

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday April 30, 2024, Tues. AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chairman, District 3

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

Chris Branch (CB) – *Away – working on ARPA funding accounting*

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:

- County making plans for the online surplus auction.
- No public comment.
- 7 bids for property demolition of Railroad Ave in preparation for Sheriff's Office/Coroner's building, recommendation back to Board next week.
- Public Works: projects, open positions to be filled, road maintenance.
- Okanogan Wildlife Council presented easement papers for gun club by the landfill.
- Meeting adjourned 10:59

9:00

Pledge of allegiance

LJ sent the Board the e-mail regarding surplus supplies from Public Works for the upcoming online surplus auction. LJ asks whether she should be sending all departments an email requesting list of items for auction. LJ to work with people on photos for their items and contacting people involved. AH asks whether everything will be online. LJ – everything can be online.

AH asks where Blue Lake is. JN explains that Blue Lake is south of Wannacut Lake, north of Fish Lake – his family has some land around the lake. (*Unsure of where they were going with this, but the next conversation had to do with a phone call that JN had about gravel pits.*)

JN -DNR has jurisdiction over gravel pit permits over 3 acres. AH suggests that JN put the people in touch with County Engineer for other information.

9:15

Public Comment period.

Ruth Hall asks about CB not being in attendance. AH explains that CB is doing ARPA work this morning.

9:20

AH asks LJ about the 2 letters of support on the consent agenda and would like more language regarding the support of the Town of Twisp. LJ explains how that is already in there.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

1. Letter of Support – WWRP property acquisition grant application -Town of Twisp
2. Letter of Support-RCO grant application ACQ Pearrygin Lake State Park -Yockey Property
3. Contract-PW shop buildings change order #1 -Halme Building, Inc
4. ARPA Req#3 -Professional Engineering Services -City of Okanogan
5. Acknowledge-Facility use rental contract – Quincenera, May 11, 2024 – Fairgrounds

9:30

Dave Rodriguez (DR), Coroner, along with Deputy Coroner, Gene Davis (GD), and Luis Rodriguez (contractor) in for the bidding process. There are 7 bids for the Property Demolition of 269 Railroad Ave Okanogan.

1. Selland Construction - \$335, 300
2. Cates & Erb - \$305,646
3. Peak Environmental, Inc - \$229,175
4. Elder Demolition of Wa. - \$162,899
5. Groat Brothers, Inc., Woodland - \$148,432
6. 3 Kings Environmental, Battleground - \$192, 314
7. Ladd Construction & Demolition - \$54,800

DR acknowledges there is such a wide range of bids. GD states they will come back to the BOCC with a recommendation after contacting each bidder. It's good to have many bids to choose from. GD – we just need to be careful in reviewing to make sure everything is included.

AH asks if these bids included footing and foundation. GD states no, there will need to be an excavation after the demolition. GE also notes they have 60 days to award the bid.

DR reports that they have been busy with hospital deaths. Doctors are reluctant to pronounce the cause of death and they are just calling the coroner.

10:00

GD – We will take the bids and get back with a recommendation once we contact the bidders and send a copy to Mike Worden.

10:08

Board approves \$401,599.00 vouchers.

The Board also approves Interagency Reimbursement agreement, between the courts and the County, due to the Blake Decision. JN asks if someone will be coming to explain the Blake Decision.

10:11

LJ reports that she will be attending a meeting with the Department of Commerce in the afternoon regarding CSG grants. The state legislature changed how the 2025 allocation is handled. Fiscal allocations will go directly to the County. CAC (Community Action Council) will still get funds, but we had previously opted out of how to get this funding. LJ – the meeting this afternoon will be with one of the heads of homeless coalition regarding this funding.

AH reports that he recently met with Nancy Nash (Housing Authority), the mayor of Twisp, and the

Director of Commerce. LJ notes that there is a lot of learning on how the homeless housing funds can be used. We get dollars based on meeting goals.

10:23

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports the maintenance and road conditions are the same. Finishing up the grading. The information from the WSDOT is there will be road construction this summer on Highway 97, starting in June with chip seal.

JT – The Forest Service will be doing their Midnight Restoration Project that will have an effect on County roads. Forest Service is worried about dust control on Libby Creek Road. JT – we don't do dust control on dirt roads. The County has 660 miles of dirt roads.

AH asks JT about the Chiliwist Road, due to getting complaints about the condition of the road. When will you be able to pave more? JT – the next section of the Chiliwist Road is problematic because it is narrow with steep slopes. JT acknowledges that most of the complaints on the Chiliwist Road are from closer to the end of the road, where it is very narrow.

AH asks about the clamp on snow bars for the shop roofs and would consider putting another one on to handle the snow load. It might be cost effective to do more than the minimum required for peace of mind. JT will look into that, also we are still working with the pumps for waste oil. The burners are from Dura-Heat and are problematic.

JT will be working with the Wildlife Council @11:00. We have also advertised for a position that Walla Walla County pays \$50,000 more per year for, and we might have trouble filling it. There are 2 other open positions to hire; Capital Projects Manager and a Designer position.

AH – put in proposal from what the wage needs to be. JT we'll see what we get.

AH and JT discuss possible training for staff to give them more skills to improve employee retention.

Buck Workman (BW) from the Okanogan Wildlife Council brings in the legal easement paperwork for the gun club next to the landfill. JT notes that it makes sense but will need to have attorneys look at the language of the easement. AH – go forth and get everything verified, then we can go forward with it. Will need to run it by Civil Attorney.

AH thanks JT for coming up early.

10:59

Meeting adjourned until the afternoon session.