

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Monday, July 31, 2023 AM**

JN—Jon Neal, BOCC, District 3—via Zoom  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Vice-Chair, District 1—via Zoom  
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Chair, District 2  
CHA—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
NP—Naomie Peasley—Fairgrounds Manager  
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning

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 <https://www.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)

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*Summary of significant discussions:*

- Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager, updates the commissioners about towable light towers the county could buy from the PUD and issues with the well at the RV Park. The commissioners have a plan to remove all the surplus items currently being stored in the Goat Barn by the end of the week.
- Meeting adjourns at 9:45.

**00:50—Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioners discuss the fire in the north part of the county. JN hears the fire is 0% contained. The winds die down in the evening, but spring up again in the morning. Speculation about whether the 10,000 acres refers just to fire in the US or includes Canada.

JN—Maurice Goodall, (Emergency Management) says three structures have burned, but not necessarily dwellings.

CB—MG probably won't give an update this morning.

CB—PP isn't here because she had car trouble this morning.

CB—This morning, I had a phone meeting with Michael Anderson of the North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative. He's stepping down as co-chair. At next month's steering committee meeting, they'll name a new chair. I won't be able to be there, but there are lots of projects moving forward.

CB—I did a quickie on the North Central Washington Diversionary Program. There's a proposal to do something called Something Intercept. There are studies from each county that we can talk about tomorrow. Commissioner Overbey (of Chelan County) can answer questions. There's a participation cost, but with the Intercept Process—when you have mental health individuals that come into the system, it's a study on how they get picked up, how they fall through the cracks, and how they end up in jail and the emergency room. There was a conversation about regional jail systems. The sheriff in the

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past has been a part of it, so I want to see if Tony wants to be a part of it. The sheriffs in both counties down there are part of it along with the prosecutor.

AH—You mean Paul?

CB—Yeah. I mean Paul Budrow (County Sheriff). But Tony Hawley (former County Sheriff) was involved in it for a while.

JN—Can you resend the email? I can't find it.

CB has trouble with his password.

**14:30**—No public comments.

AH—I've got information about the stuff in the Goat Barn. I'm going to haul the electronics stuff to a recycler. There are 16 printers that cost \$20 each for the recycler to take. Joe (Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor) will haul the metal items to Randy's Towing. NP offered to have a "yard sale" on Saturday, but it'll be mostly just chairs.

CB—I'll go look at all the stuff but the objective is to have the Goat Barn cleaned out by the end of the week.

**24:35**—JN—Did you get the forward about the DOT about the "heavier haul" stuff? I sent it on Friday. From the DOT. The Feds are looking to up the weight limit on a normal haul to 91,000 lbs. Concerns are lots of bridges aren't designed for that much weight. It's HB 3372. The railroads are opposed to it.

**31:10**—NP—I'm Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager.

NP—It's a busy Monday morning. Prepping for Fair. Lots of contracts coming in.

NP—The Okanogan PUD says they've got two light towers they are surplusing and we can buy them for \$3,800 each. They're the kind we rent for the Fair and Fairground activities. We rent them every year.

AH—The kind with the generator?

NP—Yes.

AH—They'd probably be useful all around the county.

Discussion ensues and it's decided that Public Works should buy them because they'd use them the most, but the Fairgrounds would rent them when they need them.

NP—I've got quotes from DIVCO for heating and AC in the office. What we've got now doesn't work.

NP—There are issues with the well at the RV park. Fogle can come and blow the wells to clean them. That's what they think needs to be done.

CB would like more information on the diagnosis of the problem, so NP will give him the contact information for Fogle.

NP—We've got electrical issues at some of the barns for the Fair. Hoping to remedy them and get up to code. Hoping that will be done soon.

NP—The Fair Activities Committee meets on Thursday.

NP—What was decided about the surplus?

AH—It'll be gone by the end of the week.

NP—Any more questions? No? Thanks.

CB—I need to check on the air quality issues in this building. People in Planning are getting sick.

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AH—Tell maintenance that can put filters on the exhaust. I think HEPA filters should be put on all of that stuff.

CB—I'll talk to Joe today to see what can be done.

CB—Any more business for today?

AH—I talked with the Colville Tribes about the Fairgrounds stuff, and I can tell you about it tomorrow. I spoke to their attorney because she writes up all the MOAs (Memorandums of Agreement).

CB—Tomorrow we'll have a full day.

Adjourn at 9:45.