

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 8, 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:

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:

- Water problems at the County Fairgrounds.
- Bids come in for Tunk Mountain facility -fire hardening project.
- Treasurer Update: closing office September 21 for all staff training, and administrative leave approved for while Courthouse closed due to suspicious substance found.
- An Opiate Settlement representative needed from our County; possibly Jail Administrator and Chris Branch as an alternative.
- Meeting adjourned 12:06 – will not reconvene after the Public Health meeting.

9:00

Meeting opened, going over previous proceedings.

Discussion of water problems at the fair. The irrigation water to be assessed. AH states that if we have to drill a new well, that's fine, but we need to know if the well is going bad or is the infrastructure..

9:08

CB states that we need to drill the new well as close as we can to the old well,

9:11

CB states there is the other issue with the electrical by the grandstands.

JN - they are digging as we speak.

9:15

Public Comment: Ruth Hall asks about the Pine Creek Irrigation District being an option. AH states that we do have irrigation rights but need further investigation on the river.

CB notes that everything turns into an emergency (*at the fair*) when we get this close to the opening of the fair. The water system is a priority.

9:30

Mike Worden (MW), Communications Deputy for the Dispatch center.

MW – I am here with the bids from 3 vendors for the Tunk Valley Facility fire hardening project. There will be foundation work and grounding station. The first bid is from Global Power for \$340,310. The second bid is from Legacy Power for \$413, 126. MW – At first estimate – in December 2022, we were given around \$187,000 plus tax. These bids are more elevated than the first estimate. This project is hopefully, able to utilize ARPA funding. MW would like permission to get this project started, and utilize the low bid from Global Power – whom they are already using as a vendor. MW- we started this Tunk Project after the Cold Springs Fire in 2020. Transport costs were pre-ARPA funding. We have another 60 days of fire season.

9:50

LJ went over some of the ARPA funding approvals.

9:57

MW stated that this Tunk Project will be modifying existing structure to a concrete foundation. \$537,000 will be the overall costs. We're hoping to preserve this facility's capacity for the long term.

10:01

MW – Resolution will need to be updated with the new amount. May I move on the low bid? It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve Global Power Services for the \$340,310.00 for the fire hardening of the Tunk Mountain facility.

CB states there will be a ribbon cutting and hopes to get this all done by the end of 2024.

10:03

Pam Johnson (PJ), County Treasurer in to update the BOCC.

She has 2 things to discuss with the Board.

First, there will be an office-wide training for the new real estate excise tax affidavit on September 21, 2023. Everyone in the office needs training as all staff do these. PJ is also including The Assessor and 2 title companies for this training. The office will need to be closed during this training.

10:09

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the office closure on September 21.

10:10

PJ – The second thing I need from you is we need to increase the money in our cash drawers to \$1,000.

10:11

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 107-2023 increasing the money allowed in the cash drawers of the Treasurer office.

PJ states this is all she has for the day. Otherwise, we are getting caught up from the previous office closure, and of course, getting ready for tax collection in October.

10:17

CB-getting back to the fairgrounds stuff. How about the railing for the grandstand? This needs completing.

10:20

CB talked with DOT regarding the road access south of the Casino. Not sure how that is going. The cat shelter has a 99-year lease.

JN questions about the fairness on dog vs cat shelter. Should we put this out for anyone to bid?

CB states we have a process if a non-profit and it might be the same as the Economic Alliance. CB to

check into that. We need to talk with TEAM Okanogan.

LJ reports that there will be a Board of Equalization hearing on the August 24 & 25.

LJ also reports on the utility with the City of Okanogan for the site utility for the Juvenile contract for next phase of courthouse. We may need to change the scope of work.

LJ – the clock tower windows are another project that needs to be completed.

10:31

LJ received bids from the fairgrounds staff for the office. It was a bit confusing – a list of vendors and amounts with a recommendation for all.

10:33

Moved, seconded, and carried to go into Executive Session under RCW 42.30 100 (1)(i) for 15 minutes with Esther Milner, Civil Deputy and Shelly Keitzman (HR/Risk Manager)*****

10:48

CB- the cost for the repair of the guardrails damaged by the fire is around \$100,000.

Some discussion of the House Bill to reduce organic burning. Solid Waste Manager needs help with the Pilot Study.

11:07

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve minutes. (previous proceedings)

11:08

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent agenda as presented:

1. Contract Amendment #12- Okanogan County Sheriffs Office Contract #K5886-Ok Co Jail
2. Agreement – Additional funding for Public Defense Services -Burica/Hass PLLC
3. Resolution 100-2023 Allowing Administrative leave during emergency courthouse closure
4. Resolution 101-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for courthouse security cameras
5. Resolution 102-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for Justice Building Purchase/Refurbish
6. Resolution 103-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for Sheriffs Equipment & Coroner Storage bldg
7. Resolution 104-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for Public Works Chip Seal on Local Access Roads
8. Resolution 105-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for fairgrounds Public Safety Supplies
9. Resolution 106-2023 Allocation of ARPA funds for Lower Goat Creek Bridge

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the August vouchers in the amount of \$63,499 for Methow Valley EMS.

11:09

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve contract payment for the Oroville EMS district for \$17,000

11:10

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve contract payment for the Tonasket EMS district in the amount of \$60,000

11:12

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve payroll in the amount of \$4,145,130.

11:23

CB talks some about an annexation request.

11:28

BOCC accepted the Rainer's bid to repair stairs and they are working on Sundays. We need to let the detention staff know this.

11:32

Dennis Rabidou (DR), Juvenile Administrator and Esther Milner (EM), Chief Civil Deputy in to discuss Opioid Settlement process. The County needs to appoint a person to represent us. EM not sure who will be doing the management of the funds. EM states they are waiting to establish a Council with a representative from each city and county.

CB states all the settlements will have to go through the Council and there is a 10% administration fee. We just want to name someone for the Council

DR states how busy he is with all his other duties.

EM states that we're going to have to account for all spending. I have been gathering information on all the other counties. City of Wenatchee is using their Executive Services person and East Wenatchee is using the Chief of Police.

Our jail has an opioid abatement program (*which appears to be the reason that they are interested in having DR fill this position*) EM suggest that we also have an alternative.

CB states we need to find out if there is a regional strategy. I feel that DR is in a good position to know about the Opioid crises locally. If DR is our person to be appointed, I (CB) can be the alternate. That way I can be of help in this. CB also brings up the risk pools discussion and is glad to have EM there.

DR will be meeting with OBHC soon. DR states that we are so far ahead of other counties.

We will be having our Board of Health meeting this afternoon and will not reconvene afterwards.

Maurice Goodall (MG) Emergency Services Manager comes in and reports that he is not getting much information about the Diablo Lake fire – possibility because it is on the west side of the Cascades.

CB states that he did call Senator Short. AH asks whether MG has been in touch with the State Patrol?

MG- yes, I have and I will also check in with Skagit County.

11:59

LJ reports that she re-sent letter to the Public Health employees as requested.

MW sent confirmation for the project he discussed earlier.

The Board has a short discussion about Forest Practices. AH likens the forest health to a lawn. He questions whether fire is socially conscious.

BOCC moved, seconded, and carries the approval of Cascade Mechanical's bid for the HVAC work at the Fairgrounds office for \$10,238. AH states this was not the lowest bid, but has a 10-year warranty, whereas the others were just a year.

12:06

Meeting adjourned for the day.