

**Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting
Monday, March 20th AM session**

AH - Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2
CB - Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
JN- Jon Neal, BOCC member, District 3
CHall - Cari Hall, Auditor
CH- Crystal Hawley, Asst Clerk of the Board
LJ - Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
SK - Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources Risk Manager
PP - Pete Palmer, Planning Director
Joe- Maintenance Manager
GG - Gary George, road maint. Supervisor
MG - Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management Director
NP - Naomi Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at www.countywatch.org/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, click [here](#).

Summary of Significant Discussion:

- *Complaint requiring Planning Dept enforcement*
- *Plans for Concunully Dam*
- *LTAC fund use*
- *Public hearings on budget supplementals for roads and election security*
- *Discussion of need for incentives to attract applicants for vacant Juvenile detention officers*
- *Fairgrounds update - RV reservation system, tree planting, new horse stalls, scrap metal disposal*

The time stamps refer to the video that is published on the county's AV Capture site. To watch the video for this meeting, click [here](#).

00:35 - pledge of allegiance

03:10 - JN and AH have short conversation about how wages are managed. Commissioners spend the next half hour or so reviewing minutes.

24:09 - JN asks AH if he got an email on Thursday from Alexander Scribe. He sent it to Central Services and they said it was a good email. He googled the name and the entity (Omak Republic) and found nothing. AH reviews his messages and can't find it. JN and AH decide that since they can't find any information about the person or the organization, they would not be inclined to respond to it.

32:00 - PP asks JN if he had talked to Sheriff about inspecting a complaint at No Paws. Discussion about how planning dept should proceed with inspecting the site. PP asks AH if he has scheduled an Exec session to discuss litigation. He suggests today at 1:30 pm.

JN says that the subject of the complaint has moved down the highway to another area. Mention of the fact that it may have something to do with a homeless camp.

34:30 - maintenance Joe informs the BOCC that the school next door would like to use part of a road for staging rigs during construction. Discussion about what type of vehicles would be using the area and how it would impact traffic etc.

38:50 - Discussion about a quote for replacing the elevator in the courthouse. AH asks Joe to put together a list of projects for next year so they can budget for them.

AH mentions that the county has an in-house engineer and architect now so they can work on all these types of projects.

44:18 - Joe - we are going to have Tim get his pesticide license so he can treat the buildings. I would like to have his testing fees covered if possible. Discussion with LJ about how to approve the payment.

57:40 - MG reports he will be going to SAR training in Spokane next week. He met with the Navy on fueling situation at Omak. Navy came over with their H-60. Had two town meetings with Dept of Reclamation on the Conconully dam. (CB joins the meeting at this point via Zoom). It was a town meeting, and it should be on our radar to make sure we are following what is going on. Their concern is that it is a 100 year old dam, and earthquake safety is a concern that needs to be addressed. All options are on the table - removing dam, repairing dam, upgrading the dam, etc. The meeting was not very well attended. Discussion about different scenarios and the consequences. It's not happening immediately, but we should stay on top of it. The Colville Tribe should be interested. If the dam did fail, the cfs of flow would be 177,000. In 2018 we had 1100 cfs and it was pretty severe. People who were at the meeting said they had never thought about what would happen if the dam failed. CB - asks if they mentioned NEPA. Explains about the process that would happen if they move forward with major changes.

MG - More decisions will be made in 2024-2025. There was some concern that this meeting wasn't advertised enough. We put it in the paper, on the radio, and on our alert system. I don't know what else to do.

1:09:00 - CB asks if everyone got the message that the discussion on the Blake refund has been rescheduled until next week. Discussion about the fact that there has been a request for Okanogan County to return some of the money they have been allocated. It appears the amount they are talking about is about \$130,000.

1:15:40 - AH fills in CB on what he missed this morning during the first hour.

1:18:40 - CB brings up the property that is going to be used for a new Sheriff Shop. It is quite a mess. AH agrees and says it's a old train depot. CB mentions a lot of old cars parked there. Discussion about holding a surplus sale.

