

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday July 11, 2023 AM

Present:

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

[Fhttps://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php](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:

- Denise Varner/Okanogan appointed to the Health District Board.
- Charlene Knapp/Okanogan appointed to the Planning Commission,
- Public Comments: CB to help Ruth Hall with information on Monse Road vacation application, Treasurer and Auditor discuss request to take over the treasurer position for the Oroville/Tonasket Irrigation District with certain requirements.
- Discussion of hiring Professional Services (Aspect Engineering) for water bank processes.
- Public Hearing on Transportation plan for 2024-2029.
- Solid Waste Manager discusses litter control program, staffed by County employees, also fire at the landfill last Saturday – report made to DOE,
- Public Works update current and upcoming projects; chip seal up north, Bonaparte Lake Road flooded again, gravel crushing.
- OCOG/Planner position awaiting Union response.
- BOCC approves contractual agreements for homeless funds between Foundation for Youth & Resiliency Education (FYRE), Homeless Coalition and Okanogan County.
- Board authorized additional Deputy Prosecutor.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

9:00

Short discussion about the need to decide on the appointment for the Health Department Board Member Position 7.

9:04

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to appoint Denise Varner to the Health Department position and have Lanie prepare the letter of appointment.

9:05

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to appoint Charlene Knapp to the Planning Commission. Her address was checked to be sure she resided in District 1

LJ asks whether the Board would like to set up an interview, but it was decided that would not be needed.

Board discusses talking with MJ Neal, contractor regarding the Justice Center.

AH has spoken with Cari Hall, Auditor, regarding the funding for the Goat Creek Road bridge. Will need a budget supplemental as will be billing ARPA funds.

9:15

Public Comment Period: Ruth Hall discusses with CB the need for more information on the Monse Road vacation request. CB asks her to e-mail him.

9:30

Discussion regarding Oroville/Tonasket Irrigation District (OTID) with Treasurer, Pam Johnson (PJ) who has been speaking with Auditor regarding this change. OTID has historically been on their own – doing their own treasurer work and collecting fees. The Treasurers Office does 13 other Irrigation Districts in the county. PJ explains there are requirements that they need to know about if they want the County Treasurer to do this work for them. For instance, parcel numbers are needed. JN explains there have been many changes in the OTID. PJ just wanted this to be clear for the BOCC. AH sees this as asking Treasurers Office staff to do more work. PJ explained that the State Treasurers' Association is looking into legislation to help offset some of these costs. OTED has 1,898 accounts generating \$2 million.

9:40

AH asks about items that may have been left over from the surplus auction and wonder what to do with that. LJ suggests recycling and there are other items that could be donated, others that haven't been picked up yet.

9:45

CB asks if the Board wants to talk about the language for the RFP (Request for Proposals) for professional services.

10:08

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to authorize chair to send out RFP after this has been run by the Civil Deputy. This would be negotiated directly. Authorizes the chair to make a decision by Friday.

After more discussion, and looking into the regulations, AH moved to strike the motion as we don't need to send this out for an RFP.

10:22

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to authorize the Chair to negotiate with Aspect Engineering (whom the County is already contracted with) for water bank professional services. Board will discuss water bank process.

10:25

Cari Hall (CH), Auditor and Jamie Grooms (JG) Deputy Treasurer are before the BOCC to talk about some action items for the 2024 budget documents. CH states the documents have already been sent out with the date required. November 1st is the budget deadline. CH would like a clarification letter

outlining County and District duties and what is required – due date important.

CH states her office is continuing to work on the security grants as she wants to get this moving. CH expects security will be needed ahead of the upcoming 2024 election. BOCC will approve amendment to the contract.

11:00

JoAnn Stansbury (JS), Public Works for the 2024-2029 transportation plan public hearing. Some board discussion and no public comment during meeting or from the notice. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 77-2023 transportation plan for 2024-2029.

11:05

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports that the litter grant has been approved and he is utilizing staff to do this work. This funds 2 full time positions ½ funded by the grant.

KK reports a fire at the landfill last Saturday night – believes it was chemicals and/or batteries that did this. KK is working on an amnesty program to get people to remove these types of items from their dumps. AH asks if this does damage to the liners. KK does not believe so. KK did a report to the DOE. There was also a flare-up yesterday (Monday). There was some discussion between BOCC and County Engineer regarding the reaction of mixing chemical.

11:14

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer report on road maintenance and upcoming projects. Bonaparte Lake Road flooded out again. County is still working up there per JT. County will be putting up signage regarding hazardous area.

JT stated that chip seal started yesterday up north. JN asked if on O'Neil Road.

The road construction on old Hwy 97 is mostly completed. The Spokane Grade Overlay is complete.

Twisp River Bridge rehab is progressing. JT also reports that the Tonasket and Twisp shop construction is in the concrete stage. Working on the Foster Bridge Repair project in Mazama – going through SEPA right now.

JT states the gravel crush is finished. From Gaven Pit to Wauconda then to wildlife area (Hunter Mountain *I presume*). Culvert replacement on Greenacres Road will be starting and still working on getting the Cameron Lake Road approved. Three private owners still need to be contacted regarding the Cameron Lake Road. Twisp River reconstruction will happen next year. This is federal funds.

Loomis/Oroville Road drainage also. JT reports meeting with WDFW – they want larger culverts JT has heard nothing more on the Owhi Lake project. OCOG/Planner position is nearly complete, waiting to hear back from the Union.

JT – a new plan in the works – changing around the requirements on the small works roster. They are developing an electronic bidding system. JT- another change for the WDFW is we have to determine high water mark for a 100 year period. JT remarks that everything seems to be more extreme.

JT continuing to work with the CRAB Board and is hoping to get on another new program they are starting – identifying no funding for access roads.

11:44

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve July 3 minutes.

Moved, Seconded and Carried to approve Consent Agenda:

1. A-19 ARPA request #6 Economic Alliance - \$17,464.98
2. Memorandum of Understanding – Okanogan County & Okanogan County Search & Rescue

3. Contract #23-020 Capital Improvements Lodging tax Revenues 2023 - \$9,500 – TVBRC
4. Contract #23-021 Capital Improvements Lodging tax Revenues 2023-\$6,600 – TVBRC
5. Contract Authorization #E23-241 Stonegarden 22 OPSG -Ok Co Sheriff's Office
6. Resolution 74-2023 Reallocate funds for Full Time Noxious Weed Field Technician
7. Resolution 76-2023 Increase County Clerks Change Box to \$100.
8. Resolution 78-2023 – Budget Amendment Board of Equalization \$2500

11:50

Moved seconded, and carried to pay vouchers for Methow Valley EMS District - \$63,499, Oroville Rural EMS District - \$6,980 to Lifeline, and Tonasket EMS District - \$16, 200 to Lifeline

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve contracted services agreement between Okanogan County and FYRE \$10,000 in homeless funds and Contracted Services between County and Homeless Coalition for \$20,000.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve resolution authorizing and additional deputy in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve 92-2023 election of Board to receiving Title 2 and Title 3 funds.

12:00

Meeting adjourned.