

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 6, 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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%20Minutespage.html>

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live.streamingofmeetings.php> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Review of travel policy for employee, especially in regards to flying, burn ban along with fireworks ban also, no sale of fireworks, finishing projects with outgoing (term ends Saturday) fairgrounds event coordinator, replacing of HVAC systems at the fairgrounds, jail, and courthouse, and other maintenance items, met with Eric Fritts – Central Services & VA Advisory Board member regarding trainings, Public Works update. Consent Agenda – Contracts.

8:15 – Agenda calls for review of travel policy with Judge Culp and Dennis Rabidou. This began at 8:30.

Discussion of whether Okanogan County had any fires over the weekend. Apparently, none.

8:30 – There is an issue of travel policy with regards to upgrading of seating assignments or other upgrades. This may need to be added to policy as employee upgraded seating arrangement and whether this would/should have been approved. Lots of discussion around this. It seems as though the voucher will need to come back to BOCC to adjust this amount and BOCC will do more to clarify policy. The most economical form of travel would be the base travel price.

AH – The auditor brought this to our attention. Extras need to be authorized by BOCC.

9:00 – Moved, seconded, and carried to bring back the voucher to pay differently.

9:05 – Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Services – discussion of how the fire ban is going, along with the fireworks and emergency notification.

9:10 – Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director – getting information from advisory groups. Wondering whether these groups need to be re-formatted, especially boundaries in the Methow Valley.

PP – We were going to leave this up to the people involved.

AH – Yes, please send this out

9:13 – MG – discussion of communication towers- sparks in the wind. Also, the timing for the PUD turning off electricity when there is a fire.

9:18 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds event coordinator – contract needs to be extended for long term recovery,

LJ – we need to have these specific – not wishy washy.

AH asks NP to prepare the contract.

Naomie Peasley's term ends this Saturday the 10th of July. (due to resignation with 2 weeks notice)

Some discussion between NP and AH regarding electrical rolls that need to be inspected. Or letting RV campers bring their own generators.

9:31 – Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor – brings quotes for the Ag Building, replacement of HVAC unit in the IT department,

AH – courthouse grant received (\$265,000) should cover some of this? \$26,050 budgeted on contingency with \$25,000 match proposed. These are budgeted within the grant money.

Total (HVAC?) project costs \$21,497.

Will talk with Josh Thomson before deciding on the 2 proposals.

AH directs maintenance to get 2 more quotes for the jail upgrade.

JP also discusses upgrading the bathrooms at the fairgrounds for the upcoming fair. Needs a more long term upgrade, but just a band aid for now.

10:00

CB states that it would be good to have a meeting with Naomie Peasley – fairgrounds event coordinator, before she leaves.

LJ pulls up maintenance budget for 1 maintenance tech and 1 coordinator.

AH does not like overtime usage – it makes people tired/burned out especially in the heat.

10:30 – Eric Fritts, Central Services & Advisory Board discusses training asked for. Would like to keep it to 6 weeks, rather than the 8 weeks requested. Will talk with Tanya (HR) about this.

10:57 – Josh Thomson, County Engineer – Public Works Update; chip seal in the Methow and down towards Brewster. In Malott next week.

Doing alternating areas.

AH asks whether we can get a petition to not pave a road. Some Mazama residents are interested in not having their road paved.

AH comments that he knows the Chiliwist would like to have theirs paved.

JT – more updates with road work. Old 97 finishing – will be done by Friday – doing some seeding.

Also, he has talked with Eric Johnson about rules regarding federal funding monies.

Example: could we use some of the money from the Mazama water quality fund to fix the septic system? It will cost around \$100,000 to fix this system.

JT also working on other projects for funding.

Contract items on consent agenda

11:27 Adjourn for lunch