

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday July 18, 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 click 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:

- Problems with irrigation water at the fairgrounds – considering purchasing a water right for the fire. Public Comment: Ruth Hall thanks CB for the Monse Plat map for the upcoming road vacation and concern of the Sheriffs request for 2% sales tax for public safety.
- Finance Committee Meeting: cash on hand, revenue, expenditures, and investments. Discussion regarding Junior Districts requirements.
- Public Hearings: Waterline Franchise Renewal-Gebbers Cattle LTD – to water stock and Utility Franchise for Colville Confederated Tribes IT.
- Public Works Update from County Engineer.
- Meeting Adjourned at 11:26.

9:00

Closed session for 5 minutes to discuss Union negotiations**

9:05

AH – I was over at the fairgrounds yesterday. The water system is really having difficulty. It might be a good idea to purchase a water right for the fair. The Pine Creek water is available. There is such a hard time with water in the summertime.

9:15

Public Comment Period: Ruth Hall(RH) thanked CB for giving her a copy of the Monse plat for the upcoming Monse road vacation request – more information is needed. CB states there is no staff report yet. RH is also concerned about the Sheriff asking for a 2% tax for public safety – will need to see what would justify that.

9:20

AH states that he would rather build a new barn at the fairgrounds. The arena and Equine building is pretty well set up now. We need to look at the water system.

CH comments that we've been dealing with the water situation at the fairgrounds since we became commissioners. Didn't the well get dug deeper?

AH notes there is a lot of irrigation going on around the fairgrounds area. I wonder if we're tapped into the same source of water. AH wonders if all the irrigation is one thing that drags the system down.

CB states he doesn't know much about well to surface conversions.

10:20

Finance Committee Meeting for July – End of June. Cari Hall (CH) Auditor, Pam Johnson (PJ) Treasurer, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Finance Manager.

PJ begins the financial report with current expenses at the end of June. She reported on revenues and expenditures and interest rates. 71% revenue collected with 42% spent.

AH notes that both expenses and revenues go up.

CH brings up what was discussed at the last financial meeting about the draft letter outlining roles and decision making processes. She has drafted a letter naming the roles and establishing boundaries. CH also wants to get the budget-call letter out. AH asks if the Junior Districts are the same as us (the County)? AH states we need their budgets by November 1st. JN asks what the levy cap is for the EMS districts? 50% or 60%? City of Twisp is in a Metropolitan classification and is able to ask for 75%.

11:00

Public Hearing – waterline Franchise renewal – Gebbers Cattle LTD with Jo Ann Stansbury (JS), Public Works and Josh Thomson (JT) County Engineer. JS reports this is for stock watering on the Watson Draw and Bill Shaw Road. This is an existing franchise from 50 years ago. No public comment.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve this waterline franchise renewal for Gebbers, Resolution 86-2023.

11:10

Continued Public Hearing for the Utility Franchise for the Colville Confederated Tribe IT. The first hearing was 5/23, then 6/20. and now today. No public comment. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve U01-23 and Resolution 87-2023, adopting the utility franchise.

11:14

JT gives Public Works update. Chip sealing is full swing now. They are going from Chesaw to Toroda Creek to Omak flats to Brewster and then to the City of Omak. The staff are happy with the new machine.

They are pouring a slab for the Tonasket Shop today. AH asks when they are expecting to get this completed. JT states they are hoping to be completed in November/December as initially outlined.

JT reports Solid waste agreements with all cities. Also, the engineering tech position is in need of approval. Other than that, JT is working on budgets. JT will be meeting with the Contractor at the landfill this afternoon. He's happy to be meeting in person.

11:26

Meeting adjourned.