

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, 2 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Kayla Wells-Yoakum (KW), WSU Extension

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at: https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions:

- *Clerk Lanie Johns begins discussion over amendment to increase ARPA fund allocation to Community Action Council in view of food shortage*
- *Signatures for WSU Extension budget appendix directing part of \$49,951 towards 4H/Master Gardener post*
- *Pete Palmer to handle permit application for Coroner's/Sheriff's building across the river*
- *Food for Community Action pantries to run out after Christmas – provider Second Harvest discontinuing due to diesel shortage and needs in Yakima Valley; finalizing of amendment to increasing original ARPA funding of \$250,000 by up to \$200,000*
- *Housing Coalition and Community Action qualify for homeless aid tied to extreme weather*
- *Request for quote on Public Works building (for new court complex) and Sheriff's building ready for publication; combined cost of \$7.5M covered by bond*
- *Meeting adjourned at 2:42 until Tuesday morning at 8:15*

2:11 - LJ talks about the ARPA funds resolution amendment to add an allocation to the Community Action Council in view of a food provider withdrawing from the food bank system.

2:17 - KW arrives to get signatures from the BOCC on a budget appendix directing money to the position of Angelyn Sheppard, in charge of 4H and the Master Gardeners program. CB moves to approve the agreement for WSU extension services in the amount of \$49,951, one tenth of which goes to Sheppard's salary.

2:20 - **CB:** On the issue of property on the other side of the river for the Coroner and Sheriff's storage building? **AH:** I talked to Chris Johnson (*Okanogan city planner*). He said they're moving forward with stuff. We need to submit a permit application. **CB:** Here's what I've set up for that purpose today because Pete (*Palmer, Planning Director*) is familiar with the department and they don't have much experience in the department. They fill out the application for us and communicate with Chris...

AH: *(Picking up where LJ left off at the start of the meeting)* Now this amendment—“Whereas Okanogan County and the Community Action Council made an agreement on November 22nd on \$250,000 of ARPA (*American Rescue Plan Act*) funds for costs associated with food, nutrition, salaries, equipment and packing supplies, whereas the contractor’s main food distributor for nine other County food pantries... is not able to supply adequate food to various food banks due to Second Harvest withdrawing from the food supply chain, whereas the contractor will not have food for the nine food pantries after Christmas and the county has ARPA funds that have not been obligated, therefore ... an amendment to *(allocate)* additional ARPA funds of up to \$200,000 to address the food shortage...”

CB: Lanie proposes to add that Second Harvest has had to make hard choices about their distribution models and will continue TEFAP (*The Emergency Food Assistance Program*). **AH:** Could you put it on a news release? **CB:** I could have Community Action do the news release. **JD:** Spread that money around. Buy from local people. **CB:** Yes. I think they have to. That was a concern they had, not getting enough. They still have some frozen turkeys... **AH:** I want to provide them money but Grocery Outlet is more of a discount store. **JD:** It’s locally owned. **CB:** They’re trying to get it where they can. Stores are sensitive, and their inventory as well. **AH:** ...It would not be good if the food bank went in and bought all. **CB:** Mike Arrington was out shopping for people in the Shove House (*Behavioral Health accommodations*).

LJ: I’ll read the last paragraph. *(She has re-worded it.)* “In reliance on representation made by the contractor, the County and the contractor agree to amend the original contract dated November 22nd 2022 to include an additional allocation of the County’s ARPA funds that will specifically address the food shortage caused by Second Harvest needing to make choices about their distribution model to discontinue the TEFAP cold and frozen distribution due to cost of diesel and the need to fill the gap in food supplies to (*The Yakima Valley*). *CB will go to Community Action and make sure there’s a news release. LJ asks if they want to approve two different “A19”s or the same for both; AH says one for each allocation. CB says Rena (Shawver, Community Action’s new director) thanks them in advance.*”

AH: Another thing—I want to talk to Nancy Nash tonight. I’d like to make sure the Housing Coalition understands that we have homeless funds that are available for people to use in this cold weather. So if you could re-iterate that to Rena. *He talks about the people standing out by Walmart.* **CB:** Ones that really got my attention were by Safeway. Here’s a guy standing there where they’re trying to solicit food and things and his wife or girlfriend has a terrible cough. You wonder if she has Covid. **AH:** I was driving back from Omak. There was a guy on highway 97, with the wind blowing 70 mph.

AH: One other thing before next week, if you can read through it. Michael Beeman (*architect for the new Justice Center and the County’s master building plan*) sent us a very detailed RFQ (*request for quotation*) – legal public announcement, sample contract, everything we need to move forward with that. See if there’s anything else we need to get that published. *He talks about possible dates, maybe the 28th.* **LJ:** Are there any other newspapers? **AH:** Can you call Michael and ask? Like websites, with all the services we need It’s already to go. **LJ:** I would submit it Friday. **CB:** I’ll read it. **LJ:** I’ll probably send it Thursday afternoon. One item—I took Friday off. **AH:** That would be fine. You do an excellent job and you deserve days off. Mr. Detro, any issues with that? **JD:** Take the rest of the year off. *(Laughter.)* **AH:** We’re not doing anything tomorrow (*Wednesday*). I was curious if the RFQ was the entire building and not just the utilities portion of it. It’s a lot to read through. One more thing—The Public Works Building is coming through at \$4.5M. We’re just going to have to get them built. Michael Beeman thinks it’s going to be \$1M-\$1.5M for utilities. **CB:** For both? **AH:** You go into the Forest Service building, put in valves and stubs. So \$4.5M, then another \$3M to \$4M for the Sheriff’s building with all the stuff that’s in it,

which will fit into the entire bond cost. **CB:** ...I was going to suggest just one but if you think—**AH:** The sand gets iced up. It's just a bad deal. **CB:** I talked to Josh about it. (*Inaudible.*) **AH:** If we shift in the direction to just do utilities up there then we can fit them all together. **CB:** I told Josh we'd definitely get Tonasket in if we figured out the way the road goes (*inaudible*).

AH proposes to adjourn until Tuesday. **LJ:** Tuesday there's a department heads meeting. **CB:** I'd like to be there (*but he has a medical intervention*). **AH:** We'll cancel it then.

2:42 - Meeting adjourned until 8:15 Tuesday morning.