

## Board of Okanogan County Commissioners Tuesday April 4, 2023, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 By Zoom

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](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:

- ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds report due at the end of April,
- Commissioners contacted by National Association of Counties(NACo) regarding public land in individual counties. They propose utilizing Local and Tribal Consistency Funds (LATCF) which the county receives based on the amount of public land in the County. This new advocacy group (NACo) would take 1% of monies received to help fund this group. Okanogan County share would be \$120,000 – the most of any Washington County. BOCC needs more information and initially, is not willing to join this group and utilize our money this way.
- The Board heard from Clerk and Risk Manager regarding the need for car to take sensitive court materials to the Justice Building.
- BOCC is amending the Public Health Charter – creating a new resolution.
- One bid received for auctioneer services at the County Fair,
- Approval received for refund allocation of money for the District & Superior Court.
- Chief Dispatch Officer updates BOCC; Coulee Dam Police Dept will be utilizing Grant County Dispatch services – rather than Okanogan County, to begin next year, budgeting of sales tax revenue among agencies. Continuing to look around for buildings if the proposed site with the City of Okanogan and Tribe does not work. Staffing: 11 of 13 Dispatch positions are now filled. July is the delivery date for the new Mobile Command Center.
- Permit received for work on Tunk Building.
- Bid Opening for Old Hwy 97 road project: 3 bids.
- 4 counties weighing in on bear relocation plan,
- Resolution changing Fair Assistant position from seasonal to full time.
- Surplus auction has been advertised for May 13, 2023,
- Public Works/Planning Department continue to develop new Recreation/ Trails Position.
- Solid Waste and Public Works: Barnholt Loop considering 25 MPH speed limit change.
- Adjourn at 11:50 until the afternoon session.

9:00

CB reports that the Portal is open for ARPA funds report (2022) which is due at the end of April 4/30/2023. AH asks CB if everything is taken care of for the Opioid Settlement funds, and CB stated yes, everything is square. AH would like to put the ARPA report on the Monday agenda. CB would also like to discuss the County property close to the Parking Lot of Virginia Grainger building later this morning.

CB reports that Kevin Overbay, Chelan County Commissioner, contacted him regarding a public lands group, National Association of Counties (NACo). Yesterday was a virtual assembly at noon explaining the purpose and what it entails. None of the BOCC were able to attend and it is difficult to determine just what the benefit would be for Okanogan County. This proposal is to have every county pay 1% of their LATCF (Local & Tribal Consistency Funding) received for the amount of Public Land within the County and pay this into NACo to advocate for the Counties. Okanogan County's share would be \$120,000 (the largest amount of Washington Counties). There is apparently some advocacy at the federal level regarding the impact of Public Lands on the County. Stevens County Commissioner McCart is against this. AH states that he is thoroughly opposed to give up that kind of money, for what? We should talk with our lobbyist. CB wants to know what is deliverable from this. In not knowing the benefit of this, we are unanimously against this. LJ states that there is already a bill for \$120,000. AH remarks that we never lost our SRS (Secure Rural Schools) funding. Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) apparently supports this NACO idea. There are only 2 or 3 counties that don't have public land in them. AH would like to have another informational session (*to make an informed decision*).

9:29

Susan Speiker, (SS), County Clerk and Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR & Risk Manager in to discuss need for a vehicle to transport important information to the Justice Building from the Courthouse. SS states it is a wonderful day for me to ask for a vehicle to take court items offsite. There are numerous issues regarding the use of personal/ privately owned vehicles. SS has checked with other counties to see how they handle this. Most Counties' Clerks are housed in the same building as the Court, but the Counties that do have to transport – they utilize a deputy to assist in transport. CB asks SS to explain what type of things they are transporting. SS states that the Clerk is responsible for all Court Exhibits. We deal with Class A felonies. Sometimes this is hazardous materials. When asked whether a car from Juvenile would work, SS states that might be perfect. She would like a car with a big trunk. SS has a lot of concerns for herself and staff. I don't want a car assigned, but just wants to use a car when needed.

Criminal trials are 2 weeks of the month, and then there are also civil trials. The need varies, but I need to have access to a county vehicle when these come up.

CB asks whether SS has spoken with Dennis Rabidou about this? SS states that she came to the BOCC first for guidance. AH suggests that maybe a locked box in the vehicle might work. SS – but not in a personal vehicle.

9:38

AH- We could buy a locked container and charge to current expense. CB asks SS – What is the farthest that you need to go? SS states just to the Justice Building. Usually just the first two weeks of the month and that would be off and on.

AH has a couple of ideas; maybe you could share with the Treasurer and Auditor. SS wants to be

mindful of health & safety.

CB suggests maybe a sheriff's vehicle. SS thinks this might be the perfect solution. She will talk with the Sheriff. SK states that she reached out to the Risk Pool, who definitely feels a county vehicle should be used for this.

CB thanks SS for coming in. It is always good to know what the Clerk's office has to deal with.

9:47

AH brings up that he has the amended Public Health charter 100-2022. This will require a new resolution. CB asks if AH wants to put this on the agenda. AH yes.

AH also reports that he has a fair committee meeting on Thursday. Did we send out for Fair auction Services? There was only 1 bid. AH to read bid from Market Stock Fund volunteer auctioneering service. There will be no wages. Will also try to provide on-line bidding services. This is all non-profit. 100% of the proceeds goes back to the fair.

10:01

AH moves to proceed with Market Stock Fund proposal and allow negotiation with the Fair Advisory Committee. Moved, seconded, and carried *but CB votes no because he felt these were 2 motions.*

*Unsure of how the negotiation works.*

AH states there is only 1 applicant and the negotiation will be between the FAC and Market Stock Fund. Then, they will need to bring a recommendation to BOCC.

