

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday May 23, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 (*Not in attendance today*)

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:

- Public Comments: Ruth Hall asked if the BOCC knew why the Columbia River was so low? AH answered that they are trying to dredge the Methow River of built-up silt/sand and debris – therefore, keeping the river levels low to do this.
- Discussion of how to fund a new ambulance in Tonasket- run a special levy or bond.
- Surplus auction should go online this week after more information received by the Sheriff's Office.
- Approval of consent agenda and vouchers: Public Hearing for Utility Franchise with Colville Confederated Tribes continued until 6/20 @11:00 am.
- Public Works: County Engineer met with WDFW for agreements/permits on Seal Creek and Bonaparte Creek Road, also met with Methow Trails regarding Goat Creek Crossing – they have applied for LTAC funds to fix bridge.
- Emergency Services Manager in to solidify burn ban restrictions in Resolution 61-2023, giving Emergency Manager ability to consult with Fire Advisory Group to change dates and times if needed – Burn ban to go into effect 6/15/2023. Discussion of distributing tax money collected to OBHC for Mental Health services, Drug/alcohol assessment& tx, Developmentally Disabled services. Wa State Public Works Board will be giving some workshops in this area.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:37 until 1:30 PM.

9:30

The meeting came to order after having a quorum of Commissioners: AH and JN. CB is absent. Opened Public Comment at this time: Ruth Hall asked BOCC if they knew why the Columbia River is at such low levels in the Brewster/Pateros area. AH answered there is a need to dredge the silt/sand and debris from the Methow River, and are therefore, keeping the Columbia River levels low to take care of this.

9:44

AH asks LJ about updates from the Surplus Auction. - when it will go online. LJ states they are waiting for some more information from the Sheriff's Office and then auction should go online later this week. AH asks if this online auction goes for a set amount of time? Yes per LJ – once the auction is over, we'll be getting an e-mail about who the buyer is. Then, there is some processing to verify and get transaction completed. AH asks, who is going to be checking on this? LJ states she will be in touch with the auctioneer and start agreement process. LJ – I will work with departments to get this completed, and also if items don't sell. LJ states the resolution allows for the less expensive way to get rid of items not sold like computers, cellphones, etc. AH asks if it is the Department's responsibility to take care of these items, but LJ answers that Maintenance takes care of the majority of the items. AH noted that there is a bunch of steel in the auction.

9:59

BOCC goes over previous proceedings to see if they can approve this while CB is out.

****There is no meeting on Wednesday******

10:08

Maurice Goodall in to speak with BOCC – will be back to talk with BOCC after the Public Works report.

10:16

May 8th and 9th BOCC proceedings are approved.

LJ has received a letter regarding a grant that OBHC is applying for – in DUI court. AH states that they will wait to take action on this until CB is back next week.

10:18

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve vouchers in the amount of \$1,471,562.

10:26

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda:

1. Reappointment letter Okanogan County Fair Advisory Group – Wanda McFarland
2. Reappointment letter Okanogan County Fair Advisory Group – Charlayne Knapp
3. Reappointment letter Okanogan County Fair Advisory Group – Rick Hamilton
4. ARPA fund request #3 equipment – Community Action Council
5. Special occasion liquor license for The Blues Ranch July 21/22/&23. 2023 – Arthur Allen
6. Local agency agreement Supplement #2 – Twisp River Road Bridge Deck Repair – Wa St DOT
7. Award recommendation - CRP No. 9114-06 Twisp River Rd Deck Repair – Razz Const. LLC
8. Contract renewal – originally signed 4/25/23 by BOCC for DNR communication site lease #52-C69395

11:00

Public Hearing Utility Franchise – Colville Confederated Tribes IT Department – JoAnn Stansbury
Staff report: renewal of #0123 for fiber optic line on certain roads within their jurisdiction. There are 2 separate agreements. They have paid their \$750 franchise fee. Tribal lawyers are currently reviewing the agreement so recommending that this hearing being continued until 6/20 @11:00.

11:03

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to continue hearing until 6/20

Public Works update: Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer.

Maintenance and Roads: JT has recently met with WDFW on both the Seal Creek/Redman Creek and Bonaparte Lake Road. Permission has been given to the County to work on these areas.

Of note, Seal Creek is a fish-bearing stream, but Redman Creek is not. Public Works expects to be doing some chip sealing in the Bonaparte area this year. They have been cleaning out ditches filled with silt and debris from the flooding.

AH asks JT if there is any funding for catastrophic events. JT answers no.

11:10

JT reports that the Wolf Creek Road problem is slowing down. Owhi Lake – no new information., JT met with Methow Trails folks about the Goat Creek Crossing bridge. They have applied for LTAC funding for this. AH had received an e-mail from James DeSalvo about the costs.

JT states that he also went to Foster Bridge. \$163,000 in LTAC funds applied for. AH states this probably won't get done until next spring. JT related that they are hoping to get it done before the next ski season.

JT and AH discuss there is some county ownership along the trail, and also private ownership.

JT reports the Old Hwy 97 project is moving along, Contractor hoping to pave in early June.

The footings are being poured for the Tonasket Shop, nothing on the Twisp shop however.

JT also reports on the federal funds exchange and that we have projects that are obligated.

AH asks about Elbow Coulee Road. If the ecology blocks are the work of the County, they need to be checked on as they are really leaning over. JT to check that out.

11:21

Maurice Goodall (MG) Emergency Services Mgr in to discuss the completed resolution for the burn ban restrictions. He has met with the Fire Advisory Group and they are still in agreement for the burn ban to begin June 15th. Some wording has been changed to match the DNR. Resolution puts in place the procedure for emergency change of dates and times. Emergency Services Mgr, along with the Fire Advisory Group can make these changes, absent an ability to speak with the BOCC.

11:25

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the Resolution 61-2023 authorizing the burn ban dates and Emergency Services ability to make changes.

MG states that we may want to put this into the Code. AH states or maybe an ordinance.

LJ brings forth invoices she has received from OBHC that are over the budgeted amount.

AH explains to JN the procedure; tax monies received for Mental Health Services. BOCC designates some to Mental Health, Substance Abuse Services, and Developmental Disabilities. They will need to be within the budget however. AH states that BOCC will send a check for amount budgeted, not billed.

11:35

LJ explains that the WA State Public Works Board will be holding workshops. Some of the dates have passed. JN will look into this and believes that JT is already aware of these.

AH states that it may just be good to have the information.

11:37

Meeting is recessed until 1:30 PM