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. She will be able to take calls.

NP, fairgrounds – reports that there will be another building at the fairgrounds available to be used once some of the painting & other updates are completed.

Also, fee schedule will be available next week.

9:40 – Discussion of litter pick up program. Funds not used.

AH will not be available to BOCC meeting this afternoon as will be in Union Negotiations.

9:45 Discussion of looking for funding for the Watershed Council, Board is hoping to resolve issues with this plan.

Discussion regarding development interests, subdivisions and the water needed. Determining amount of water available – based on science, but need to discuss and question.  
Balancing concerns of development with keeping Agriculture land together.  
AH – there is a lot of conflict around water. Questions science.  
CB – the best science is what has had the opportunity to be challenged.

10:00 – Cari Hall, Auditor – discussion of water project funding.  
Need to re-schedule financial committee until next Tuesday

10:05 – Continued discussion regarding the logistics of the upcoming March 8<sup>th</sup> hearing.  
Lanie to print guidelines for Governors' Website and share with Planning Department.  
Also, discussing downfalls (difficulty hearing and connectivity) with Web-Ex. Isabelle Spohn, County Watch explained her experience with this.

10:55 – Josh Thomson, County Engineer and Shasta Stidman, Public Works

11:00 Bid Opening for CRP # 9155, Old Hwy 97 between Driskell and Verestar. They will be siding on four feet on shoulder and guardrail.  
There are 4 bids; The least bid (which was accepted) is for \$1,550,550.

Short break.

11:15

JT- Public Works update. Still having system problems with backup server.

Discussion of bill being introduced to the State Legislature regarding Transportation issues with

taxation attached. Adding carbon fees and overall gas tax increase. These have 10 & 15 year projections. JT doing a comparison chart and will present next week to the BOCC. County uses over 200,000 gallons of fuel yearly.

LJ – Word from David Gecas, County Atty – regarding signing of BOCC decisions. Only if involved in the decision.

11:41 Adjourn for lunch