

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday July 27, 2021, AM**

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2 By Zoom

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. Notetaker 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](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 on screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

**Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: fire updates, fairground updates; staff hired, budgeting discussions, update from Assessors' Office, Reclassifications of positions in maintenance and the fairgrounds, Discussion with County Resident & County Engineer regarding maintenance on B&O Road West, Solid Waste update, Road work and barricades in relation to current fire activity; Cedar Creek & Cub Creek Fires.**

9:00 Discussion of current fire behavior in the Methow Valley with AH,

9:04 – Update from Naomie Peasley(NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – New office staff hired. Will be able to recruit help for upcoming County Fair and work with Vendors. Also, 2 Worksource workers to supervise.

NP states that Public Works is back on board for dust control at the Fair. Also, has been working with independent engineer, Dave Williams, for consult on well. He will also be go-between to insurance co.

9:10 – Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor – 8X8 Gates for the north end of fairgrounds need to be completed. Quotes already given to BOCC - \$870.

AH states that gate need to be fixed.

Moved seconded, and carried to accept the quote. There is discussion of how to pay for this as fair budget is overspent.

JP – BOCC has already approved Hopper box for Beef Barn, but hasn't been purchased yet.

Also, some discussion regarding HVAC system bids for Public Works Bldg.

9:24 - \*\*\*\*Executive session with Dave Gecas, Deputy Attorney, re ongoing litigation. \*\*\*\*\*  
Moved, Seconded, and carried to do this under 42321-210-li until 9:53

10:00 Staff from Assessors Office for update – Jan Million, Chief Deputy, along with Stevie (other staff member) for quarterly update. Finished out annual evaluation, looking at 44 files with 30 taxpayers appealing their values. Mass appraisal process does not apply to all taxpayers. Has generated a lot of calls.

Also importing has been completed for zoning in County through Contractor.

CB asks how a person could find their zone. Jan Million states to refer people to planning. Map does not give that kind of information.

Also, budget supplemental needed as new vehicle being purchased.

No other questions

Staff report ended 10:06

LJ states the board of equalization will be meeting on Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> and could hear 9 appeals. Crystal (new deputy clerk) to be covering this meeting.

10:09 Discussion between AH & CB regarding water rights for Subdivisions. To do something contrary to current zoning, would need to go through planning development process – pay fee for this for higher density areas. AH – people have been doing this with positive results. If you do a planned development application, you could possibly do overnight rentals. This gives people (who purchase) knowledge of their purchase, ahead of time.

10:15 – AH & CB discuss wildfire planning.

10:22 – FEMA & State need to review the Hazard Mitigation Plan – BOCC does not adopt until these reviews have been completed. This could give more time for public comments.

10:30 – Tanya Everett (TE), Human Resource Specialist and Risk Manager, brought 3 Resolutions to be approved by BOCC moving Positions to Fairgrounds, Re-Classification of Event Coordinator, and Re-Classification of Fairgrounds Manager to capture the over-seeing of other maintenance staff.

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More discussion regarding budgets regarding these upgrades, costs, and how to budget.

TE states that the difference in pay will amount to \$8705 for the rest of the year.

There is about \$9,000 in overtime in the budget for the fair.

The new salary for Maintenance Supervisor of Fairgrounds will be \$74,731 per year and \$81,310.

These will be changed to exempt employees.

10:53 – 89-2021 & 90-2021.

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to accept 2 of the resolutions, with TE bringing the 3<sup>rd</sup> back with budget info attached. (91-2021)

10:59 – Approved City of Brewster reimbursable work for Chip Seal to \$70,000. Moved, Seconded, and carried.

11:00 – Discussion with Doug Ralston, Resident of B&O Road West and Josh Thomson (JT) County Engineer regarding change in the road maintenance on this road. Previously, there had been a 'handshake' agreement with Public Works Supervisors regarding turning around at Resident Doug Ralston's place, whereby plowing more of the road. JT states the County Road stops at .77 miles per 1953 & 1955 road list. There was some change in 1966 and then, 1980 (was the handshake agreement) Mr. Ralston maintains the County should maintain to 1.12 miles. He has lived there since 1952. He is asking to go to the turnaround again.

JD states there is enough of a discrepancy that we might need to talk with the County Civil Deputy about this.

11:29 More discussion. AH wants to go out and see the situation before making a decision.

AH and JT will go to see the road this coming Monday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. Would also like to include the Public Works Supervisor. Mr. Ralston would like to be part of this. He will be included.

11:40 – Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Supervisor is representing small counties on the Statewide Organic Management/Climate Change Committee along with 70 other people, stakeholders. This has been in response to a new law in California.

11:48 – There are private companies doing composting in other places. JD states Mukilteo was spending millions of dollars when material could be disposed of much cheaper than that (*composting, possibly*)

KK states there is a big concern of whether there is a good stable market for this.

JD also mentioned Bio-Char for utilizing burned chips.

KK reports that people are liking the new computer program at the landfill. Also discussed treated posts that need to be repurposed. It was discussed to put a price on these and surplus.

LJ states that a resolution is needed to surplus.

12:00 – JT gives update on Public Works involvement with the fires in the Methow. Others express concern over McClure Mountain – one of the County's Communication Towers.

JT states chip seal is going well. A federal road grant application is due this Friday – working on that.

12:07 – Cari Hall, County Auditor and other staff member come in to talk with BOCC regarding their approval of Superior Court's travel, which included an upgrade on air fare. Needing to know that, for sure, before making out a new payment. Auditor will document and do an AP for this.

Auditor states no ballots yet because all areas are not getting one.

Meeting Adjourned 12:13