

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday June 13, 2023 AM

Present:

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

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 - (Not in Attendance)

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

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:

- Director of Weed Office and WSU extension working together to lease a new printer/copier
- **HR reports of a possible matching grant program to help with added security costs – County's share would be 15%**, She also reports about a grant program for the jail that ends 6/30, and needs to be renewed
- **There are 3 applicants for a position on the Board of Health.**
- **James DeSalvo of the Methow Trails presented request for repair of the Lower Goat Creek trail bridge. - working with WDFW on permitting and timeline, the estimate for cost of the bridge project is \$84, 490 all inclusive with the non-profit group doing the building. Some of the funds expected to go back to the County**
- County Engineer gives Public Works update: cost over-run for contractor in protest; still working on the Barnholt Loop speed limit change to 25 mph, one more speed study to be completed. Old Hwy 97 road project – paving expected to start on Thursday. Seal Creek complete. ½ way completed on Twisp River overlay project
- **Request by Prosecuting Attorney for another position in their office that could handle appeals and other duties – will present to BOCC next Tuesday when all 3 Commissioners expected to be in attendance.**
- Adjourn at 12:00 noon.

9:16

Meeting opened when there was finally a quorum of BOCC. No public comments.

9:21

LJ talks with JN and AH regarding previous discussions of fire escape routes.

9:25

Larry Hudson (LH) Director of the Weed Program, and Kayla Wells (KW) WSU Extension in to discuss the need for a new shared printer/copier to lease when current lease runs out (8/2023). They have been comparing prices with 3 different vendors and prefer a vendor that they can work with through Kelley Imaging. LH states that the weed board would be willing to take over the agreement. AH asks if there is enough \$\$ in their budgets. LH states yes. We need to order soon (June) because it takes so long to get supplies.

AH discusses with LH about the Weed Board's relationship with BOCC and whether the Weed Board can sign without the BOCC. LJ notes that Kelley Imaging is not the lowest bid. AH cautions that they need to follow the County's purchasing policy. LJ is correct.

LH will talk with Auditor Cari Hall about this.

9:36

BOCC clarifying that Driskell Road is not in Oroville, but along Hwy 97 South

9:40

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Amendment RAP funding for Old Hwy 97 Driskell to Verestar – CRAB
2. Agreement -Communication System – RACOM

9:45

Shelley Keitzman (SK) – HR and Risk Manager reports on a matching grant program for the 2024-2025 years. Based on a certain metric of poverty rate, income, and population, Okanogan County's share would be 15%. This would help with the added security costs at the courthouse. SK sent this information to the entire security committee to consider at the next meeting.

Per SK, there is also a MOUD Grant Program in the jail that ends June 30th and needs to be renewed. SK to revisit Resolution 150-2022 regarding the 2 nursing positions for the jail. We now have new contracts to sign for the nurses.

9:50 – 10:22 AH is out of the room.

10:26

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to pay the \$2,747,000. vouchers

10:28

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the \$83,499.66 vouchers for the Methow Valley EMS District.

10:29

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the \$16,200 vouchers for the Tonasket EMS District

10:30

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the \$9,680 vouchers for the Oroville EMS District

10:50

Public Hearing for the Oroville EMS District Budget Supplemental \$3,000 to help repair the building. No public comment. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 1-2023.

10:52

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the minutes for May 30th.

LJ brings to the BOCC there are 2 applicants for the Board of Health Board; Denise Varner and Isabella. JN also notes there will be a Kelly ? from Pateros applying also.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer gives update for Public Works.

A James DeSalvo,(JDS)Director of the Methow Trails Association is on Zoom and presents request for funding for the footbridge on the Lower Goat Creek. He has spoken with AH about this before. JDS provides photos of the damaged bridge and the plan for restoration repair. This has occurred due to the high flow of water. JDS notes they have help from the LTAC funds. Ok County owns the bridge, but the Methow Trails group maintains. JDS plans include using some of the old wood but also needing some new. Altogether the project cost is \$84,490 all inclusive, with the Trails Association doing the building work. JDS unsure of the concrete costs, so has estimated high for that.

AH asks when the last fire came through there. JDS estimates it was 4 years ago.

AH notes that every single creek was high this year. AH is also part of the LTAC board.

11:14

JDS states they are working with the WDFW on permitting and will have a window of opportunity - determined by the WFDW, during low water, with which to get this completed – hopefully in July or August.

In order to have time to get this budget supplemental done, we will schedule the public hearing for July 3rd. JDS has had difficulties with spending the money ahead of the project. AH states that it will help if we (the County) gets reimbursed.

11:23

JT explains he has a contractor who is protesting a cost over-run of \$154,000. JT will be working this out.

On the Maintenance and road side; Seal Creek Road should be open by the end of the week. Most of the Chip Seal has been completed for the season.

11:25

Regarding the petition to reduce speed limit on Barnholt Road to 25 MPH is still being worked on. At this point, JT would be hard pressed to recommend this reduction – maybe 30 MPH in certain areas. There have been no crashes on the since 2011. He notes they have a standard called 85th percentile – meaning 85% of drivers drive for the road condition. AH also commented that people shouldn't have to be subject to fines at the lower speed if it isn't warranted/. JT offers that they could do another speed study and then come back with a recommendation.

JT reports on the OCOG/Planning position,we are waiting to hear back from Paul(?)

½ of the Twisp River Overlay project is complete.

Paving on the Old Hwy 97 project is scheduled to start on Thursday.

11:38

Albert Lin (AL)-Prosecuting Attorney, Esther Milner (EM)- Civil Deputy, and Teagan Levine (TL) *I believe this is who they stated was in with them.* All from the Prosecuting Attorney office are in to explain the need for another Attorney position to help with the appeals cases and other cases.

11:40

AL notes that other counties have a specific position for appeals cases. TL has been doing some research regarding this. AL notes we have had to really work hard at all the old cases and there are still a lot of pending cases. AL states the new law on drug possession will also have an impact on his office. AL is asking to fund 1 additional position in order to effectively protect the county. This is necessary. AH ask what this position will be doing. AL states the appeals which are constant and non-stop and to

help EM with the Civil side. AH asks whether they have written up a specific job description for this position. AL states no, but we have other job descriptions for (Deputy Prosecuting Attorney) DPA 1's, 2's, and 3's. This would be a DPA 2 , dependent on skill level.

AL draws attention to some highlighted cases that his office has completed since he has taken office. AH brings up the fact that the BOCC can spend money, but needs to be justified expenses that the public would understand.

AH asks AL, How are things going with the new wages we authorized the DPA's and the communication with the Sheriffs office and other agencies. AL feels they are working well with these other departments and had to build back the office when he first took over the office. AL – I work with all law enforcement agencies well. We need to have a good public safety policy. This is a work in progress.

TL comments that if someone else were doing this (appeal) work, it would take the load off of others. This position should cost around \$140,000 per year.

AH would like to wait until next Tuesday when CB will be back to make a decision on this. We need to look at our budget to see how to fund this.

11:52

AL notes with the new Blake Decision, there should be more revenues from the cities. AH & JN want to make sure CB gets to weigh in on this.

AL – Would you like us to come back on Tuesday Morning? LJ to put this on the agenda for 9:20.

JN notes that there is potential for a justice grant also.

Meeting adjourns at 12:00 noon. BOCC will not come back after the BOH meeting.