

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday June 20, 2023 AM**

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – Chairman of the Board, District 1 - Via Zoom

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

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

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 take 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: Budget Supplemental approved for Public Works window replacement and HVAC installation, County Assessor speaks to estimated projected revenues in relation to EMS levy expiration and what can be expected in 2025, postponing discussion on Public Health Board candidates until full board in attendance, Continuation of Public Hearing on Utility Franchise with Colville Confederated Tribes. Meeting adjourned at 11:05

*AH on vacation and CB enroute to a medical appointment in Moses Lake, postponed most business until the afternoon session. CB is intermittently on Zoom – meeting is mostly in recess.*

9:06

Changing meeting schedule around as CB unable to consistently be on Zoom until the PM session. CB on the road and will be available by Zoom for the 10:00 hearing.

Recess until 10:00

10:00

Public Hearing for Budget Supplemental from reserve to pay the invoice for the replaced Public Works windows and the HVAC system for Public Works. \$40,000. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 68-2023.

10:05

County Assessor, Larry Gilman (LG), in to discuss Projected revenues in relation to expiring 2025 EMS levy. LG states everything is hypothetical at this point. JN states the EMS levy expires in 2025 and is wondering what the new tax assessments might look like at that time. LG states that we are in the 2023 assessment year right now and I can't predict assessed values in the future. However, we can assume they will rise 1% per year and can come up with some estimates. Hypothetically, for the

City (Oroville, I believe) the revenue could , hypothetically, be \$62,494 for 2026, and \$237,429 for rural area. These are only estimates.

CB question LG regarding the Builders Guild's confidence in building in Washington State.

LG states he just got back from the State Convention and learned there are 2 counties that are experiencing stabilization of values and building, Other counties are seeing a slowing. LG thinks that maybe we (Okanogan County) is seeing a stabilization.

LB – Looking at the historical crash in 2008, we saw this in 2010. I have recently read that the Fed is not increasing the interest rate again, so that is good.

In Okanogan County, We are seeing the highest volume of building permits ever this year. We currently have 1376 open permits. LB states that the Methow Valley was found (by buyers/investors) in the 1990's and now the rest of the County has been found.

LB – there are 3 scenarios driving this surge of sales/purchases; retired people who sell a home elsewhere and purchase here with cash – not using a bank, the fact that people can work from home and live anywhere, and people buying their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> home. Local people have to compete with these purchasers.

LG reminds BOCC that we are talking about budget based revenues, not assessment based.

10:15

Recess until 10:30

10:30

Agenda item is discussion of Public Health appointment Position #7 with 3 different applicants: Denise Varner, Lisa Bauer, and Kelly Hook. JN notes that he had reached out to Lisa Bauer and had not heard back from her. He has worked with both Denise Varner and Kelly Hook and feels either one would be good. CB suggest that they wait until AH is back from vacation to discuss this appointment. JN agrees to wait until AH is in the meeting.

CB states that way we can think about it somemore and put it on the Monday agenda.

10:38

Recess until 11:00

11:00

Continued Public Hearing of the Utility franchise for Colville Confederated Tribe IT.

JoAnn Stansbury of Public Works share that this is just a renewal of fiber lines and they have gotten the Tribal signature yet. She would like to postpone until July 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:10. JN moves to continue the hearing until that time. It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried to continue again.

11:05

Meeting adjourned until 1:30 with most of the business to happen in the PM session.