

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 3

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1

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 Comment: Ms. Jackson – relates concerns regarding public housing and drug use by occupants asking for more investigation into the matter.

Blue Sky Minds approved to use BOCC logo on food assessment and website to show cooperative relationship with the County.

Finance Committee Meeting: Aeneas Valley Irrigation District able to pay back some of money owed to County. ARPA funds approved for two Community Action projects – one for food crisis funding; BOCC supportive of Twisp’s land purchase; supports Wa. State Dept of Parks & Recreation purchase of property near Pearrygin Lake. The board discussed the bid for work on the courthouse elevators.

Public Works: Conditions have been completed for the vacation of an unnamed connector road between Meek Road and Susan Road in the Lost River Airport Tracts Association, so an order of vacation will be filed. Grading roads and finishing up with the stabilizer. Damage to the Chesaw Road. Road restrictions being lifted in Chesaw. Chip seal project ongoing. No chip seal projects slated for next year. Will send two letters for Okanogan County Organization of Governments to: the Colville Tribes and the town of Riverside.

Appointment letters signed for new Board of Equalization member, TV District #1, and Methow Watershed Council.

Consideration of officially adopting the Housing Task Force.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38.

9:00

Flag Salute

Commissioners reviewing April 1,2,8, &9 proceedings.

JN reports there is a transportation study being completed on Hwy 155

9:15

Public Comment:

Ms Jackson (online) states that she is currently reviewing the missed conversation about the homeless coalition. There is a huge problem with drugs in low-income housing. They really need to do background checks because we need to know who is really homeless and who is abusing the system. She states that she experienced a methamphetamine lab next door to her when she was residing in low income housing in Mansfield for many years. She blew the whistle on it, but it never completely went away. Drug dealing is here and abroad and needs to be dealt with. In order to handle this problem, there needs to be more boots on the ground.

CB reports to Board that he will be sharing the minutes from the Crisis Collaboration group. This was completed by the Carolan contractor. CB states that it is a mixed bag as far as participation in this group is concerned – law enforcement, mental health professionals, administrators, etc.

9:26

LJ reports to the Board that the Administrative Assistant position has been filled by Darlene Frazier. LJ – she has a good office background- has worked in Canada for 14 years. She has a lot of experience and will start tomorrow.

LJ also brings up that Blue Sky Minds is requesting to use the BOCC Logo on the food assessment report. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve this request as it would indicate that we (*The BOCC*) are partners in this project.

CB reports that Dale Swedberg is looking for a map that would show the property that the BOCC is considering putting a kiosk in the Loomis area, for parking also.

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting with Pam Johnson (PJ) County Treasurer, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Finance Manager. (*The treasurer gives a financial report to the Board, and they note she put the cash on hand in the report 2X.*) PJ notes that our cash on hand right now, is about average. Currently there is a 5.5% interest rate on money market investments. This is predicted to possibly drop in September. PJ refers to the Revenue and Expenditures report. There is more expenditure in the Treasurer's Office due to sending out the tax statements. AH asks how come the Prosecutors' office revenue has increased. PJ is uncertain because she is not sure how they are doing their billing and handling some grant money. The revenue for the jail is from Douglas County.

10:07

PJ reports that Aeneas Valley Irrigation District has been able to pay back \$55,000 owed from using county warrants. They expect to have more money in the near future, also.

AH asks PJ about the money designated for HVAC improvements to our building. LJ will follow up with the building manager.

10:15

Other business from LJ

LJ reports there are a couple of ARPA funds requests from Community Action Council.

LJ – We need a motion to appoint David Asia to Methow Watershed Council. We also need re-appointment letter for Justin Delfino to the TV District #1. The Board needs to pay for the Methow Valley EMS audit, and a letter received from the Town of Twisp regarding acquiring land and wants to know if the BOCC would like to confer on this. AH notes that this is a bunch of open space up on the hill about the old mill property.

10:20

LJ – We have a resolution to increase the groundskeeper's time during the peak work time. This is a

Grade 4 position.

JN notes that he can sign the CRAB report completed by County Engineer.

10:27

It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize CB as the signer/representative to the Opioid Settlement Lawsuit monies.

The BOCC votes to have the Chair sign the office of Public Defense Advocacy agreement.

10:32

It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the Clerk to draft a letter to the Wa St Dept of Parks & Recreation in support of purchasing the property in the vicinity of Pearrygin Lake. Also, the Board approved a letter of support to the Town of Twisp to purchase the property above the old mill site.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to re-approve Justin Delfino to the TV District #1.

10:38

BOCC approves Resolution 59-2024 changing the Fairground Maintenance employee to $\frac{3}{4}$ time from $\frac{1}{2}$ time when work demand is greater. *(There was quite a bit of discussion about making this change.)*

10:42

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Community Action Council (CAC)'s request for ARPA funding for 2 projects; #1 is for \$2,708, and Project #2 is for food crisis - \$7,539.

10:43

Also, CBDG request #21 approved for Public Services completed in February by CAC

10:44

Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve voucher for \$1,766.57 on behalf of the Methow Valley EMS District for State audit, along with a letter of acknowledgement to the State Auditor.

10:47

Board approves \$2,061,926.00 voucher

10:49

LJ reports that Otis Elevator has submitted a bid to upgrade 2 of the courthouse elevators for \$128,500.00 each. LJ explains what the scope of work will be and this will bring it up to current code. *(There was a lengthy discussion regarding this expenditure.)*

10:58

Public Works: CB asks County Engineer, Josh Thomson (JT) if he had a chance to look at the right of way in Loomis for the possible kiosk? JT – Yes, and it looks like it will work. CB – Dale Swedberg wasn't sure what he was looking at and would like a map to show him exactly.

JT notes that the north side of the fire department would be the best. There is also the community Center there.

11:08

JT reports on maintenance and road conditions. We are still grading roads and finishing up with the stabilizer. There is quite a lot of damage to the Chesaw Road. Road restrictions are finally being lifted in Chesaw. We are working on the chip seal project that I spoke of last week. JT – there are no chip seal projects slated for next year.

JT reports that he will need to send out 2 letters for OCOG (Okanogan County Organization of Governments) He will be sending one to the Tribe and one to the Town of Riverside.

11:16

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Grant agreement -ARPA funding Critical Direct Services Program – Room One
2. Purchase approval -P2 Durapatcher-special asphalt, Sourcesell Contract
3. Project Plans, Provisions, Specifications approval -Loomis Oroville Rd Drainage Project

4. Inadvertent Discovery Plan -fairgrounds capital projects
5. Parcel consolidation – 269 Railroad Avenue Okanogan, City of Okanogan
6. Letter of appointment -Board of Equalization – Mikal Thornton
7. ARPA Req#9 -technical assistance -Economic Alliance
8. Photo release forms -CGI Digital – Commissioners
9. Contract – Radio Network consultant -2nd addendum ADCOMM Engineering
10. Contract -24-013 LTAC Capital Improvements -Ok County Tourism Council
11. Contract – 24-017 LTAC operations -Okanogan County Tourism Council
12. Contract – 24-018 LTAC DMO Amendment 2 -Ok Co Tourism Council
13. Resolution 58-2024 PUD Privilege tax payments 2024 -Ok County & Douglas County PUD
14. Resolution 60-2024 -Reclassifying Administrative Secretary position – Commissioners Office

LJ asks the Board about their thoughts on officially adopting the Housing Task Force?

AH says that we need to do that.

CB – that is kind of like the Methow Watershed Council

CB also notes that in October 2020 was the Okanogan County Crisis Code

11:38

Meeting adjourned