

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 12, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2 (Not in attendance)

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 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:

- Approved county vouchers for \$1,089,000. Approved budget supplement appropriation to finish the Goat Creek Bridge project.
- HR/Risk Manager: Performance evaluations getting scheduled, 6 union contracts are ready to ratify. Communications/Dispatch: 12 of 13 positions are filled – improvement from last year at this time. The mobile command vehicle will be delivered this Thursday – this was financed with ARPA monies. We are 2/3 of the way on the new radio project on Pilcher Mountain, also planning for Molson site, and progress being made on equipment building for Sheriff/Coroner.
- County Auditor: Recording fees are going up significantly at the first of the year – these are set by the State, expecting 2 special elections next year, plus the Presidential general election in November. Approval of Resolutions providing 2 bailiff positions in District Court, changing legal secretary to a Records Clerk, adding civil clerk/bailiff in the Prosecutors Office.
- Public Works: not too much road work due to lack of snow, continuing to work on the Sheridan Road issue – will place a county road sign to help with the confusion.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:31, Board of Health this afternoon at 1:30, but no meeting afterwards, nor on Wednesday.

9:00

LJ asks Board to pay vouchers for the Oroville and Tonasket EMS Districts. Vouchers approved. First, the County vouchers for \$1,089,000 approved. \$13,400 for the Tonasket EMS and \$35,666 for Oroville EMS District.

9:15

No Public Comment

Board approves minutes for November 27, 28, & 29

9:27

Board approved the Consent Agenda;

1. Re-appointment letter, FAC, Brock Hires
2. Resolution 198-2023 Budget \$19,414. Amendment CE-CR & CE-CMRS

9:30

Public Hearing -Budget Supplemental Park & Recreation – Lower Goat Creek Bridge \$2848. No Public Comment. Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 199-2023

9:32

Update from HR/Risk Manager Shelley Keitzman (SK). Performance evaluations are scheduled beginning next week. There are 6 Union contracts that are ready to be ratified. SK will work with Dept heads to get these scheduled and completed.

9:47

Mike Worden (MW) – Communications/ Dispatch update. MW -we have 12 or 13 positions filled which is much better than this time last year. The experience level is changing due to having new staff. The Mobile Command Vehicle, which was financed with ARPA funds, will be arriving this Thursday. MW -the Radio Project on Pilcher Mountain is 2/3 of the way completed. We are working on getting Lifeline to be a part of this. We are waiting on the Ad-Com for final design. MW: One site that needs to be physically constructed is in Molson, but we've gotten through the difficult process. And the sooner I know about the radio funding, the sooner I can get this figured out. MW also discussed the Morgan equipment shed with the consultant.

10:00

Update from Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor. CH – this is the monthly update with 1 business item. The recording fees are going up substantially in January. This is determined by the State, I have no control over that. I can't even waive the fees due to this being determined by the Legislature.

In Licensing, everyone is doing great – all the outstations, etc. CH anticipates a license plate shortage. We go through them quickly. This is also a state system. The County supplies the staff and the postage and envelopes.

CH- the 2024 elections coming up; there will be 2 special elections and the Presidential Election in November. This will be a busy year for elections.

CB tells CH to be thinking about the worst timing for the asbestos abatement coming up this next year. CH says that would be during elections, from the time the ballots go out until the election is certified. CH also notes that Licensing will be moved when we take out the wall.

CH – this is the time of year to approve the printing vendor for the voters' pamphlet. We got 2 quotes: Consolidated Press for \$828.83 and Sound Publishing for \$786.11. My recommendation will be to go with Consolidated as we have already used them and sees better quality with them.

10:19

The BOCC approved Auditor's recommendation for Consolidated Press. CH states they work well with our deadlines.

JN asks CH whether for the national election, does the County still have to pay for the voters' pamphlet? CH – The state pays the most for the national election.

CH also states that she could use a longer list of temporary election workers since there are times, when the people aren't able to come in for weather and other reasons. CH to maintain the list but not get it too large as people need to be trained, etc.

CH – There is a lot to do with elections. I will wait to compile my list until after the first of the year. There are also quite a few complaints – mostly having to declare a party, but this only happens every 4 years.

10:30

CH – I spend a lot of time talking with people and we have observers for every step of the election process. “My Mom did elections for 40 years and I saw what it took for that to happen, so I take it very seriously.”

JN – I have zero concerns about our County's election process.

CH – I do know what we do.

10:30

LJ- I'm asking you to rescind 2 resolutions that have been re-written; 190-2023 & 191-2023.

BOCC rescinds those resolutions and approves Resolution 200-2023 changing Legal Secretary in the Prosecutors Office to a Records Specialist. 201-2023 is also approved adding a civil clerk/Bailiff in the Prosecutors Office. These were discussed and approved last week.

10:45

BOCC approves 196-2023 authorizing 2 primary bailiffs to the District Court. Also, approved 197-2023 job description in the Clerk's Office.

Resolution 206-2023 adding records position to the Prosecutors Office is approved. Also, approved Resolution 201-2023 authorizing a civil Clerk Bailiff

10:48

Discussion of the Order of Vacation from the Public Hearing of July 30th hearing. JN questions whether everything was done before completing this order. The fees need to be paid.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer in with the Public Works update: Not much on the roads maintenance side as there has been no snow to speak of, only in the higher elevations.

JT – We're still working on the Sheridan Road issue. We will probably put up a County road sign to try to alleviate the confusion, but Google Maps still need to make their change. JT hopes that will clear up the problem. JT will also be doing a budget supplemental for the next meeting.

Quite a lot of chit chat that I did not take notes on.

There will be no Wednesday meeting, and all of today's work is done, so will be no need to come back after the Board of Health Meeting.

11:31

Meeting adjourned.

