

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, March 1, 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/Commissioners/Minutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.html>

Time stamps 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: Ongoing discussion of Comp Plan/Zoning with clarifications, Yakama Nation lawsuit impressions, Change of agenda for afternoon, and schedule changes for next week, letter State Dept of L&I- composed and signed by BOCC in support of small businesses in the County regarding Covid regulations/penalty, also sending this for news release, Broadband study results for Methow Valley.

9:10 – CB and AH in discussion regarding Capital Facilities Plan vs Capital Improvement Plan and plan for financing. Annexing of land to municipal governments with need for infrastructure to be in place, Comprehensive Plan issues /county/city partnerships planning, Good coordination between these entities needed.

9:25 – AH has completed letter in support of small business within the COVID regulations. Concerned about the disparity between large businesses and small businesses. This will be sent to Wa State L&I

9:35 – discussion of perception of the Yakama Nation lawsuit regarding water issues. Both AH and CB do not like the wording used by the Appeals Court Judges.

AH – We should have probably asked for more time. The lawsuit is about documents. CB- doesn't like insinuation of social injustice.

AH – Our fishery, up here, affects the Yakama Tribe.

9:42 – LJ – suggested changes to the Agenda for this afternoon. Pete Palmer has nothing to report today. Auditor would like to meet with BOCC regarding Public Employee issue – probably needs to be Executive Session. This is not scheduled at 2:00 this afternoon.
There is still the 3:00 hearing on FIREWISE supplemental budget.

9:45 – LJ – Chelan/Douglas Pest Control will meet with BOCC tomorrow @3:00. Kayla Wells will schedule for after that.

LJ states that the Zoom will be set-up for this Wednesday @1:30 in case there is additional time needed

Pete Palmer, Planning sent something to CB regarding Water Application or interpretation. May need executive session.

9:53 – AH & CB discuss whether to have a BOCC hearing after the Planning Hearing on Comp Plan. AH concerned about changes that may need to have hearing for, after the Planning Hearing.

9:57 – Moved, Seconded, and carried to send letter of support for the Caribou Restaurant (all small businesses) to Washington State L&I. AH & JD want the letter attached to the minutes. AH also wants to do a new release with the letter. CB states that sending to news outlets will help so that the BOCC is not misunderstood.

10:05 – JD & CB discuss helping the Planning Dept be the buffer between the Dept of Ecology and the public/their customers.

10:13 – AH – discusses Mazama Water Quality testing. Maybe this is something the County could offer people. The concern is nitrates and cyanide in the drinking water.

10:25 – CB tells others that it appears that Okanogan County may be getting 8 Million dollars from the newest federal stimulus package which has not been passed by the Senate yet, only the House.
CB will be at a meeting at noon today to discuss this.

Some discussion of the sales tax decline during pandemic closures. Our County has seen an increase.

10:43 – Moved, Seconded, and carried to sign letter of small business support to L&I. LJ to send an e-mail, and also by mail. Also, to send letter to news outlets.

LJ – Do you want to send to the director first, get the response, and then to the News outlets? Yes

11:05 – Don Linnertz and Frederic Feit reporting on Methow Valley Broadband action team recommendations/results

The County matched the Grant with \$8,333 with Twisp Works.

There is a state goal of 150 megabytes per second on both upload and download. \$43 million to get everyone set-up.

11:54 – Questions and answers from this presentation; AH wants to see the County broken into pieces for prioritizing, especially school children. CB – prioritize where the need is. This would need to be included in the Comp Plan.

12:00 Adjourn for lunch