

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 26, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 (By 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 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:

- Executive Sessions for Employee Evaluations.
- Public Comment: via e-mail, Sheilah Kennedy concerned about the criminal activity along Rodeo Trail Road and Hwy 97 – suggests hiring more deputies instead of constructing the coroner’s building.
- Judge Grimm to make a 'wish' list for technology updates for court. Drafting a letter to State Representatives to support Communications upgrade funding -\$3 billion.
- Public Works update: 3rd fire at recycle bin, road conditions quiet, working on Mazama Bridge Project. New part time position in Public Works/Engineering Tech. Board authorizes new Search & Rescue coordinator position,
- Meeting adjourned 11:18

9:00

*****Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)*****With Shelley Keitzman, HR/Risk Manager and Esther Milner, Civil Deputy.

9:15

Public Comment: None at the meeting. AH reads letter received from Sheilah Kennedy for public comment. Ms. Kennedy is suggesting that the BOCC reconsider spending \$13 million on a new building to house bodies for the coroner and consider hiring more Sheriff Deputies instead. Due to the increased vandalism, breaking and entering into businesses along the Rodeo Trail Road, she would like to see more deputies on patrol 24/7.

In response, AH states that this is not a \$13 million building, but rather a \$3-\$4 million building that will be used for the drug task force, sheriff’s storage, and the coroner. This money is in a bond and being paid for in capital improvement fund. AH notes that construction costs of buildings, etc have increased considerably.

CB – Acknowledges the crime problem, but states if we spend this money on deputies, it eventually goes away. & JN states that is not sustainable.

Pete Palmer (on Zoom) to discuss VSD (?), but will do this next week.

9:26

AH reports receiving a letter from the Bar Association in regards to getting attorneys from out of the county. More technology is needed, and AH has asked Judge Grimm to put together a 'wish' list for technology upgrades in the court rooms. & AH has also spoken with IT Karen to look at the list.

9:30

Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(l)(g)*****Employee Evaluation for Shelley Keitzman, HR for 15 minutes*****

9:40

Executive Session with Lanie Johns, Clerk of Board under RCW 42.30.110(l)(g) Employee Evaluation for 15 minutes*****

9:54

LJ – Homeless coalition asking for an extra \$3400 in budget to cover expenses not yet able to submit before end of contract year. AH would rather amend contract and ask for receipts by end of year. LJ explains they have expenses they need reimbursement for. AH explains that if we receive the receipts, we can pay in January.

AH brings up letter needing to be sent to our District 7 & District 12 legislators for support in \$\$ for Communications upgrade. The legislature is going back in session on January 8, 2024.

10:03

LJ – also received an inquiry regarding the increase of sales and use tax, especially for affordable housing. LJ will also forward the inquiry of sales tax and the agreement with AFSCME (union) that Josh Thomson will be talking about.

****Recessed until 10:30

Executive Session under 42.30.110(l)(g) with Josh Thomson(JT), County Engineer for 15 minutes for Employee Evaluation *****

10:45

Public Works Update: JT – talked with Kent (Solid Waste Manager) and a 3rd fire in recycle bin recently. It has to have been intentionally started. They are considering moving that recycle bin.

JT – road maintenance conditions have been quiet over the weekend. I am working on the Mazama Bridge Project. Have received documents from the title company – still going over them. Need to contact title company to see how they want this handled.

BOCC votes to sign the deed or right and all conveyance documents and authorize chair to sign. 023

10:56

Board votes to approve Resolution 210-2 hiring a part time, temporary Engineering Tech with wages based on current wage and making up for lack of benefits. This is not to exceed 72 hours per month, and not go beyond 6 months. AH asks whether this is a Union position. JT – the FT position, being advertised for, is Union, but this part time position is not Union. BOCC also votes to sign the employment agreement with Logan Satus and the County.

11:00

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental for Public Works ER&R fund - \$276,600 Resolution 209-2023.
There are no public comments.

11:02

4 different batches of vouchers approved under current expense.

11:07

Board approves Resolution 211-2023 authorizing Search & Rescue Coordinator position. AH notes this is a part time position.

11:09

Board approves the signing of agreement for Superior Court and Okanogan County Employees with AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, & Municipal Employees)

It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the letter of support to the 7th and 12th District Representatives regarding funding of the County Communications upgrade \$3million is needed.

11:14

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, with the exception of Number 7 – which the application was incomplete.

1. Cattleguard Renewals -CGF #1-83, #59-73, #5-77 – Public Works
2. ARPA Request #8, Shelter \$6,731.89 – Community Action Council(CAC)
3. ARPA Request #8, Salaries, Equipment, Supplies \$23, 740 Community Action Council
4. ARPA Request #3 – 28 ft Mobile Command Trailer -\$330.087.76 -Communications
5. CDBG – Request #17 Public Services, General Administration \$7,744.06 -CAC
6. Interlocal Agreement-Ok Co Water Bank -Conservation District & Ok County
7. Special Occasion Liquor License -Ok Athletics Booster Club -Ok Fairgrounds
8. Resolution 208-2023, Allocating ARPA funds for Broad Band Project -Ok PUD #1

11:18

Meeting adjourned until afternoon session