

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1:30 p.m.**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."*

**Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (via Zoom)  
Ady Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Jon Neil (JN), BOCC District 3  
Laney Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board  
Karen Beatty (KB), Central Services (IT) Director  
Shelley Keitzman, HR Director, Risk Pool  
Larry Hudson, Noxious Weeds

*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](https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php)*

**Summary of Important Discussions:**

- *By popular demand, IT to order multi-function PDF-editing software; sheriff's officers to receive module to connect phones to records app, allow real-time comments—licensing cost will double*
- *HR chief setting up safety courses with Lifeline, trainings for new employees; appraisers to identify buildings for evaluation*
- *Fair Advisory Committee website not up-to-date, sparks discussion on who should receive information regarding board and commission appointments, term expirations, letters of interest*
- *Milfoil treatment newsletter going out to Lake Osoyoos residents, Forest Service grant money to fund weed treatment on Palmer Mountain*
- *Fair contract still has a few wrinkles*

1:30 - New Software Approved - **KB:** Adobe Pro can modify and edit PDFs and create signatures.

Of the department heads and elected officials, 76 have requested it. We got a quote for an annual fee of \$7,344. It would be \$6,130 for all 76. (*Unclear whether the cost is both of these together.*) It edits text and images, combines or splits files, converts Word, Power Point and Excel into editable PDF files, exports PDFs to these apps, converts PDF to image; can delete, rotate, reorder, insert and crop pages, extract pages from a document, share files for commenting or viewing, and protect the PDF from editing. It can complete forms and add or request signatures. *Her department will administer to the users and give them tutorials. CB and AH would find this useful.*

**KB:** The Sheriff's office purchased a new module for the Spillman law enforcement records software called "Touch". It's a phone app to (allow an officer) to make a comment on a call. *She says this module would double the number of licenses already purchased by the Sheriff's office, to allow the phones to connect to the Spillman app. As with every company they've gone to a subscription-based (offer). Cost to the County: \$12,000 for 60 licenses; towns which have requested*

*the same module will be billed by the department. KB: I've been thinking it's time to settle down on bringing in all kinds of new things, and get more expertise with what we have." CB says they've had no complaints about her work. She says her team works well together.*

2:00 - HR Update - **SK:** The AED (*defibrillator*) machines are on back-order and we're waiting on the price. Tomorrow is the meeting on Courthouse security so we'll get the list—most of the department heads—of those wanting AED and CPR training. We'll schedule the classes with Lifeline soon. The new Security Committee is composed of half elected and half non-elected officials. Appraisers are coming tomorrow; Tim (*Meadows, Maintenance*) and I will accompany them as they identify the buildings they're appraising this year. - The IT department is ID-ing new employees who will get on-line training reminders as soon as they open their computers: Safety, blood-borne pathogens—there are trainings specific to departments. It's going to be a great system.

2:06 - **JN:** The State has kind of played with the Blake thing. (*The 2021 Blake Decision ushered a bill which struck down drug possession as a class C felony but this will expire July 1<sup>st</sup>. Efforts to pass a compromise bill failed. There may be a special session or it will be left up to local government.*) **CB:** It will be a partial fix. **AH:** Better than us having to do a bunch of ordinances.

*LJ noticed that the Fair website showed a lot of positions as vacant while in fact only two were vacant and two expired. After talking with the Fairgrounds Advisory Committee (FAC) Secretary, LJ is confused about who to go to for info. She needs to know whether those whose terms have expired will continue, and whether there are any letters of interest. AH talks about requesting all the appointment letters from all the boards, taking care of all appointments and advertising positions. LJ: We don't manage who's expiring. Usually it's the secretary...Do you want me to reach out to Planning Commission members? AH leaves to talk with FAB about updating the Fair website. LJ: A process is in place for the cemetery and irrigation districts to do that. The boards and committees we clerk for (Equalization, ALTAC...) we already handle that.*

3:44 - Noxious Weeds Update - *LH asks for funding from Osoyoos Lake Management District to send out a newsletter, as he did last year, informing landowners about the milfoil treatment program. Commissioners approve, say it's good for people to know what's going on. LH is waiting on Canada's final word on the chemical ProcettaCOR, which will determine whether they will be able to treat the last quarter mile of the lake. Every year the department receives a Title 2 Forest Service grant. LH says they've been using the Sheriff's office SAM (System for Award Management) number for the request; this time he would like to use the Commissioners' number. The paperwork has been done and authorization is pending on the \$23,000 grant which will allow them to cooperate with the Forest Service to control weeds on Palmer Mountain.*

*CB remembers how, when he was a Housing Authority intern, they used the Public Health SAM number and the grant ended up going to Public Health. Ensues a conversation about surgery—LH's wife's, CB's, and CB's wife; CB heard on the radio about a non-invasive proton cancer therapy used in California and at Fred Hutchinson in Seattle. Before LH leaves AH asks him how much a landowner can spray without a license. LH says private owners don't need one except in restricted use areas. AH: Seems spraying is getting easier. LH: We're dodging the bullet on the more restrictive measures in Olympia. He regrets two of their "go getter" applicators, going out of business, forcing them to look outside the county.*

2:48 - Fair Contract Discussion - *AH disagrees with a clause about a "plywood road" needed for stage access, says indoor-outdoor carpet, cheaper, would do the trick. There is also some talk of not providing catering for band and crew but providing lunch and dinner. It seems some parts of the February contract were dealt with in conversation but are not reflected in the revised contract*

*received May 7<sup>th</sup>. The attorney Esther Milner has offered some suggestions. CB says they'll get it resolved for next week.*

*3:11 - They discuss a pre-application letter from Economic Alliance; CB tells Director Roni Holder on the phone that it looks fine. JN talks about being able to capt 911 calls on his radio. Says curious people react "like moths to the light."*

*3:26 - Meeting adjourned until Monday morning.*