

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday May 31, 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> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Planning Director reports 71 permits have made it through the checklist process in the Methow, 2 current large projects/Moles Lake or Frost Lake and Little Green Lake – emergency dam failure issues. another draft on completed on cannabis zoning review – final review at the end of June and hearing to be scheduled in July – moratorium ends in August. Maintenance moving forward on HVAC units for Dispatch, report from Emergency Services Manager regarding river levels and continuing with fire advisory group – burn ban on June 15th. Report from Fairgrounds Manager; Premium books are out, equipment breakdowns, Agreement (MOU) with Colville Tribe – government to government for use of fairgrounds, considering buying the bleachers; aluminum vs galvanized steel. County Assessor reports another record house sale last week, Office is currently 2 months behind – hope to be caught up by end of August when statements need to go out to taxpayers, discussed exempt land & parcels, also Senior Citizen property tax discount for income of \$40,000 and under. Short discussion on Methow Conservancy Grant on Patterson Lake Road, Bid openings for Salmon Creek Drainage and 2023 Gravel Crushing Project, Public Works Update.

9:04

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director reports being on top of all site analyses and 71 permits through the checklist process in the Methow Valley. Also discusses 2 large projects with the WFDW and D NR – Moles Lake or Frost Lake and Little Green Lake. There are some emergency dam failure issues. PP brings copy of new draft for the 2nd and final review, to be completed by end of June, with hearing scheduled for July.

9:07

Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor would like to order 2 new HVAC units for Dispatch. Waiting for a callback from Sun Belt. They might have a cheaper offer for us.

9:09

Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Manager reports watching the rivers levels, more warm weather

coming. MG gave a presentation to Whatcom County regarding Okanogan's Emergency Management team. MG reports continuing to work with Fair Advisory group.

9:11

MG reports that Dispatch is getting calls re: people burning piles. Burn ban expected to be implemented on June 15th.

9:14

Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager hands out Premium Books. Inside, is the agreement with the Colville Tribe & Okanogan County (government to government) Re: Fairground use, especially racehorse barns.

NP toured Emerald Downs to look at their barns for ideas. They are solid wood walls. NP has been getting bids for bleachers; aluminum and galvanized steel – different prices and different availability. Waiting for a 3rd quote. NP reports tractor and lawn mower problems – needed to rent lawnmower for this last weekend. Also, problems with pipes breaking. She is going to update the lighting at the fairgrounds. This is part of a grant to go to LED lights.

9:58

Larry Gilman (LG), County Assessor gives update. Staff are 2 months behind, hoping to be caught up by end of August when the mailing needs to go out to taxpayers. LG states that last week was another record-breaking week for home sales. LG has a new employee starting next week, who will be getting trained. Currently, 41% of listings are needing to reduce price to sell. LG has talked with Dept of Revenue regarding exempt parcels not counting as a workload for staff. Okanogan County has more exempt parcels – this is a workload. Exempt parcels such as WDFW, DNR, Forest Services, Churches. Senior Citizen exemption status going up to \$42,000.

10:30

Methow Conservancy Farmland Grant to protect 101 acres of farmland along Patterson Lake Road to remain in agricultural production. Letter not needed from BOCC, just there to answer any questions they may have.

AH and CB have extensive discussion regarding communication between the different departments, rather than doing this own lobbying at the state level. BOCC would like to be a part of.

11:00 Bid Opening for CRP no 92216-06 Salmon Creek Drainage, presented by Public Works Shasta Stidman. Sonlund Construction best bid at \$777,625.

11:20 Bid Opening for 2023 Gravel crushing Project with Public Works Shasta Stidman. Schubert Construction comes in the lowest at \$1,153,699.

11:23 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer does Public Works update. He will be at conference next week. Discussed letter regarding Newby Creek – Forest Service would like County to maintain.

JT discussed the new RCO Trails position to be the same as an Engineering Tech. Unsure of Step 1 -5, part time trails, and other duties to create a full-time position. Will be presenting to Okag also. Another position – Capital Budget Managers Position - 75% of position to be grant funded. Will work with HR and Union for this new position.

JT reports on road maintenance; Cameron Lake Road to get 1.2 miles of pavement, Salmon Creek Drainage, 2023 Guardrail Project, Old Hwy 97 in 2024, Toroda Creek Road.

The Shops are beginning to be planned, and windows on hold at Public Works Building.
11:58 Meeting Adjourned until 1:30