

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday November 7, 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

Cameron Burnette (Cburn) – Deputy 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:

- Senator Murray appropriated \$3million for the Communications Center.
- No Public Comment.
- Finance Committee: budget discussion; appropriating revenue from investment income (\$770,000), and other budget line items.
- 6 Public hearings on Budget Supplemental Appropriations.
- Public Works update: readying for winter weather, discussion of Similkameen trail, and other recreational trails. County owned parcel of land .16 acre unusable – easement requested. County Engineer drawing map with DOT regarding whether roads are rural or urban. Address issue on Cougar Creek Road; Sheridan, east and west forks of the Creek Rd. Board considers putting money into the County Trail system.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:14

9:00

Meeting opened.

JN brings up the motion for Summary Judgement received from the Forest Service.

9:11

JN notified that Senator Patty Murry has appropriated #3 million for the Communications Center.

9:15

No Public Comment

9:30

Roundtable – Finance Discussion with Pam Johnson (PJ) Treasurer, Lisa Schreckengost (LS) Finance manager, and Cari Hall (CH) Auditor

PJ starts out the discussion by going over the budgets – Stadium/Tourism budget item and motel/hotel

transient tax.

CH points out, from yesterday's notes, that capital expenditures line needs to be reduced in Mental Health in order to balance.

Discussion on revenue, cash on hand, different line items and preparing for budget supplementals Also, what to keep in reserve.

Per PJ, there is over \$770, 000 revenue from investments

10:30

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation - Clerk's Office. BOCC approves Resolution 149-2023 for \$4500. (expenses for new car)

10:35

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Public Works (actually for Solid Waste)\$45,000 Resolution 150-2023. BOCC approved

10:40

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Non-Dept 001.015 in Public Defenders Office Resolution 151-2023 \$423,987 -Liability & Property insurance 146, BOCC approved

10:45

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Equipment Reserve Fund 196 Central Services \$59,000 Resolution 152-2023, BOCC approved

10:50

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Fair fund 112 \$37, 550 Resolution 153-2023, approved by the BOCC.

10:55

Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Non-Dept \$450,000. (Moving investment interest to Contingency Reserve) Approved Resolution 154-2023.

No Public Comment on any of these Public Hearings.

11:00

Public Works Update with Josh Thomson (JT). County Engineer.

JT – On the maintenance and Road side – a lot of trucks are ready to go for winter. Still working on the Salmon Creek project.

JT – The annual Construction list needs to be approved every year before accessing road funds.

JT – we're still working on the Cameron Lake Road project. Twisp River project gone for now.

Working on the Loomis/Oroville Road Project and Chesaw drainage in the design phase.

JT – Also, a list of the guardrail safety projects for 2025

11:12

JT brings up the Similkameen trail – PUD thinks it might be too dangerous to re-open. JT took a look and feels it should be okay.

11:18

BOCC discusses putting \$\$ into County trails such as Similkameen or Whistler Canyon. CB wants to be sure the trails are used before putting money into them and is concerned about areas that are sub-optimal. AH states – let's develop a good product. AH – and we want to make sure that when we direct people, all the information is in one place.

11:27

CB brings up working with the Oroville Initiative group on their trail priorities. They are a volunteer coordinator

11:30

LJ is concerned that not all trails are listed in the trails APP that we pay for

CB brings up the history of how the Methow Trail system took quite awhile, needed people's minds to change, etc. People's views change over time and different landowners also change.
JN looks up the length of the Similkameen Trail and notes that it ends at the Tunnel. CB -we may have to invest in the tunnel.

AH asks JT to bring in the new "Trails" person to meet the Board. JT will bring her in. CB -we can develop a parks/recreation plan through the RCO.

11:39

JT brings up about a county land parcel that is not being used and a nearby landowner would like an easement. Thi land can not be developed. It is .16 acre and is steep ground on the Twisp-Winthrop Eastside Road. AH states that he would be willing to sell the property, maybe we can negotiate with the adjacent landowner. JT states it would probably have to be auctioned and he is not sure, but it may have been surplussed before. This land was acquired over 50 years ago. JT states that we might be able to negotiate with the landowner since it is less than \$5000 value. I see no reason for the County to keep this property.

11:42

LJ reads the law to the BOCC. If the land is less than \$5000 value, it might not have to go to auction.

CB – Let's explore the land value and go from there. AH states this property is right outside of Winthrop. JT will look into it.

11:48

JT reports meeting with the WSDOT, because every 10 years' Census, WSDOT makes a road determination whether is rural or urban road. JT states that just affects funding; It is better for us to keep roads rural. They are looking at Rodeo Trail Drive and maybe Shumway, and also the Okanogan/Omak airports.

11:53

BOCC heard from a landowner on Cougar Creek Road regarding the signs and road designations.
JT states the landowner has a problem with the name and the sign;. It was always just Cougar Creek Road and then there have been roads added which are not county roads – 3 forks in the road; East Fork of the Cougar Creek, West Fork of Cougar Creek, and Sheridan Road. CB thinks the issue has been resolved and wonders if JT would like him to call the landowner.

12:14

Meeting adjourned.