

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, November 16, 2021 AM**

Present:

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

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 (on Zoom)

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3 (*apparently in attendance by phone on Zoom*)

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 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: new staff member in Planning introduced, fairgrounds update, gas leaks reported, also repair & maintenance budgeting concerns, budget work session for public works and solid waste, bid opening for fuel in 2022, public hearing on Methow Irrigations District utility franchise continued again, update from public works on road maintenance.**

9:00 Planning Director, Pete Palmer (PP) introduces new staff member in Planning Dept. (*unable to catch name*).

Also, referenced e-mail from a Mr. Burkholder regarding Comprehensive Plan. His concern is long term commercial and is unsure of difference between Comp plan and DEIS. He has also asked for a face to face meeting with BOCC and Planning Staff.

9:25 – Naomie Peasley (NP) – Fairgrounds Manager gives update on Zoom as someone is working on their domestic well pump. The fairgrounds does not have good water at this time. NP discussed policies & procedures for the Fair committee, wants to get BOCC review. CB states there is a lot of repetition, CB also mentions the difference between being called a committee vs. a board and what that means.

Saturday, a gas leak was reported. Divco was called and they found the leak in the new boilers they had installed. NP states there are also issues with the boilers not draining correctly. Divco suggested some signage is needed to explain what to do in case of

problems.

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding fairground repair and maintenance being over-budget by \$48,000. AH asks NP to check into that. NP states that she just sends the bills to LJ and she pays them. She does not designate which account to pay out of. Discussion of whose responsibility that is.

9:25 – Joe Poulin (JP) – Maintenance Supervisor is also talking with Divco regarding geothermal heat in the jail. We're needing to control water flow and has contacted a few drillers. CB is concerned about watching out for possible flooding of the Hancock building due to a history of this. Just wants to keep an eye on it.

From 9:30 to 11:00 Budget Work Session on the Public Works and Solid Waste budgets. Cari Hall (CH), Auditor and Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Deputy Auditor along with Josh Thomson (JT) Public Works.

JT reports that oil prices are going up. AH asked what would need to happen to get a bike trail along the roads? JT states would need to get grants and could possibly be eligible for STP funds.

11:00 Bid opening for fuel for Public Works 2022 with staff member Jerry Paul (JP). There are 3 bids in different areas of the county. Coleman Fuel, Whitley Fuel and Connel Fuel.

11:10 opened continued public hearing for Utility franchise renewal for the Methow Irrigation District with JoAnn Stansbury (JS) from Public Works

JS states the information from the Irrigation District has still not been received and recommends one more continuation of the hearing but close the public comments. Moved, seconded, and carried to continue to December 20<sup>th</sup>.