

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday November 9, 2021, AM**

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1  
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice 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](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: ongoing discussions/planning with Superior Court regarding move to the Forest Service Building and meeting with architect consultant, new staff hired in Planning Dept to start next week, right now, down 4 staff members due to Covid. Other updates from Planning, contract with (Lotus?) for record retention services, also approving contract with Methow Watershed Foundation, changes in Comp Plan timelines due to DEIS – Public hearing is 11/29, fairgrounds updates, tree removal needed, update with County Treasurer, County Auditor Update; election went well, licensing has slowed down, has been working with vendor on new computer system that is more robust and user friendly, will do a lot of things the current Eden system unable to do, New system is UNIS and would be the official core county financial system, other counties are utilizing this software as well, Solid Waste update and update on road maintenance and conditions.**

Starting at 8:20 with the BOCC and Ok Co Superior Court; Judge Culp, Dennis Rabidou, and Mary Horner, along with Michael Beaman (MB) (Architect consultant) on Zoom regarding new Forest Service Building and making it functional for the courts, much discussion about getting infrastructure to building, but can maybe utilize before all needed work is done. Maybe some interim projects

8:35 AH concerned about putting too much work on the County Maintenance Dept due to small dept. Judge Culp states that decision has to be made by this Friday for holding court.

08:41 AH states that we need to figure out the bonding. JD talks about budget supplemental for the architectural consultant.

8:54 It is possible the Clerk's office will move. Charleen Grooms (CG) Clerk's Office states that she doesn't have enough information about the new space. MB states that he will work on interim things

but needs to chat with Dennis Rabidou before coming up with a proposal. AH & CB would like to involve Josh Thomson, County Engineer in this project – maybe oversee. More discussion regarding the budgeting with respect to the project (FS Bldg) and the discussion ended at 9:08.

9:13 – Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director provides updates; new staff member that will start next week. They are down 4 staff members due to Covid. 2 have come back to work.

9:15 AH wonders whether when the County has bigger projects that are going through Planning Dept, if we can contract for help. PP thinks good idea. CB states he is a little hesitant to jump at more staffing.

PP talked about what she found when the hearing examiner was hired regarding subdivision and plan development. She is checking to see if we (planning Dept) can do a text amendment without a hearing.

9:19

PP explains contract with Lotus for Record Retention Service, putting on an external drive and what the cost is. \$50,000. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve this and authorize the Chair to sign the contract.

9:21

PP also concerned about bill from Watershed Foundation. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Methow Watershed Foundation contract – all BOCC signatures needed on this.

9:25 short discussion regarding the Riverbank program. Transferring of surface water to underground rights.

9:29

PP explains need for change in the Comp Plan scheduled; November 10<sup>th</sup> – open for public comment until 12/10. Public hearing is now scheduled for 11/29 with planning commission. BOCC will need to utilize ½ of the day on both sides of a public hearing scheduled for 10:00 that day.

9:34 Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager reports 2 applicants for position at the fair.

Doors are not working on pickup trucks; they have secured a leaf machine and stump remover.

9:41 NP – Tree removal needs to be done ASAP. Causing problems AH asks PP to get bids together for the tree removal and bring to the BOCC. Also, NP reports on new security system but needs approval by BOCC to extend to her and Kyle's phones.

9:57 Joe Poulin (JP), maintenance manager reports on courthouse parking lot lighting repair.

10:00 – update with County Treasurer, Leah McCormack (LM) Numbers are good for the first ½ of the year and expects the same for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

10:08 LM talked about Country Treasurers Assoc group submitting legislation explaining unfunded mandates are difficult for county governments.

Treasurer's report lasted until 10:20.

10:20 – Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor, also with Lisa Schreckengost (LS) other staff member they are finalizing General Election results. There were a lot of observers and volunteers of which she really appreciated. Elections going smoothly.

Licensing has slowed down. CH is conducting interview this Friday for staffing.

10:25 CH reports that the Auditors Office, Treasurers Office, and HR have observed a new computer system (UNIS) that would replace EDEN. This is more user friendly, cable driven, and reliable. This could be the core county financial system. It is around \$500,000. This could/should be shared with other departments, especially Public Works. Per CH, most counties are going to this system.

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager and Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer to give updates.

11:05 – KK will be attending conference in Spokane. They have completed a liner repair, Solid Waste is short 1 employee at the landfill. Compactor has been down for 6 weeks, may need to purchase new and/or limp along with this one

11:11 JT reports on maintenance and road conditions.

Snow today, trying not to plow dirt roads as they are not frozen yet.

Resolution 141-2021 was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the annual road projects for 2022. Chiliwist Road will be paved another ½ mile.

Moved seconded and carried to approve resolution 142-2021 promoting person from engineering tech assistance to the tech position.

\*\*\*\*There was a 10 minute executive session with JT regarding Union negotiation strategies. \*\*\*\*

11:28 JT discusses intersection in Mazama is a safety issue.

Conconully sewer system not increasing rates, however the city is increasing theirs.

JT discusses sand filtration system that is being paid for through Home Owners Association, so County may not charge for a year.

11:36 Fire Dist 6 working on their well.

JT states the only thing on the Consent agenda is the Beaman LLC contract for consultation services with Public Works.

11:37 CB and AH discuss with JT about whether he might be able to oversee the Forest Service building project, can he fit into his workload. Beaman LLC will be here the week after next and BOCC would like JT to be part of the planning for this.

BOCC would be delegating decision making to JT for the FS/Court Building project.

JT states that it sounds good and he had heard that a water main needed to be repaired.

11:47 Meeting Adjourned.

Public Health meeting at 1:30. 3:30 public hearings scheduled back in Commissioners Meeting Room.