

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

Tuesday, May 30th, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate.

Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."

Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (via Zoom)
Jon Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Shelley Kietzman (SK), Human Resources/Risk Pool
Naomi Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager
Norm Oliver (NO), Fairgrounds Maintenance

An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions:

- *Board asked to cover \$11,000 in Behavioral Health bills; additional grant money requested from Health Care Authority*
- *Public Works' \$32,124 HVAC replacement request gives opportunity to discuss which fund to use for big capital expenditures*
- *Community Action must scale down housing aid if bid for a \$3.4M Community Homeless Grant over two years doesn't go through*
- *Homeowner contests legality of Lake Management District's action against her*
- *Fairgrounds Agriplex roof leakage poses safety problem; BOCC ready to replace stick welder, riding floor cleaner and plowing truck, considers another temporary position to relieve burden on maintenance head*
- *Pay scale discussion: Sheriff's chief deputies' raise approved, ongoing subject of Board Clerk working "out of class" set for following Tuesday's agenda*

1:30 - SK: Okanogan Behavioral Health Care (OBHC) has requested additional funds from the Criminal Justice and Treatment grant. They have bills for treatment and services that fall under their contract but they won't be able to be reimbursed unless we get this money to them. We made the request through HCA (Health Care Authority)—we're looking for \$11,000 but they also mention \$30,000. *Commissioner Branch will contact them for clarification.*

LJ asks if the bill from Public Works for the replacement of their HVAC system, \$32,124, should come under bond expenditures or the capital improvements fund. AH says get a budget supplemental for \$41,000 cleared with the auditor. He wonders about a budget line to use bond interest for capital expenditures. He is also concerned about the capital improvements rate being tied to real estate excise tax. They have a bond payment that comes out of that fund.

LJ has received two letters of interest for the Public Health Board position #7.

LJ: Rena (*Shawver*) with Community Action would like to give an update—it sounds like she would like to talk with you personally. It's about the Community Homeless Grant we were discussing last week. That grant is for rental assistance and eviction prevention. The latter is going away, as it was part of the COVID (*programs*). Their allocation for the next two years didn't include staff and administration. They're requesting another \$3.4M over the next two years. Not that they'll see it but that's what it takes to cover the community's needs. If they don't get it, some people will not be housed.

LJ also reports:

- *Will Carpenter will give an update Monday on the Apple Maggot Working Group*
- *Human Resources has received a Motion of Agreement (MOA) from the Sheriff's and Police Commission, signed by the Sheriff's Employees Association.*
- *She is reaching out to departments about the upcoming surplus auction*

1:55 - **AH:** Did anyone answer the question about when the Lake (Osoyoos) Management District was created, and how to get the minutes of the meetings? **LJ:** I did. **AH:** It mentions a legal hearing on the legality of the whole situation. (*There is something a landowner should have done within 21 days of selling her lake-front property.*) **JN** says something about a "lake law".

2:01 - Fairgrounds update - **NP:** We're hoping to fill the other Maintenance position. Two people have responded but they can't come until July. **NO:** Jason couldn't be here because he's been working since 4 a.m. He waters the track, changes sprinklers and does the vehicle maintenance. **NP:** The turnover with Maintenance is crazy. **NO:** A lot of stuff in the shop is getting replaced. The old welder, the stick welder. We'll need a new plow for the truck.

NO describes leakage of snow melt from the roof into the Agriplex which requires placing garbage cans along the wall, and threatens electrical outlets. **NO:** Water (*also*) comes from the parking lot, following the driveway on both ends. under the metal door and roll-up of the annex. **NP:** There's a puddle under the gates. We call it "Lake Naomi" because it's a pain in the butt. *Their "riding" floor cleaner doesn't stay charged. They've gotten quotes from between \$8,000 and \$24,000. AH recommends they find something on line from within the state. NP says the Chevy that holds the snowplow needs a new water pump. AH says look for a used truck.*

NP: We're working on the bathrooms. One camper is helping. What have you come up with for the horse barn? And the Fire Department would like to do training with the commercial building. **AH:** Make do until we get a grant. It would be nice to do the beef barn and the south portion of the horse barn. ...**CB:** Do you have a budget for any of these things? *NP talks about some insurance coverage. AH asks NP to bring her report and pictures to a future meeting to discuss the repairs, and to bring in quotes for the welder and floor cleaner. He asks if they would like another temporary employee to work until October.* **NO:** That would help out a lot with watering, and mowing every other day, and events going on in the Annex. **AH:** You can give us a list of projects to farm out or you can get another guy. Make a list of projects. **NO:** I wouldn't be running around with my head cut off. **NP:** We had an irrigation line go out. **CB:** What costs money needs to be prioritized.

They discuss how water is leaking in from the roof which, says CB, has been "going on and on", The snow affects the seals between two panels. The sheetrock is destroyed in the boiler room. NP says their top priority is safety in the Agriplex, these water issues. She has talked to Wayne's Construction; he talked about a dry well on the south side. AH mentions a French drain, but says the septic system is a constraint.

2:40 - *Executive session with Attorney and HR Director under provision 110-II, potential litigation.*

2:58 - *The commissioners approve the MOA with the with the Sheriff's office which reclassifies "months" (certain positions?) from step four to step five.*

3:03 - *JN attended the dedication of Highway 20 as "Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Highway". AH mentions there is a WWII Memorial Highway too, on the 97, says JN. CB: They do it so much sometimes you get lost in a pool of designations.*

3:08 - *A discussion on pay scales. AH observes that the amount paid to the Sheriff's chief officers is due to their role; they are not required to be commissioned officers. They talk about these salaries and the Clerk of the Board's needing to be 90% of commissioners' wages because they assume a lot of liability. CB: How does it compare with their own elected officials? AH: They all make the same wage as us. (But) the Sheriff makes a lot more than us. They discuss the Board Clerk doing the work of a grant writer. CB says you can't add on to the job description forever. AH is afraid that unless their own salaries go way up, the non-exempt employees' will soon exceed 90-95% of theirs. They are waiting for the auditor's decision on the court interpreter's salary, whether it will include a bonus or if that will be incorporated into a higher salary. They return to the subject of LJ's salary. She feels she has been working "out of class" which would necessitate a 5% salary increase. LJ: I've been talking about it for awhile. They will put it on following Tuesday's agenda.*

3:30 - *Closed session for union discussion strategy.*

3:45 - *Meeting adjourned*