1:29:30 - Discussion about meeting between LTAC and OCTC. Don Linnertz suggested a special meeting of LTAC to discuss special requests for funds. There is a process with a public comment period. We have \$\$ in the LTAC fund that is not being utilized fully. There is a discussion about getting computers for the visitor centers, but it doesn't have a sponsor which is normal procedure. But the LTAC wants it, and most of the VICs (visitor information centers) are in favor. The issue is that there has not been an application for the funds from an entity, so that is why we need to go through the 45 day waiting period. CB and AH discuss the details of the rules to make sure they are doing it right.

2:01:15 - Public hearing on a budget supplemental for the 172 fund. Gary George road maintenance manager explains the need for moving funds from one account to another. NO comment from the public. Some staff discussion about how the interest on a fund was calculated in the past when interest rates were low, and now the rates have gone up so there is more money in the fund that expected. CB asks how much is in the account?

CHall - The budgeted interest for all of 2023 was \$100K, the current interest received so far this year is \$384,609. AH discusses methods of directing this money that is most useful.

AH moves to approve the resolution authorizing the budget supplemental. Seconded and passed unanimously.

2:11:45 - public hearing on budget supplemental for elections security. CH states that it is to pay for some election security systems. CB moves to approve the resolution for the elections security system. Voted and approved.

GG asks if they have time for a short conversation. We had an incident at the Tonasket shop where our crew burned a brush pile that smoldered and burned a fence line of a neighbor. SK is aware, and we did have permits and also informed the Sheriff and DOE before burning, so we followed all the rules. Risk pool will take care of it.

GG - states that while there are rules saying we can't add any fuel after 3 pm, there isn't anything that says we have to fully extinguish.

2:17:00 SK - asks for approval to advertise fair admin assistant as a full time job. We are having no luck getting applicants now as a part-time job, and it will go to a full time position in May anyway. BOCC approves requests.

SK - says they will be getting some resolutions from the Juvenile dept. They are similar to the ones from the Sheriff dept. Juvenile corrections dept has 8 staff positions, and currently have 3 vacancies. We need to offer incentives to attract applicants.

CB asks what is the current population of Juveniles in corrections now?

SK- says that she doesn't know, but with only 5 people it's hard to do all the meal service, transport, etc.

2:24:01 Fairgrounds report

NP - getting ready to launch new reservation system for RV park. People will be able to see a map of the site and pick which spot they want.

NP - we will be planting 130 trees starting in a couple of weeks. The Conservation District donated the trees.

CB - who is doing the planting?

NP - we are. We have been getting coached by the Conservation District to learn about where and how to plant.

CB asks what kind of trees

NP - a few types of pine

Discussion about the value of using an auger to help it go faster.

NP- wants to table discussion on barns, AH says he wants to discuss now.

AH - reviews the situation - NP has looked into the cost to replace 40 horse stalls. There were 4 different quotes. The most expensive was the nicest - \$184K to county cost beyond what we had available in donations. NP said the recommendation was Noble panels from O'Connel. \$156K was the cost as of October 2022. AH wants to move forward with the panel barn (same as Emerald Downs), as it is sufficient, would require minimal ground prep. NP mentions that mats would cost an additional 17K if we want to do that eventually. AH - the contractor will be giving us a report on the condition of existing horse barn. JN - asked for an updated price. NP said that the Boots and Saddle club has approved the panel barn as an option. CB- asks on the return on investment. NP says to rent is \$10 per night per stall. AH says that we can fund this entirely through the donor funds so it won't affect current expense account much.

NP - states that she has someone who wants to rent the area, but it is contingent on having stalls. She has not responded yet.

AH says he wants to get it on the agenda for next Monday so they can get going on the project.

NP- Says she doesn't have the original agreement with Boots and Saddles, but she has been told that the county was supposed to maintain the horse stall according to that agreement.

AH - says they should find a contractor from the small works roster to do the assembly of the panels.

NP- putting on a new epoxy floor covering today in the Annex floor.

NP- the back is almost clean. There is some metal piled up. AH asks about scrap metal prices, NP says almost nothing. CB suggests contacting Kent about doing a metal drive.

NP - says old railing is almost intact and could be surplussed. CB - we may consider listing lots of scrap metal in our surplus auction. AH suggests doing an estimate of how much steel there is and a description.

Adjourn for lunch until 1:30 pm.