

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday September 26th, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
John Neil (JN), BOCC District 3
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board
Andi Hochleutner, Central WA Homebuilders Association

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions:

No important discussions. Various subjects briefly addressed:

- Administrative secretary for commissioners' office verbally approved*
- Signing authority granted to Juvenile administrator*
- Meeting with department heads canceled due to absences; commissioners glad for chance to address "certain issues" first*
- Homebuilders Association rep compliments commissioners on their mindset, commissioner's later decry excessive codes that stall affordable housing initiatives.*
- Board Clerk advises commissioners to read resolution relative to homeless housing funding; will continue research, report on how this affects county*
- Approval to submit WSDA application for capital improvement grant funds based on the Well and Water Project at the fairgrounds*
- Meeting adjourned at 2:52 until 4:45 for public hearing on speed limit change*

1:31 - JN says all internet was out ten minutes earlier. CB inquires about PR chief Keitzman making a deposition, JN says she's mostly listening. LJ says someone has accepted a commissioner's office administrative secretary position but for now it's only a verbal agreement. AH arrives.

Going over previous meeting minutes: CB amends a comment he made about a position's salary, JN corrects a grammar error. An indecipherable discussion about a resolution version, a committee and the building director. AH replaces JN's "GPS-ing" with "locate with GPS"... a bit about the reason for Conservation District rate hikes being that that they had to pay higher rates themselves; AH says they need to include that he commended the District for addressing issue of range cattle. Proceedings for September 18th and 19th are approved with discussed changes.

CB discussed a well grant, conditions. AH asks LJ about resolution 120-2023. It gives signing authority to Kathleen Descoteaux of Juvenile Court. It is approved. (2:02) They discuss the fact that a commissioner's credit card had been canceled after a confusion led to a late payment. AH explains to an employee who joins the meeting that the department heads meeting has been canceled due to not enough people.

2:05 - CB (reading about irrigation): This is the "no-no piece". Straight across. So you can switch your irrigation into the domestic system without any protecton. AH: (inaudible.) CB is reading from the Cross Connection Hazard Assessment. For about ten minutes they pore over written documents, making very few comments. Apparently there are a lot of pages to go through. CB says they're stuck there. AH says no, they could go shopping or something. He leaves the room. CB talks about the Golden Doe south of Twisp, and not seeing any recreation activities there in the wintertime. (There have been discussions about trail closures.) CB: If there was a trail system, that would be different.

JN in scanning the consent agenda asks about the LTAC (Lodging Tax Advisory Committee) and the Winthrop Sports Rink. Andi Hochleutner of the Central WA Homebuilders Association comes in, says she attends their meetings online, wanted to say hi. She is disappointed there is no department heads meeting; CB says it's a blessing in a way because some things have come up that they want to address before meeting with the departments and three heads are out of the office. She leaves to try to see Planning Director Palmer.

2:20 - AH talks about a Fair bill, an invoice from Papé for a "skid steer" rental, changing the credit line from Fair expenses to "us". He mentions a CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), and asks why the LTAC contract was so late. There had been a transition, said LJ, in the members of the commission. AH leaves the room. CB has LJ look for how to delay his computer home screen automatic shut-off.

2:36 - AH returns and moves to go into a closed session to discuss a union contract.

2:41 - As Commissioners return, Ms. Hochleutner returns. Says good to see Dir. Palmer head-on and not from the back like on Zoom. CB says they talk about getting more cameras. She says they are light years ahead of some of the counties she has to, no, gets to, deal with. She compliments the Commissioners' keeping a certain mindset while trying to build their community. Gives a pitch for affordable housing as she leaves. CB would have liked to ask her if they kept track of who's (inaudible) and who's not, since contractors, dry-wallers, are hard to get.

2:43 - JN: They talk about affordable housing but with all the codes, that adds \$40,000 per house. CB and AH concur. CB: Our zoning and Building (Dept.) are doing that. There are a lot of different things. And they just have to enforce the code, to present it.

JN: But they still get blamed for it. CB says when he was working on Oroville's shoreline master plan he went to a Homebuilders Association meeting. An attorney from the Methow criticizing the masterplan. CB: I just sat there awhile, then said 'that's in the earliest stage of a draft and you're up there tearing it apart.'... AH resents having to provide material from rough drafts to the press. CB says sometimes they don't replace the draft with the adopted document. CB proposes they adjourn until 5:00.

LJ: I was talking with Rena Shawver of the Community Action Council... about meeting to discuss proposals put forth by the Housing Coalition. AH: ...For (our) homeless and affordable housing funds?

LJ: Yes. She suggested beginning of November. Also I wanted to mention that you need to change or at least look at the Homeless Housing funding resolutions that mentions RCW 3622 175 and 179 which are the auditor's (reporting?) fees which are no longer in the

code and are replaced by another section. *CB wonders if it's a sales tax rebate thing.* LJ: That's Affordable Housing. This is homeless (*housing*). You should look at that. I'm doing some research. There are some questions from (Twisp housing shelter) Room One. The 50% AMI (*average median income*) and the 60% AMI that are in those resolutions that refer to that code that's gone now.

CB: Wasn't it removed when that bill was passed?

LJ: That's not a lot of funding. That bill allows a portion of the state sales tax to return to that county. I think it's been about fifty–

AH: Yeah, it would drop if they removed the recording fees.

LJ: Yes, so there's a lot of things that are unknown at this point but I just wanted to give you a heads up, look at it and try to present (*to you*) how it affects the documents. I need to talk to Cari (*Hall, Auditor*) because she's the one recording the documents and collecting the fee that was authorized in those resolutions for homeless housing...

CB says someone has to take care of the (inaudible) grant application. CB will help Ms. Keitzman write it. AH moves to authorize the Board chairman to submit the WSDA (Washington State Department of Agriculture) application for capital improvement grant funds based on the Well and Water Project at the fairgrounds.

CB: I authorize the chair to actually assist in the application and submit and sign the application for... (*Approved*).

2:52 - Adjourned until 4:45 for public hearing on Barnholt Loop speed limit change.