

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday December 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 a 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: Continued discussion of utilizing ARPA funds, Maintenance getting quotes for light of parking lot of FS building and Public Works/Public Health, some discussion of Douglas County Commissioners unwillingness to pay bill for utilizing the Ok Co Jail, discussion of whether to recommend Judge Grim for State Supreme Court appt, HR/ Risk Management update, Discussion with Economic Alliance re: possible projects for ARPA funds; broadband, water projects. Public Works update: Continues discussion of timelines for bonding.**

9:00

LJ reports working on infrastructure and ARPA funds for State audit, main thing is not getting the Board of Equalization within 30 days time period. Will be working on processes for the next year.

9:05

Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor, brought bids for the lighting on the parking lot @ FS Building – AKA Justice Center, and Public Works/Public Health. Needs to go back to Kruse Electric to get bid for same kind of lighting as other bid. Rec'd transfer switch for courthouse generator. May need to decommission other tank. AH will give JP name of contractor he has been speaking with. JP has been dealing with cold spots in the Courthouse building.

9:38 some discussion regarding contract with Douglas County on jail cell rental. CB states there is a need to have communication with the Sheriff's office and Douglas County BOCC.

9:45 – JD asks CB whether he has given more thought to a letter of recommendation for Judge Grim to be appointed to State judge position. CB doesn't know enough about Judge Grim to make that recommendation. *It seems as though JD and AH want to write him a recommendation, but will probably do it on their own, but as County Commissioners).*

9:50 Some discussion of Disabled Veterans, volunteer group.

10:00

Update from HR/Risk Manager, Tanya Everett (TE), lots of current public records requests creating more of a workload, office is busy getting new pay scales updated. Also, discussed about the LTC tax deduction that is beginning. The Governor was delaying the action, but he does not have the authority to change the law, per TE. Therefore, withholding for LTC.

10:04

Chairman of the Board and Sheriff's meeting happened regarding the Douglas County Jail billing. No one knew about the issue with Douglas County BOCC until reading it in the paper. TE will forward the contract to the BOCC for their review. There has been no formal letter from Douglas County. This can be discussed at the Dept heads meeting this afternoon.

10:09

BOCC approved the amended proceedings of Dec 13, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also approved the Consent agenda as it stands & approved voucher for \$113,964. and Public Health voucher for \$47,145.

10:30

Discussion with Roni Dieffenbach (RD), Director of Economic Alliance, regarding use of ARPA funding for some identified projects; broadband and water projects around the county. Economic Alliance has a current technology program which does outreach to small businesses, especially during the Pandemic closures – from a USDA grant. Could use ARPA funds to continue this service as ends in June 2022. RD is coming up with a list of properties for sale/lease for new businesses. There is a current study being completed for all areas of the county from a \$ 135,000 grant for business recruitment.

Identified projects for either broadband or water issues are in the Methow Valley, Oroville, Brewster, Omak sand flats, North Pine Creek Road, AH is very interested in these possibilities, especially if it is just for the 10% match needed.

RD will follow up with BOCC and update list and where the project is now. CB has a personal goal of getting all the ARPA funds allocated by the end of January.

11:13 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer gives update on Public Works. Getting caught up with the snowplowing. There have been some complaints.

11:20 JT reports prioritizing safety areas around the county, accidents, etc.

Also, there is a new data base they are utilizing, and are attempting to determine if the new computer system will be adaptable to their needs, speaking with other counties,

11:27 BOCC discuss amongst themselves the timeline for building projects and need for bonding.

11:38 Meeting adjourned.