

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023 AM**

Present:

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

- Discussion/Review of Cortner proposals on the JB (Justice Building) site utilities, authorized clerk to draft resolution to proceed.
- **HR & Search & Rescue:** In the Methow, winter damage to trailer, repair or replace. Need storage for equipment.
- Surplus auction scheduled for May at the Fairgrounds, Special Occasions Liquor License to the Elks for certain Rotary fundraising events.
- Awarded Legal Notices Bid to Oroville Gazette & Methow Valley News,
- **Public Works:** Graders are out working on roads – still some weight restrictions, Current Projects listed. Beginning Gravel Crushing at three gravel pits; Gavin, Wauconda, and Central Pit. Looking for land for more gravel pits. Hunter Mountain WDFW documents approved – sale/purchase should close by May.
- No Wednesday Meeting,
- Meeting adjourned at 11:34 until afternoon session @ 1:30.

*(Missed 8:15 session with Dennis Rabidou – Juvenile Detention/Court Administrator. It doesn't appear that AV Capture was working at that time either)*

9:00

AH notes that architects get paid a lot of money as they review the proposal by Cortner for utility work at the Justice Building and consider across the river property for Coroner's/Sheriff's Office.

9:07

CB states that he will be busy on Wednesday and AH has meeting with the Treasurer and Auditor regarding fair stuff coming up.

There will be no Wednesday BOCC meeting.

9:15

No Public Comment

LJ reports that Civil Deputy would like a 15-minute executive Session. Will see if she can come up now.

9:20

Moved, Seconded, and carried to go into Executive Session under 42.30.110 1 (I) for potential/ongoing litigation and including Planning and Civil Deputy until 9:38

9:40

Ongoing Discussion/Review of Cortner Proposals.

9:52

CB asks LJ if she has the documents to proceed on this. LJ states that she has a letter from Cortner detailing the proposal. CB & AH note that it will cost \$211,000 for the consult work on a \$1million project. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to have Clerk draft notice to proceed to Cortner for the JB Site utilities on the Justice Building.

9:54

Rick Balam (RB) – Search & Rescue and Shelley Keitzman (SK) HR/Risk Manager to discuss the 14-foot trailer that suffered damage this winter. Search & Rescue uses this for storage and to move technical equipment. RB states, “we have no storage facilities”. Only one trailer dealership that he has found who could repair the \$5000 damage, and they are in Ellensburg. We have no place to put the river raft and truck, also, was outside all winter.

9:59

RB states we could possibly use Title III funds. LJ states that \$11,000 is budgeted. AH suggests, “What about looking for a different trailer? AH asks how much stuff do you have?”

RB: 2 river rafts on trailers, 2 different side by sides.

AH & CB discuss possible buildings that are not being used fully.

RB states that he'll hold off until I hear back from you.

CB asks if there is any other equipment that needs to be surplussed. RB states, 'I don't think so'.

AH asks RB to find out what needs to go to surplus. The surplus auction is in May at the Fairgrounds.

10:06

Continuing to discuss possible storage areas; Fish & Wildlife is asking to use building for storage. They are renting space from the County already.

AH states that he won't be available for the Department Head meeting this afternoon. He'll be in negotiations.

10:16

Moved. Seconded, and Carried to approve March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> proceedings.

10:24

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Consent Agenda:

1. Authorization to call for bids – Central Landfill Asphalt Pad
2. Contract – 2023 Liquid Asphalt – Idaho Asphalt Supply
3. Contract – Twisp River Road, Spokane Grade Overlay, Central WA Asphalt
4. Ratify Portal Account Holder Agreement – Opioid Settlement Funding – Chairman Signature

5. Agreement & Guidelines – OK County Fair Queen (*removed item until later*)
6. Special Occasions Liquor License – This is for the Elks Club in providing service to certain Rotary Club fundraising events.
- 7.

10:30

Bid Award for County Legal Newspaper of Record -

All three newspapers (Chronicle, MV News, & Oroville Gazette) meet the requirements. JN asked LJ if she could figure out how much was paid to the newspapers in 2022. The Oroville Gazette received \$16,337 for the 2022 year. The Chronicle was more because of the advertising for staff, elections, etc. (*I never heard an amount quoted for the MV News or the Chronicle*)

AH Moved to approve Oroville Gazette and Methow Valley News as newspapers of record this year based on bid comparisons, for legal notices.

10:44

CB has one concern concerning advertising for land use decisions. He likes the idea that Maurice Goodall suggested -sending it out over Everbridge with other emergency notices. That way, you are sure to get the message out.

10:51

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer in the give Public Works update. (*He just got back from his trip to China as a chaperone with his Son's class – good trip- a lot of fun, good weather, didn't lose any kids, and no one got sick. Landed in Seattle on Saturday at 7:30pm*)

10:59

JT reports on maintenance and road conditions; rented a crack sealer – especially for Cache Creek Road. Graders are out, but there are still some weight restrictions on certain roads.

Construction projects:

South fork at landfill

Salmon Creek Drainage – concrete repairs – extended agreement

Bridgeport Transfer Station

Twisp Transfer Station

Guardrail Project

Gravel Crush in 2 weeks; Gavin, Wauconda, and Central Pits

(Looking for land for another pit site)

Starting on the Tonasket Shop

AH asked JT about the old Twisp Shop & Lean-to (*AH is thinking of possible storage options for MV Search & Rescue*)

11:09

The Hunter Mountain WDFW documents have been approved. This sale should close by May.

JT states they have a FEMA worksheet that they just closed out. This will bring in revenue.

AH asks JT what the plan is for Bonaparte Creek? JT hasn't looked at the creek this spring. Will check.

CB reports to JT that Consent Agenda already approved minus #5

11:11

CB asks JT about the 30-acre piece of land that the County Shop is on in Omak. What had they

intended to do with the extra unused land? CB understands the need for right of way.

CB is looking around for possibilities for a place for a Humane Society. I was wondering whether it all was needed for Public Works. CB is just looking at different properties.

JT states that we are using a pretty good percentage of the property. Some is for drainage.

AH asks CB; what are your thoughts if we can't get a permit to build across the river (*Coroner's/Sheriff's Office*) CB states that he hadn't given that much thought, especially with a shoreline designation there.

AH states to (*The Tribe*), If you you're not going to permit us, please buy it back from us.

AH also notes that TranGo needs a new place for the office. It's good for cities to have a need for land. CB states he is just looking informally at this point.

JT sends a map of county-owned land to the BOCC to look at all the parcels that are County owned.

AH considers that if we need to do a boundary line adjustment, then Current Expense could purchase.

CB suggests another option – Public Purpose Segregation.

CB likes AH's previous idea, that they should do an inventory of all properties. We have also acquired property via foreclosures.

AH asks JT – do we have problems getting water? JT – We could use more water for sure.

11:33

CB to AH – I will talk with the Treasurer regarding need for W-9 and banking information regarding Opioid Settlement Monies.

BOCC thanks JT

11:34

Meeting Adjourned until afternoon session at 1:30