

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, October 10, 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 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:

- 50-minute executive session for potential/ongoing litigation, including HR/Risk Manager, Chief Civil Deputy, and Planning Director.
- Budget Work Session with Auditor, Treasurer, and Finance Manager,
- Continuing conversation with the Consultant regarding construction on Sheriffs/Coroner Building. Solid Waste Update: Pond liner is completed, Department of Ecology grant awarded to County.
- Public Works Update: 3 construction projects with some problems; Cameron Lake Road – continue to work on right of way with the Tribe, Twisp River Road – Federal rules have changed and need to consult with Fisheries, Foster Mountain Bridge work with LTAC funding – not going to happen this year. Greenacres Road project nearly complete. Completing sale of old pit with WDFW, and the purchase of Mazama property with the Methow Conservancy. There are 35 applications pending for LTAC funding.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:02. Health Dept meeting at 1:30, along with afternoon business.

9:00

Discussion regarding replacement of a door at the fairgrounds.

Resolution 139-2023 current expense to fairgrounds.

9:10

It was moved, seconded, and carried to continue with the conditional defense through discovery on the Hallway case.

JN discusses with CB the annexation with the City of Okanogan, in particular the Senior Center. CB – just waiting for updates from the city planner.

LJ reports on the 2-year lease of the Justice Building to WDFW. The Board also needs to talk about

budgeting the agreement costs for the Waterbank. LJ received correspondence from Kortner consultants.

9:30

Board approved amendment 1 with MJ Neal & Associates on the Sheriff/Coroner building.
*****Executive Session for potential/ongoing agency litigation under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) with Planning Director, HR/Risk Manager, and Chief Civil Deputy*****
Until 10:23

10:24

Budget Work Session with Cari Hall (CH)- Auditor. Pam Johnson (PJ)- Treasurer. & Lisa Schreckengast (LS)- Finance Manager :
CH shares the budget on Zoom. They go through the budget for lines that need to be updated/changed.
10:29

More budget discussion with JN and CB, AH is out.

CB asks how salary increases will be reflected in the budget. Also, departments need to be the ones to request.

LJ -there are changes to Public Records line as there is the new Public Records Request Position. Will need to do the budgeting for that position. CH states there will be more discussion regarding the different department budgets in the afternoon session.

11:00

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports on the Apple Maggot steam process. This went well last week and they're working on a new permit. JN asks whether there will be a change in the apple maggot quarantine area in the Okanogan Valley. KK – we're waiting to see from the Department of Agriculture

KK gives a little history on how and when the Solid Waste Management Plan was adopted in the State and County. It was adopted in 1969 in the State. Okanogan put their plan in place in 1971. Elmer City and Coulee City had their own agreements with Grant County. Their material is going to Grant County. It makes no sense for the waste to come this way.

KK reports on the pond line replacement. It is completed and looks great.

KK – we've been awarded a Department of Ecology grant. We accepted the offer. Now, we will be finding out more about it. I have some equipment I want.

11:10

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports on the maintenance and road conditions. Crack sealing is finished.

JT – there are 3 projects that have some problems; 1 Cameron Lake Road, trying to get a right of way from the Tribe/BIA and haven't heard anything. We're all ready to go on our side of things.

2. The Twisp River Road - Federal rules have changed and now, they need to consult with Fisheries.

3. The Foster Mountain Bridge - we're having problems with DNR. Therefore, this is not going to happen this year. LTAC funds have been approved for this project. Public Works is doing the work and we will submit our bills. Will talk with Commissioner Hover on this.

The Greenacres Road project is nearly complete – just the guardrail and re-painting.

JT – doing some paperwork with WDFW on the sale of the old gravel pit. Also, working with the Methow Conservancy for the purchase of the Mazama property. There are 2 documents to sign.

11:24

Andy arrives

11:25

BOCC authorizes Chair to sign authorization to purchase Mazama property. Hazardous certification has been completed by the Conservancy.

Moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the Chair to sign the hazardous substance certification.

Methow Conservancy did the assessment.

JT – LTAC funds have been committed to the Foster Bridge Project.

AH states this will probably require a new application.

LJ asks if it can just be extended. AH will bring it up to the committee to see if the date can just be extended.

11:40

AH states there are 35 applications for LTAC funding. Maybe, we (BOCC) want to pull the funding for the Foster Bridge and use other funding for that. We need to make a decision regarding this. Maybe take it out of current expense reserve.

AH – Do we have the person hired for this trails position? They need to start working on this

11:48

On the Mazama Bridge property, not sure they look like. RCO funds with Methow Conservancy.

Concerned with habitat protection.

JT states that we made protection.ews (*I think he was referring to the grizzly reintroduction discussion*)

JT – I will write something up.

11:50

CB remembers the RCTO discussion previously

It is moved, seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 140-2023, Budget amendment to expense \$130,000 to Fairgrounds.

LJ has more things for the afternoon session, after Public Health meeting.

12:02

Meeting Adjourned.