

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday November 28, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

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

Jim 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 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:

No public comment

BOCC authorized dispatch/Sheriff's Office to purchase vehicle from Seattle for under \$55,000,

HR/Risk Manager: updates BOCC on vehicle purchase and employee evaluations have been sent out.

Assessor Update: recap of costs this year and increases for next year; also describes 2 options for changing levy/ budgeting amounts; Levy shift or Diversion. Budget work sessions for WSU Extension along with information on what office is doing.

Public Works: waiting for snow – noticing less expenditures due to no significant snow yet, notes transfer agents with Solid Waste are always using overtime, looking for land for new pit – preferably in the North County, also surplus parcel for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24. Will reconvene at 1:00.

9:00

opened meeting

9:15

Public Comment period. Commissioner Branch's birthday today.

9:20

Dennis Rabidou(DR) spoke with the Board about his appointed position on the Opioid Abatement Council representing Okanogan County. Will report back to BOCC – there is a meeting next week.

9:29

AH asks DR about opioid abatement in the jail. States there is a need for an inter-local agreement . DR will take notes and update.

9:33

Mike Worden (MW), Communications Officer/Sheriff's Dispatch reporting on possible purchase of a 2022 Ford Explorer from Seattle area, for under \$55,000. Due to product delays, other vehicle purchases never materialized. MW has been looking locally but no one could give him this low of a

price.

9:41

It was moved, seconded, and carried to authorize the Auditor to do a budget supplemental for purchase of this vehicle. MW states that all 5 of their Durangos have a similar defect and they are all needing repair. He is hoping Dodge recalls them or puts that under a warranty.

9:44

Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR/Risk Manager in with an update on a truck from the task force that could be used at the fairgrounds. We may need to purchase a plow however. It is a 2004 Dodge 2400. Public Works is checking it out and she'll get back with the Board.

SK – Employee Evaluations have gone out and hopes they will get returned by the 15th of December which will give the Department heads time to get their meetings scheduled.

10:00

Update by the County Assessor, Larry Gilman (LG) and staff member, Bonnie. They have been working overtime for the new software program which should really be helpful to the Appraisers. That cost this year is \$63,000 which is their biggest bill outside of wages. This new update (5 iPads) will cut down on printing costs. LG-We are doing well with getting work completed in a timely manner. All but 2 Districts have turned in their Levy #s. Will report back with results of a survey among assessors when I get that back.

LG also explains the 2 options for funding regarding levies; Lev shift or diversion (which is done through the Auditor). A resolution is needed to do a levy shift.

10:07

LG states his office was pretty behind last year but is caught up now. We are one of only 6 counties who got their appraisals done timely. LG -It's nice to be on time. We have 5 appraisers and 4 vehicles, but that works fine. We don't need another vehicle. We have a floater that can use one of the others' designated vehicles. LG -we're also conducting interviews for a position – that person transferred to Public Works.

LG -We will be needing to sit down and determine what our fee schedule is. It is \$200 for a Forest application fee, with \$203.50 for recording fees – that are going up January 1st Will make the schedule after that increase.

10:15

LG-We go into levy calculations in January. I would like to request that when new resolutions are approved, we get notification of this, whether we are affected or not. I can always delete if it doesn't apply. Thank You.

10:30

Budget Work Session with Kayla Wells Yoakum(KWY) Agent and the Finance Committee: Cari Hall (CH), Auditor, Pam Johnson (PJ) Treasurer, and Lisa Schreckengost (LS) , Finance Manager.

Total administrative costs \$119,863 for 2024, \$117,558 for 2023. AH asked KWY questions about what the extension office is doing these days. 4-H has not come back since the pandemic. It is difficult getting leaders to do groups, requirements have changed tremendously for leaders. AH asks if she is considering doing groups online. KWY – she hasn't done this yet, but will see depending on leaders ability, etc. AH feels the office needs to up the game.

KWY has been with the extension office for 13 years. A lot has changed. Due to requirements on leaders, it is a hard sell to get adults to be leaders.

KWY can do a hands-on workshop.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer gives Public Works update; on Maintenance and road side – waiting for the snow. JT notes that average expenditures are down considerably lower due to no snow yet.

JT answers AH about continued overtime for some staff in Solid Waste. JT explains it is for the regular activities of Solid Waste transfer attendants.

JT also explained to AH about the Bonaparte Lake Road – should have been chip sealed, but he hasn't been there to check.

JT also acknowledges that he is looking for more land for pits. The Wildlife Council pit is expected to be good for another 12 years. JT is particularly looking for land up north for the pit and also would be nice to find an area for pit run in Brewster Area. Also, looking in Nespelem area.

JT -we do have a surplus land parcel that I should have paperwork to you next week.

JT spoke with Larry Gilman about the ATV meeting this afternoon. He will be back with maps at 3:30.

JT asks what the target date is for adopting the 2024 budget, AH answers that before the 15th of December is his personal deadline.

11:24

Meeting adjourned until 1:00 in the afternoon.