

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday September 28, 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. Not 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

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:

Met with Superior Court Administrator regarding upcoming purchase of Forest Service Building- purchase & sale agreement signed with earnest money; need for Commissioners meeting room for Jury selection in upcoming trials; Planning Department Director updates on Comprehensive Plan scheduling; building permit moratorium and meeting with Marijuana farms, Shoreline development permit has education feature; Emergency Services Manager readies for removing burn ban – hopefully, to coincide with DNR, resolution needed; Mass vaccine this Friday; request from County Fairgrounds Manager for FT or PT year-round position, Public Health Director and Emergency Services Manager discuss Covid capability of medical facilities, planning for emergency but staffing is the issue – here and nationwide, 9 deaths in the last 15 days – one is vaccinated. Unable to do contact tracing from fair, - only 1 so far, Public works update and purchases.

Court Administrator meets with BOCC – CB explained to DR that purchase and sale agreement completed for the Forest Service. It is to close no later than November 10th. \$50,000 Earnest Money – 5 days to issue this.

CB suggests walk through today at 3:30.

8:24 – JD arrives, DR reports that the Commissioners Room is needed 10/25-26, and 11/1-2.

8:38 – JD & CB approve payroll vouchers for \$145,050 and Public Health Vouchers for \$31,574
Also, LJ reports that she has heard back from all Departments on the Budget.

8:58 – Pete Palmer, Planning Director: Yesterday, received corrected draft from Comp Plan. She will be revising it and then sending it back to the Planning Commission, who will be having a workshop on

October 25th and then the public hearing.

PP-There are some errors on the Building Permit Moratorium so holding that back. Hearing is 10/11/2021 at 1:30 PM.

Property owner upset about building permit moratorium. She has 3 lots, irrigation water and a well for domestic use, and needs her building permit. Discussion as to why this wasn't applied for timely.

9:09 – CB states the moratorium is a problem for quite a few people. That is what the lawsuit is about. He will be happy to talk with her. Landowner states she is not going over the 5,000 gallons per day.

PP- States that the Planning Office has every Wednesday blocked out to meet with Marijuana farms.

9:12 – Shoreline Development Permit is now required to have a short meeting to educate.

9:13 – AH arrives. PP has met with Larry and they will be diving into the Open Space Classification, adding this to their hearing schedule.

AH asks why we are not putting this in a lower priority?

PP also states that some no longer fit the Open Space criteria.

PP to be meeting with Craig McDonald October 4th, 10 AM for RFQ for Methow Watershed Council.

PP also states her office has been getting hit with Covid – 1 positive, 1 quarantined, & there is a tight schedule for Comprehensive Plan.

PP has interviewed 2 individuals for the Planning Technician job and will be creating a site analysis on a marijuana farm for them.

9:20 Maurice Goodall (MG) – discusses the Burn Ban ending this Friday, October 1st, but wants to coordinate with DNR first. Resolution will be needed. BOCC authorizing the BOCC Chair to sign. MG states there will be a mass vaccination this Friday.

Also, October 7th is the Okanogan County Emergency Management Council meeting at 6PM.

(I believe this is on Zoom)

9:32 Naomie Peasley (NP), County Fair Manager on Zoom. They are still doing cleanup at the fairgrounds. Cannot winterize until the pump is fixed, John Hubbard (Driller) will be working with Kyle on this.

PP is working on two different grants and will be submitting another one for roofing.

PP asks if the BOCC has reviewed her budget request. She has asked for a fulltime, year-round position at the fairgrounds. A lot of discussion regarding fairgrounds budget. Per AH it is currently at \$327, 136 for the year 2022. Includes \$120,000 for Maintenance. Fairground revenue is \$103,000.

Are we considering FT or Part time? NP wants to know which might be approved.

9:43 CB shared current budget document with NP. NP suggest that we wait for budget workshop. That will make it more clear on what the budget will be. Current Temporary position ends 9/30.

NP felt good that the Covid outbreak couldn't be traced to the fair. MG states it was clearer with the school children.

10:01 Approved September 20th and 21st minutes. Objective is to keep kids in school and not overburden our healthcare system. There is a 50+% vaccination rate in the County now.

9 people died in the last 15 days – only one has been vaccinated. AH wonders about the statistics for natural immunity once people have contracted the virus. Public Health has not been able to trace that.

CB: talked about the problem with disinformation.

AH: is concerned that anyone disagreeing with mainstream thought is considered a conspiracy theorist.

Also, discussing the political divide regarding Covid.
AH: doesn't believe in mandates however small.

Lauri Jones talked about the Covid money being used for EMS to do health checks. The firefighter that died, chose to isolate. Laurie Jones – of course chronic conditions play into these deaths also. Lauri Jones commended the Fire Camps for following Covid protocol. They did really well.

10:46 Consent agenda approved in its entirety:

1. Supplemental II, 2020 gravel crushing – N Central Testing
2. Bid Award – 2021, Wildfire guardrail repair project
3. Purchase authorization. Snowplow blades – Enterprise Services
4. Awarded purchase of wheel loader to NC Machinery Co
5. Award purchase of 1 motor grader to NC Machinery Co

BOCC also approved LTAC Contract with Ok County Fair, Professional services agreement with Beeman architect, and resolution updating personnel benefits package for Part Time Employees.

11:00 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports on Steam treatment passing DOE verification. Also reports on road conditions; Grading – getting ready for winter.

Upcoming project – the Loup Loup Guardrail.

There are still 2 open positions on the Methow Valley crew.

Not planning on building 2 shops this year – steel buildings.

AH states they are going to Bond for the shops.

JT states that we will proceed with the shops next year. Small works roster is now at \$400,000

There will be a department head meeting at 2:00.

Meeting adjourned.