

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday April 9, 2024 AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 3

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

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1

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 topics, a clock 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:

- Public Comment:
 - Salley Bull, member of Planning Commission and Board of Equalization asking for County e-mail to protect her privacy. She is also concerned about using the Chat feature during Zoom hearings due to derogatory comments and threats to officials entered via this platform.
 - Raven (on Zoom) has recommendations for the Sheriffs' Office regarding enforcing protection orders especially for high-risk victims of domestic violence that are being stalked. Raven states that the Sheriffs' Office and Prosecutors Office are not enforcing the law regarding weapons and forbidden (by protection order) places.
 - Ruth Hall clarified with the BOCC that Dennis Rabidou is resigning, and they are getting ready to hire 2 people to fill his duties.
- Juvenile Jail Administrator and Superior Court Administration: OBHC CEO in to discuss other numbers and treatment alternatives for mentally ill/substance abuse individuals in crisis and ongoing services.
- Solid Waste Manager: on receiving green waste and reducing organics in landfill.
- Public Works: Adding stabilizer to dirt roads. Using Dyna Patch for road repairs. Public Works building needs repairs. Looking at used equipment to replace broken equipment. STP chip project approved.
- No Wednesday meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:22

9:00

JN received an e-mail from Brad Armstrong regarding the City closing part of 3rd Avenue in Okanogan. CB will be talking with the City Planner and getting an update on an ARPA project. JN spoke with Steve Thompson about none of our (County) dikes are appropriate.

9:15

Public Comments:

Salley Bull (SB), County Planning Commission and Board of Equalization member shares a concern with the BOCC about using her private e-mail and that being shared with the public. SB is concerned because the Board of Equalization and the Planning Commission should have a separate/official e-mail and also the Chats on the Zoom meeting should not be in use during a hearing. There were some derogatory and threatening messages on that towards her and Pete Palmer (PP) the Planning Director. PP did talk with the Civil Deputy about this.

AH wonders whether commission/board/committee members should have a County e-mail while doing County business.

Raven (on Zoom) has recommendations for Sheriff's Office about weapons especially regarding Domestic Violence victims. Stalking victims are in the top 10 risk factors for homicide. Personally, Raven and her daughter have been stalked by a man with guns. The Sheriff's Dept is not enforcing Protection Orders. She is interested in giving the Sheriff's office training regarding domestic violence; implicit and non-implicit. She also wants this to be in their job description. They shouldn't be able to pick and choose which laws to enforce. CB states the HR director oversees job descriptions. CB asks if the Judge has a role in enforcing the protection order? Raven states that is another part of the problem. The Prosecuting Attorney's office is not willing to prosecute when orders are violated. Raven – We have a systemic issue in our County. She knows there are others that have been harmed by this lack of enforcement also. She leaves her e-mail address for others to come forward. raven.aae@icloud.com. BOCC states they will look into this.

Ruth Hall is concerned about this lack of enforcement and also has questions about Dennis Rabidou resigning and then hiring 2 people to fill his duties.

9:50

David McClay (DM), CEO for Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare in to update BOCC after last week's discussion about crisis mental health services. DM looking at the numbers of people being involuntarily (ITA) detained for their own and others' safety. More people are being ITA'd now than 4 years ago.

AH asks what happens to people once they are ITA'd. DM states they hope to get them in voluntary treatment, but usually once they return back to the county, they are back in the same environment that was the problem. DM doesn't know those numbers though.

9:57

DM states OBHC is in the middle of strategic planning. They have the results of surveys given to numerous people and will be using them to move forward. CB – states that coordination is a major piece of this. AH recommends that it might be good to schedule periodic meetings with the sheriff's office and other players. DM states there are misconceptions about what OBHC can do with folks. It really needs to be voluntary to be effective. DM cites a book called "Toxic Charity" that talks about not creating dependency.

10:20

CB stresses that we would like to take care of our people here, rather than sending them further away. AH acknowledges that some people cannot be helped. CB – There is no way in hell that we are going to make any progress if we blame others. We need to discuss and work together.

AH thinks blame happens when communication breaks down.

10:33

Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) until 11:00*****

11:00

Solid Waste Update: Manager, Ken Kovalchenko (KK), states things at the landfill are on track. They are fully staffed and receiving green waste. There will be some training for the new equipment. KK – In Twisp, we'll be doing the annual green waste event. Participation goes up every year. AH ask what is going on with the animal byproduct. KK- states that the organics from the landfill need to be reduced by 75%. All renderers in the county have stopped bringing in their waste. This is a result of HB-1799. AH would like to see the county be self-sufficient and we need to be aware when they are throwing down laws, we need to be aware so people don't start throwing their organic waste somewhere else.

11:21

Public Works: County Engineer, Josh Thomson (JT), reports on the maintenance and roads condition. We've started the stabilizer on the dirt roads. We are using the dyna-patch to fix the road problems in Chesaw. JT – we're also looking at some used equipment. The dozer at the landfill block cracked.

11:30

We're also evaluating the Public Works building for repairs. We have some dry rot and we are getting some estimates to repair.

JT asks the BOCC, when is the big move happening? No answer yet.

JT – The STP chip project was approved. BOCC approves the expenditure of \$1,003,600 in federal funds with the prospectus checklist.

11:37

BOCC approves the consent agenda minus #6:

1. Re-Appointment Letter – Okanogan Co Housing Authority – Dr Brendon Smith
2. Re-Appointment Letter – Ok County Housing Authority – Ms Andrist
3. ARPA Req #1 – Indigent Defense costs – Indigent Defense Attorney Trust
4. Survey services Consultant agreement – Tawlks-Foster Bridge – Erlandsen & Associates, Inc
5. Contract # 24-006-2024 LTAC \$30,000 Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber
6. Resolution 54-2024 Separating Juvenile Services Director/Superior Court Administrator
7. Resolution 55-2024 Allocation of ARPA funds to Direct Services Program – Room One

11:39

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve revised payroll amount \$1,128,128 – payroll voucher Vouchers for \$447,612

11:41

BOCC approves \$89,449 contract payment to the Methow Valley EMS District

11:42

BOCC approves payment for Oroville EMS District Contract to Lifeline \$18,445

11:43

BOCC approves payment for Tonasket EMS District =- \$16,200 to Lifeline

12:16

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve April 1st & 2nd proceedings as revised.

LJ has some resolutions for BOCC business. LJ offered the Administration Assistant position with a 2 day overlap of person leaving. This is within the budget.

12:19

BOCC approves Resolution 57-2024 authorizing ARPA funds to emergency management and approves the A-19 to Randy's Towing for \$6184

There will be no Wednesday meeting.

12:22

The meeting is adjourned. BOCC will not come back into session after the Health District meeting.