

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 21, 2023 AM

Present:

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

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

Jon Neal (JN) – 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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary:

- HR/Risk Management: BOCC agrees to allow gym membership to be voluntarily deducted from payroll -MOU to follow, Staff gave feedback regarding newly hired Courthouse security @ Safety Meeting last Wednesday, Health District to come to Department Heads meeting to give presentation on how to use Narcan. Union Representatives to be notified, additional hallway camera being installed. HR reports there are 15 staff who have not completed their sexual harassment training. Some discussion for policy in use of drones.
- Finance Committee: Treasurer and Auditor. Discussion interest earned on unspent bond funds, Treasurer reports that Washington Federal Bank is 100% collateralized. Other budget items, ARPA fund and local assistance funds. Auditor reports that we are 2 months away from the Annual Report to the State Auditor. Some fraud on County bank accounts were detected. Auditor looking into other strategies to protect taxpayers money. Treasurer to be sending out tax delinquent notices/foreclosures.
- Waste Management: Bid Opening for Twisp Transfer Station Leachate Gutter reconstruction – 3 bids received. Public Works to give recommendation.
- Highland Community Support Coalition (HCSC) gave presentation regarding short timeline for grant opportunity for Latino small businesses loan - \$11,300 per business possible.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:43 until 1:30 in the afternoon.

9:00

Opened Meeting (*Chris Branch not on Zoom until 9:20*)

BOCC working on review of previous BOCC proceedings.

9:15

No public comment

9:28

HR/Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman (SK) in for updates. Montecido is company for Website portal. For ADA compliance, acronyms are a problem and to fix this manually takes a lot of time. SK suggests software that is \$333.20 that is able to fix this problem efficiently.

9:30

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to authorize the Risk Manager to purchase this add-on software.

HR has been requested to take voluntary gym memberships out as a deduction on employee's pay. SK has checked with the Auditor, and this appears to not be a big problem. SK will provide a MOU to cover this and also run this past the Civil Deputy. (this committee was established by ordinance 2007-7) and needs some modifications.

SK reports the Courthouse Safety Committee met last Wednesday. SK will have each Dept have a representative on the committee.

SK asks for feedback on the newly hired security officers. They are to check in every morning and provide their cellphone numbers. Staff would like security officers to check in offices more often so the Public can see their presence.

9:39

SK has spoken with Laurie Jones, Health District, about providing a presentation to Dept heads on how to use Narcan. AH suggests that the Union be included. The safety meeting had about 12 people in attendance.

SK reports an additional camera will be installed in the hallway. She states there is still the need for safety drills.

CB thanks SK for all her work on the security issue.

AH reports that he is continuing to look for bulletproof glass in order to utilize grand funds in the Auditors Office.

SK reports there are only 15 people who haven't completed the sexual harassment training.

SK also reports that she and the Civil Deputy will be attending the risk Pool conference/training next week. It will be a good opportunity for new information and networking.

CB brings up the need for the County to have a policy on use of drones. JN will be very interested in seeing this drone policy.

JN and CB discuss FAA and airport zoning.

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting – Pam Johnson (PJ), Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH), Auditor, and Deputy Auditor, Lisa Schreckengast (LS)

PJ reports there is currently a 4% interest rate on investments. Money market.

PJ also explains that due to recent bank closures, she has reached out to the Washington Federal (County's bank) to check their viability. She states they are in good standing and are 100% collateralized. She is letting people know about this.

PJ has been speaking with Lee Marciano about the bond interest the county has earned, and how to handle that. BOCC would like to use some of that money to pay for upcoming projects. Some discussion about making a resolution to transfer investment interest and fund projects, utilizing 172 fund by transferring some money.

10:28

CH will talk with the State Auditor re: handling of ARPA and Local assistance funds.

The annual report is 2 months away.

10:31

CH brings up the fraud that was found on the County's revolving accounts, for court funding. It was

nearly \$30,000. The account was closed after this was caught and opened a new account. We are going to be vulnerable to this kind of fraud and would like permission to speak with other counties about how they handle this – possibly going to prepaid cards or a direct deposit system.

JN states to go ahead if you want to explore other options, and PJ agrees with this.

10:44

PJ states the Treasurer's Office is getting ready to send out tax delinquent notices.

11:00

Bid Opening for the Twisp Transfer Station Leachate gutter reconstruction.

There are 3 bids:

Rains Contracting for \$108,523.91

Smith Excavation for \$214,465.10

Redneck & Sons for \$97,614.77

These all included taxes. Public Works will give a recommendation.

11:30

Marcus Sullivan from the Highland Community Support Coalition (HCSC) brought information to the BOCC regarding having a grant available with a short timeline 5/31/2023 to Latino-owned small businesses. There is \$11,300 available per business. Mr. Sullivan will be partnering with Work Source for outreach, but would like the BOCC to get the information out also.

11:43

Meeting adjourned until 1:30