

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners Tuesday September 19, 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. For officially approved minutes, which are published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioner_proceedings.php

Time stamps 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:

- Looking into re-doing the water system at the fairgrounds.
- Finance meeting with Auditor and Treasurer; determining policy when there are items leftover from surplus auction, fairgrounds revenues and expenditures/budget.
- Public Works: construction on shop buildings going slow – need to be finished by winter, update on Greenacres Road project, need to update CAMS software as specific to Ok Co Public Works, Recreation/planning position is hired.
- Board putting together a committee to help prioritize Fairgrounds projects.
- Adjourn at 11:47

9:00

LJ brings up voucher details and authorized representative for the Cedar Creek fire.

AH discusses the need to apply for the Department of Agriculture Grant of \$250,000 for the fairgrounds. JN agrees – we definitely need to do.

BOCC reviews proceedings for September 11th and 12th.

9:13

Board talks about changing out the Commercial Building – whether to buy a new building or refurbish/reinstall.

Maurice Goodall, while working at the fair, put in a few mainlines due to problems with the water.

AH and CB discuss the need for redoing the entire water system at the fair. JN notes that if we drill a new well, it would have to be certified for domestic use.

9:30

CB wants a good start, good opinion on how to go about putting a new water system in. AH asks CB if

he'll look into it. AH-All we need is a ballpark figure. We have 2 years to do this. Let's get a designer that will give us the specifications.

Then, the discussion goes to details about using small works roster and how to find the right contractor. CB notes there was an unhappy contractor, recently, who was overlooked because the BOCC didn't realize that contractor did the kind of work they were needing at the time.

CB brought up whether the County wants to continue renting to the WDFW with all their requirements. They pay \$1600 monthly.

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting with the County Auditor, Cari Hall (CH) and County Treasurer, Pam Johnson (PJ). PJ went over cash on hand and investments. CH suggests possibly investing part of the funds being held in 30-day investments. There is \$4.8 million in residual – mostly ARPA funds. AH notes that most of the ARPA funds have been allocated. We probably need to keep it as is. BOCC gets current revenue and expenditure reports.

10:11

PJ asks whether the Board would like to discuss the asset policy? The most updated version has been sent to the BOCC, but we still haven't made a decision on whether County employees can bid on surplus items. CH reported that the State Auditor said most counties do not let their employees bid on the surplus items because of the perception. The State office was to get back with CH about the Counties that do allow this. CH believes most counties don't allow their employees to do this. JN – I'm in favor of keeping it 'not able to bid'

CH asks a procedural question – What happens to items that are not sold at the Surplus Auction? The items that are left. AH – those items need to be disposed of in the most economical way. CH – Could a County Employee purchase or haul away an unsold item? CB states that would be perfectly fine. CH – it almost feels like employees are being punished for being County Employees.

LJ weighs in on how that might be fine for the employees as well as the public, if the items were not sold at the surplus auction.

10:25

CH states that we should probably have a separate policy for this, rather than just an add on.

10:29

There was quite a lot of discussion about the legal definition of 'worthless'

10:378

Fairgrounds and fairgrounds' budget looks good per PJ. There are a number of costs still in need of being paid; horse stalls, RV bathroom repair, tractor repair.

10:56

AH questions the tractor repair since this is a new tractor.

11:14

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer in to update on Public Works.

JN notes to JT that he noticed the Tonasket shop is getting its roof. AH is worried that the shops won't be completed before winter. JT states they need to have them done by January. AH notes that it will be costly if we have to do our sand operations outside of regular hours. AH wants to bring this up with the contractor (K&K Construction). JN states the architect gave another process to write to the contractor, then the 2nd letter is to the bonding agent. Contractor tells JT that the biggest issue is not having enough workers to get the jobs done timely.

CB asks JT if a building permit was necessary. JT – Yes. AH notes that you are supposed to get a

permit even if it is an Agriculture building.

11:20

JT – on the road and maintenance side – we are waiting for rain. Currently sealing the Tonasket Bridge deck. CB asks if there are also utilities to deal with on the bridge.

11:24

JT – on other construction, The Trout Unlimited project on Greenacres Road is progressing nicely. They are starting to back fill now.

JT reports that Public Works is still using “Cams software” as the new County software doesn't work well for Public Works. Other counties are experiencing the same problems with being able to replace the old software as it is tailored to each county. JT states the County Engineers association is looking into it for counties and that the state fuel tax dollars will pay for this upgrade of the computer program once found. Cascade Software would be best to evaluate for our use.

11:34

There are 2 items on the Consent Agenda; The Title 6 report, and purchase of snowplow blades.

JT also notes we got the speed bumps situation resolved. *Apparently, this was a private citizen that was taking their matters in their own hands and putting speed bumps on a county road.*

11:38

JN tells JT that the Board is putting together a committee to discuss the various fairgrounds projects and to come up with a priority list, they would like to include JT if he is willing.

JT says he would be willing and it is better for him to meet earlier in the day.

11:39

CB – asks a question about who is taking care of the horse barn. AH – We do not have anybody responsible for that right now.

JT – By the way, we did get someone hired for the Trails/Planning position that looks like a good fit, and is very organized.

11:47

Meeting adjourned until the afternoon session.