

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

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

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

Jim DeTro (JT) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie John (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 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:**

BOCC authorizes Okanogan County Community Coalition to use Commissioners' hearing room for their DUI panel, as long as the capacity is within the parameters for Covid guidelines. Updates on Covid Vaccinations at the fairgrounds & other fairground updates, Pest Board duties and increase in tax on affected lands – whether a benefit to landowner or not, Due to new law, Auditors Office could be open for other counties' elections whether we have an election slated or not. We do have an April election, Watershed/water rights discussion, Public Works update, Discussion of other uses for Bio-Char.

9:00 Treasurer office cancels their update due to credit card issues (?)

9:03 – LJ - request from Okanogan County Community Coalition requesting use of the BOCC hearing room for their victim survivor/DUI panel. They are unable to meet due to 25% occupancy at this time. Some discussion, Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize them to use the hearing room for their panel as long as this is within the parameters of the Covid guidelines. 25% occupancy of hearing room should be 60 people.

9:06 – Maurice Goodall, Emergency Services Manager – update on the Covid vaccinations at the fairgrounds. Going well, more to come- this Friday.

Unsure if they'll be able to keep up with the demand once we move into new phases of the vaccination plan. Logistics discussed regarding routing of traffic. Need to be sure and work around the Superior Court, whom is using the Agriplex for court.

9:15 - Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager has waiver paperwork for the Board to review and sign – regards use of the fairgrounds for the Covid vaccination. CB suggest that it may need to be reviewed by David Gecas, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Also updates on upcoming projects and meeting with the Washington Fair Association. Pushing for Senate Bill 5362, relating to funding County Fairs in the

State.

Also, need to continue upgrade RV park to get a better customer rating. Maybe have fire pits – gas or other.

Court will continue to use AgriPlex for court until June 2021.

9:35 - \*\*\*\*\*Executive Session for 15 minutes with Dave Gecas and Dan (?)\*\*\*\*\*

9:57 – CB having difficulty keeping up with the Treasurers Report.  
40 credit cards have been affected.

CB also asked about Article 2 of the Comprehensive Plan. AH states this is on the agenda for next week to discuss.

10:00 – Discussion of Pest Board duties to classify all land in Okanogan County & determine who is benefitted by the classification of the land. Still collecting taxes on affected parcels. \$113,000 in reserve. Will increase tax from \$225 to \$285 per 10 acres This would need to be explained in a hearing and approved by the Board.

AH – for example, the Methow is a quarantine area. What good would it do for them to be taxed for the Pest Control District? Some will and will not be benefitted.

LJ – this is in cooperation with other entities for controlling pests: the State and the Tribe

10:22 some discussion of missing Application deadlines for LPAC funding d/t Covid. The Board wants to send a letter out with a new deadline for applications. Letter also for meeting on February 26.

10:27 – Cari Hall – Auditor updates; the office is running smoothly since the cyber attack. However, they are still having to record manually.

New law for Universal Registration which requires Auditors' office to give ballot to residents outside Okanogan County if they need one. Also, this means that on election day, the Auditors Office needs to be open and staffed, even when there is no election in this county. This new law is an 'unfunded mandate'. Luckily there are 2 certified, salaried employees that are not overtime eligible that can do this for today's election (not in this county).

10:33 Cari Hall – Fair is part of county. Can County pay lodging to a vendor? Yes and no, it depends. When trainers come here, their transportation and lodging is included in the cost. This gets paid. If the person lives in the county, then you don't have to pay lodging costs.

Senate Bill -5148 makes it a Class B felony to threaten election officials – BOCC is supporting this. Any public servant should not be threatened.

10:40 BOCC discusses Waterhed/Water Rights issues.

11:00 No Bid today for CRP 9155-19 Old 97

11:00 – Josh Tomsen, County Engineer, Public Works – updates on road conditions.  
Computer system recovery - still need to replace files. Culvert projects

11:12 CB – sub areas planning groups need to be acknowledged.

AH – they are a diverse group of people.

11:15 JT – Sewer system in Mazama – county is involved due to proximity of County Road.

11:25 – JT – Tom McCoy looking into other uses for Bio-Char, May be helpful to allow a mile or so of county road to be used as a demonstration.

It has not been proven yet.

11:30 Meeting adjourned to reconvene at 3:00 after the Board of Health Meeting.