

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 16, 2021 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of 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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%20Minutespage.html>.

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:

Fairgrounds updates; quotes for repairs/painting/roof repair Arts & Crafts Bldg, possibly extending Superior Court contract for Agriplex, recent break in at fair office. financial committee meeting with Treasurer and Auditor. Public hearing on utility franchise, Public Works Updates

9:09 Quorum with Jim DeTro and Chris Branch in attendance.

9:10 Joe Poulen – Maintenance Supervisor with quotes for repair of Arts & Crafts Building, and roofing for the Commercial Building; upgrade of electrical in Arts & Crafts Bldg. 1 bid doing entire work, and another for lights only with Staff installing.

JD would like to wait until Andy Hover is here and looks over the quotes.

CB would need to to and take a look himself.

Also, Restrooms need upgrading.

9:35

LJ – Does L&I need to inspect this work?

Answer is yes

Joe Poulen also asking for some work clothing, boots for fairgrounds staff.

CB suggests shirts with color and county logo making it easier to identify staff.

9:38

Naomie Peasley – Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – Superior Court is interested in extending their contract for the AgriPlex until September 1st.

Other events are scheduled for this time.

This makes the upgrade to the Arts & Crafts Building all the more urgent.

JD – Phase 3 of Governor's re-opening plan is 3/22

NP – Installation of security system has been pushed out to April 9th. Drop box in front of office was broken into again. Nothing taken. There were 2 break-ins last year with money stolen. NP will notify Auditor when something like this happens, whether there is anything stolen or not.

NP suggests a home security camera in the meantime. Camera is \$49.97.
JD & CB say yes, order a camera.

Fairground Race tracks are already being used. There is a need for porta-potties.

9:48

LJ – there are 3 positions that need to be filled on the Methow Valley Watershed Council; positions 1,2 &4. These need to be appointed; Alysa Jumars, Gregg Nott, Mike Fort are suggested.

CB & JD would like to run these by Andy Hover, (*who is absent today*)

10:00

Finance Committee Report/Discussion with Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH), Auditor and Lisa, Staff member.

There are very few revenues that come in February. Now, through April will be a busy time.

Current revenues and expenses reviewed. Marriage licenses are down – people unable to have weddings during Covid shutdown. More concealed weapons permits issued.

LM: suggests that the jail expenses and revenues is one to watch. This past year has been very different for them.

Fairground revenues are down, Prosecuting Attorney's office is doing okay.

10:18 Receipts are hard to target at this time.

LJ & CH in communication over CARES \$\$ - matching up what was billed for. Everyone is interested in the new funds from current stimulus package \$8.2 Million to Ok County. Need to know what money is intended for, strings attached.

10:24 – JD states this money is coming directly through county and not through Dept of Commerce

LM – on a side note, She was notified when the Federal Reserve was down a few days ago. Kept checking on the site. Finally, 3 sites were up but the Federal Reserve was down for a day.

JD - “This is a test run”

10:28 – LM wondering if there are any upcoming financial decisions that we should know about.

LJ – The Washington Preservation Trust Grant get approved. The county may need to put more \$\$ aside for that.

LJ – BOCC met with Loomis Fire Dept. as they are applying for a block grant to build new firehouse. Feasibility study due at the end of March.

10:32 – Discussion of Contract Review Form versus the Agenda Bill form. Needs some clarification for staff as this is confusing. Agenda Bill form has always been submitted to the board. Contract Review needs to accompany (especially) new contracts. It lets the Commissioners know who all has reviewed and signed off on the request.

Suggestion to explain to department heads at their meeting for questions and answers.

10:48 LJ received notice of CBCG grant webinar next week – Monday 11 to 12:00.

11:00 Public Hearing for Aston Estates Utility Franchise with Jo Ann Stansbury from Public Works. Domestic water association has applied for this to upgrade water lines.

No public comment. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve.

11:04 - Josh Thomsen (JT), County Engineer, Public Works

There is quite a bit of grading of roads going on. Things are thawing out.

There are problems with the bid for the Hwy 97 repair work. DOT denied this. There will be an appeal. This was lowest bid.

11:13 – JT discussed upcoming projects. The cost of building material is going up.

CB suggesting to put together a list of priority projects to release to Patty Murray, Congresswoman for consideration of infrastructure funds. Maybe we can get some bridges on that list.

Discussion of retirees from Transportation Commission and the CRAB board.

11:30 Meeting adjourned.