AH will e-mail Brent Timm regarding the choice of auctioneer services. Only 1 bid.

10:06

SS awaits Darla from District Court to help explain the Blake Refund Allocation of money \$454,000 has been allocated from the States – leaves us \$306,945. SS sees no reason to say no to Administrator of Courts

10:12

Darla states she is the only one working on this in her office. She has spent 3 weeks on this. The Prosecuting Attorney is most focused on Superior Court.

This agreement is to return the requested amount to Administrator of Courts (AOC) Moved, Seconded and carried to reduce our allocated reimbursement by \$130,000.

10:30

Mike Worden (MW), Chief Dispatch Deputy is not asking for any funds today – just updating the BOCC. Coulee Dam Police Dept is using Grant County Dispatch instead of Okanogan County for their operations. This will happen fully next year. Fire Department hasn't transitioned yet, however.

MW also reports on one issue with Dispatch Services; how to utilize the sales tax revenue to operating costs. Would like to split the difference between different funds and agencies. CB states this sounds like overheard to me. ...everybody sharing in maintaining the service. MW states he will bill out to customer agencies and agencies could benefit if our costs are not that high. That is one blind spot in the contract. We'll need an amendment. CB will support this for consideration, and we'll talk more about it.

MW reports on generator maintenance.

10:38

JN asks if there is surge protection on the generator. MW states that it is in much better condition now.

MW states that we have paid the permit fee for the Morgan Equipment Shed. MW asks CB if he has any idea how long this might all take? CB states that we should be getting notified that our application is complete. I am guessing in the next week. Just to let you know, I am still looking around in case of

the worst-case scenario. People have been wondering whether we should be building in the flood plan. Not advisable. We'll need to hear back from the Tribe.

CB asks MW if he knew what the building was considered for that is across the parking lot. AH thought it was just for more parking. LJ states the architect had done drawing, but the purpose is no longer there. CB wonders how long to leave a boarded-up building with a housing crisis.

MW reports that they secured a permit for the Tunk Communication building. Working on a contract with DOT.

MW states that they are hiring the 11<sup>th</sup> of 13 positions. We still have 3 people in training. On the down side – longevity in the agency used to be 10+ years, now is 4 years.

10:43

MW expects a July delivery date for the mobile command trailer.

CB thanks MW for the update.

LJ- 4 counties are bringing request for Grizzly Bear that we need to determine whether to sign onto.

LJ has completed the resolution for Fairgrounds assistant to be full-time.

LJ also has the Fair Queen agreement. AH states good, I will need that Thursday.

LJ completed reports on EMS Districts that are due 5/31/2023. She has advertised the 5/13/2023 Surplus Auction and notified City of Okanogan. She has done an RFQ for auction services.

LJ still needs to work on contract with Cortner for onsite utilities and the RMJ Neal Architectural Services.

LJ is also interviewing 2 different candidates for Administrative Secretary for open position.

11:00

Bid Opening CRP No. 9155 Old Hwy 97 Verestar to Plata with Josh Thomson and Shasta Stedman. County Engineer's estimate; \$1,535,000.

3 bids:

Granite Construction - \$1,703,774

Selland Construction - \$1,392,039

Hearst Construction - \$1,308,353

Public Works to go over the bids and come back with a recommendation.

11:05

Josh Thomson (JT, County Engineer discusses OCOB Planner/Trails position. It is set up to be 50% Public Works and 50% Planning. JT states that the insurance is pretty set up and he has a draft of job description. Palmer (PP), Planning Director also in to discuss this position. This is not in the Planning budget yet. AH explains some of the history and why 50% from planning. Ted Murray (*before he retired*) did this job himself and he was in Planning, then GIS. Part of it is technical planning and otherwise, maintaining different trails. CB asks about the grant source when the PNW trail started, and then went to Public Works. CB also wonders about the wisdom of having this position in the Planning Dept. It makes more sense to be in Parks and Recreation, which is under Public Works. It seems as though it needs to be in Public Works. Maybe fully. If so, JT states it would need to be a new fund. AH feels strongly about it being in Public Works.

PP states that most of what Ted Murray did was through Public Works. The only planning part was to update the recreation plan. AH asks if the Parks & Recreation fund is just from snowmobiles. Would like to use Parks & Rec if we could. With RCO funding, there needs to be a parks & recreation plan.

CB stated that it would make it more meaningful if under Parks and Recreation. AH mentions that the County owns a huge parcel in Mazama. We don't really have the capacity to do parks and recreation. CB believes we can build that capacity. CB mentions that there is an old boat launch across from County Shop. That should be developed. More to be discussed.

11:31

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports on current projects. Will be posting road closure dates when working on the Twisp Transfer Station. We have been awarded funding for the clean-up program.

11:33

JT reports on roads and maintenance – just a few road restrictions left. There are no issues at the Bonaparte Creek.

JT reports that City of Okanogan is looking for a place to put a tower for WSU to collect data.

Barnholt Loop wants speed limit of 25 MPH. They will be putting forward a petition.

JT reports on current projects; Windows are in for the Public Works building, Guardrail project beginning. Area 1 & 2 shops are beginning. It's possible there is some room on the southeast corner of the Okanogan Shop property for something else...*like CB's possible Humane Society.*

CB states that people are concerned about the Flood Plain for the Sheriff Storage and Coroner. JT states that he doesn't see any evidence of tank leaks.

11:44

Erick is willing to meet with us about the request for money for NACO – Public Lands. CB to send link.

11:50

Adjourned until 1:30