

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday April 27, 2021 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2
Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

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/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions:

Emergency Services update, fairgrounds update/leaky roof, discussion of Waterbank options/problems-need for code and planning, update from Assessor's Office; changing retail values vs assessed valuations & annual assessments for better alignment, also state requirement changes, discussion of taxing overnight rentals in the county as Property Tax, Solid Waste update, extending waiver of tipping fees for another month, and public works update/magnesium/chloride treatment to some dirt roads to begin to today..

9:03 – Received correspondence from family who pays respects to family members at the Anglin Cemetery in the North County. Unable to access as private property and gated. Discussion determined this was not established by the County.

9:06 – Update from Maurice Goodall, Emergency Services Manager – has been receiving calls regarding whether there is a county wide burn ban. DNR has burn ban on some of their lands.

He has a proposed meeting in Ellensburg called by the Governor. Was wondering whether to fly as would be quicker and not take so much work time out of his day. Discussion of travel costs. If no policy, may need to implement one.

Using water truck, a lot, at the fairgrounds due to the amount of dust.

9:30 – Joe Paulsen (JP), Maintenance Supervisor – Fairgrounds update; finishing lighting. Hole in the roof – needs to talk with contractor.

9:48 – JD – Did we get the new water truck?
JP – it will be delivered tomorrow morning.

9:50 water systems need to be upgraded per JP.

9:55 Discussion of Waterbank lease/purchase in the Methow River. Correspondence from Melanie.

10:02 – Larry Gilman, County Assessor – Quarterly Update, Adopting 1% rule except for schools. Market value is changing so quickly, it is difficult to keep up the assessed value, Will be doing annual assessments in some areas.

Due to WRIA ordinance, water moratorium, (all closed basins) have decreased value 25%, but then the properties are still selling for higher, even without ability to get new water. Cites numerous examples of assessed value vs sale price.

New changes, such as annual assessments, are keeping office staff extremely busy.

10:20 – costs of mailing and professional services have increased Office is down 4 staff.

Difficult to get 52,000 records completed in a year.

10:35 – LG continues to report on need for equalizing open space category, in particular. 200 parcels need to be re-scored.

Last issue is zoning. Real estate market is the highest ever seen.

10:45

CB asks if they are assessing for overnight rentals.

LB – addressing this for the 1st time this year. They have been checking for these through the BBRO and also registered rentals. This getting taxed as personal property. Will give BOCC list of these.

CB – one concern is how these overnight rentals affect neighborhood.

10:50 – LG – my staff deserve a round of applause for all their hard work and making their deadlines.

Board of Equalization is next hurdle. They have separate training and their terms expire 6/30/2023.

11:00 – JD – concern of more wolves being planted in this area. “We already have 1660.”

11:02 – Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager – working on the Solid Waste grant. Expecting to get \$324,00 this year, with Solid Waste getting \$233,00 of that. The other goes to public health This will help a lot.

11:08 –KK states that is more tonnage this year due to Covid.

They are down one staff. Sheriff's office wants to participate in working at the dump – utilizing inmates.

11:13 – Josh Thomson, County Engineer – updates on Public Works

Mag/Chloride on some dirt roads is starting today. He states this is not just for dust control. This is based on volume of traffic and condition of the road.

They are having problems getting paint for roads – costs have increased.

Water levels are good – below flood stage We are at 110% of snow pack per JT.

Considerable discussion about a leaning tree in county park in Winthrop. This should probably be handled by the Homeowners Association. CB will talk with Rocklynn Culp, Winthrop Planner, about who needs to get this handled.

11:34 – resolution provided by Tanyia Craif (TC), HR and Risk Manager – authorizing the Chief Deputies in elected person's office to get 85% of salary. She is still doing a salary survey of other counties. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 48-2021.

TC also discussed policy relating to flying planes to meetings/county business. There is a polic.
Nautical miles are considered at \$1.26 per mile. It turns out that flying can be cheaper and take less
time.

11:45 Adjourn for lunch, until 1:30 – public comment