

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 22, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1 (in meeting @9:55)

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: Grant for \$81,950 received for fair operations from Wa State Dept of Agriculture 'para mutual' fund, up from previous years, replacing horse gates at the fair – contract awarded. BOCC to attend special meeting on March 31st with Fire Chiefs, along with Emergency Manager. Planning updates: letter from Park Service regarding maintenance of trails at certain public areas. Planning meeting with one more cannabis grower this week, then, will delve into the marijuana section of zoning code. Requesting more \$\$ for training and travel for planning dept. Hearing with budget supplementals. Resolution provided by Auditor and HR updating job descriptions for 2 positions in Auditor's office. Albert Lin will be sworn in as Prosecuting attorney this Friday. His start date is 3/25/2022. Two hearings on cattleguard franchises for French Creek Road – opening gates and putting in cattleguards. Solid Waste Manager: new legislation reducing methane gas – out county exempt for 5 years, update from Public Works on Road maintenance and water project at Mazama Fire District 6. Moving ahead with Area 3 (Winthrop) & Area 5 (Tonasket) shops.

9:00 Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor reporting on boiler tank repair and decommissioning. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to accept bid for \$26,359 with tax included.

JP also reaching out to engineers and jail regarding geo-thermal energy. Also reaching out to Culligan for water problem at the Hancock Building.

9:10 Naomie Peasley (NP), fairgrounds manager. Reports getting grant from Wa USDA for \$81,950 – up from last year considerably. AH discusses whether this is 'para mutual' monies and how to include in budget – budget supplemental. NP also expecting to receive \$49,000 from Public Health for rental of the Agriplex. Also replacing horse gates. Moved, seconded, and carried authorizing NP to purchase from 'Equinox' lowest bidder.

9:23 On another project, bid for electrical work too high, NP suggests BOCC reject this and NP will

move forward with advertising for the work to be done, with more information given. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to reject bid as is \$70,000 over projected amount.

9:24 Maurice Goodall (MG) back regarding March 31st meeting with fire chiefs. This will be an open public meeting. 10:30AM in the Commissioners Room.

9:27 – went into executive session under 42.30.110 l(i) potential ongoing litigation with Planning Director Pete Palmer and Esther (?). ***** until 9:38

9:45 Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director received letter from Park Service for some trail maintenance of public areas. AH requests PP to see what Park Service is needing from the County.

Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize PP to send for an RFQ consultant for zone codes. PP states that they have one more meeting with cannabis grower this week. This will give us a better idea so we can delve into the marijuana section of zoning code. PP also states that it would be helpful to have \$5,000 more for training and travel expenses.

9:51 PP met with Lorah Super, Methow Valley Citizens Council (MVCC) for some ideas on how the get people to volunteer for the advisory groups.

9:55 *Chris Branch arrives*

LJ discusses budget supplemental allocating additional revenue to be put into reserve fund

9:57 Tanya Everett (TE) HR/Risk Manager and Cari Hall (CH) Auditor in to discuss resolution they jointly worked on updating job description of 2 positions in the Auditors Office, changing the title and pay scale. Resolution 37-2022 – BOCC moved, seconded, and carried to accept this resolution.

Some discussion between AH and CH regarding the \$81, 950 received for the Fairgrounds and how to put into the budget. Also, some Bond discussion.

10:07 CH explains there will be an exit conference with State Auditor along with recommendations.

TE has the resolution appointing Albert Lin, County Prosecuting Attorney, he will be sworn in this Friday. Shellie and TE will be at a conference in Wenatchee.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve 36-2022 resolution appointing Albert Lin 3/25/2022.

TE has also updated contract with Susan Bauers (*temporary District Court Judge*) to start sometime in April. TE has been attempting to recruit for judge/attorney positions by reaching out to Gonzaga University.

10:20 CB looks at some old resolutions, opinions (1954) showing Ok County Fair as nonprofit private corporation.

Lengthy discussion between AH and CB regarding fundraising for the Fair Queen and how to handle this funding.

10:36 LJ brings up a letter she has received from North Central ATV Group with a list of routes they would like to see open to ATVs in the Methow Valley. This was also sent to Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer.

LJ has also met with ADT for safety door systems in Planning, Emergency Management, and Jail Admin Office, and the Jail/court room. Needs to be approved.

LJ also brings up the need for Legal review of Code for Code Publishing. What would BOCC like to

do? CB would like to move forward with this. It is a one-time cost. LJ – mostly falls on Planning Dept
LJ explains the sites where the Park Service is asking for County cooperation on trail maintenance;
Winthrop Barn, Oroville Library, Tonasket - 3rd & Whitcomb.
LJ has also prepared resolutions for public hearings today.

10:50 Public Hearing for the Budget Supplemental moving \$1,500,000 altogether to contingency reserve, no public comment. Moved, seconded, and carried to approved.

11:00 Public Hearing on Cattleguard Franchise 1-22, Gamble Land & Timer OCR #1543. Presented by Public Works Staff member, Anna Randolph (AR). No public comment. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve.

11:04

Ken Kovalchenko (KK) Solid Waste Manager gives report on recent bill passed by the Legislature reducing methane gas. Due to size of our county population, this won't affect us for the next 5 years. There is a lot to learn about this.

KK also reports that we still have telephone poles from fires and a pile of chips to get rid of. AH states this needs to be surplus.

11:15 Public Hearing on Cattleguard Franchise 2-22 with Cascade Holdings, OCR # 1545 presented by AR. Public comment – Was this a new or renewal of cattleguard? It is new. CB explained this is in relation to removing gates on the French Creek Road and putting in cattleguards. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve.

11:18 Josh Thomson, (JT) County Engineer reported on maintenance and road conditions. Also, security issues. All vehicles are locked up for the night to be more secure.

Mazama Fire District 6 has site plan, Public Works in wanting to get out there. Short discussion of transfer of the small County parcel to the Fire District. AH wanted to know the benefit. It is, apparently, just .1 acres. CB doesn't find it important to sell this possibility if the benefits have to be explained. JT states that we could do an MOU with the Fire District.

JT reports that they are working on beginning the Area 3 & Area 4 shops. Moving ahead with designer to put together plans. Tonasket water is gravity flow.
Some discussion of budgeting for the HVAC and upcoming Bond payment.

11:34 Meeting adjourned until 1:30