

Okanogan Board of County Commissioners
06/08/2020

JD—Jim DeTro
AH—Andy Hover
CB—Chris Branch
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development

This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Okanogan County Watch (countywatch.org) Any writer's comments or explanations are in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Summary of significant discussions:

Tape 1:

00:00—CB discusses squatters/campers along a trail in Oroville. He said Brad Scott is willing to trim adjacent elm trees because that will help a lot. Some campers may be involved in drug trade.'

02:25—JD mentions Oroville now has a planner. JD & CB discuss planner PP wants to hire. Oroville can help pay the salary.

05:30—JD mentions email from Ranger Johnson. He and CB discuss plans to open campgrounds right away at 50% capacity.

6:35—CB returns to the subject of the Oroville planner and the Dept. of Defense (DoD) grant (discussed in the BOCC meeting on the afternoon of June 1, 2020). AH says someone called him worried that receiving a DoD grant would mean more flights, but it doesn't.

10:05—CB talks about the law enforcement response to march in Omak this weekend. He thinks they were pretty laid back and did a good job.

11:35—JD—The next night the Omak High School graduating seniors had their parade. There were lots of people lining the street.

12:05—AH moves to amend the agenda to have the Planning Department update at 10:00AM

Tape 2:

00:00—CB and AH discuss upcoming Okanogan Council of Governments (OCOG) and TRANGO (Okanogan County Transit Authority) meetings and who will attend.

05:00—AH wants USFS Rangers Chris Furr and Kathleen Johnson and all of the mayors to know that Okanogan County is now in Phase 2 and so camping following state guidelines is allowed. Camping at the Fair Grounds was to open on Monday.

06:35—CB discusses squatters on the west end of the trail and plans for trimming the adjacent elms. CB and AH talk about who has responsibility for trail maintenance. Ted from Planning could be used as a main source of information about this.

12:05—JD says he's received complaints about the Midway Tile property between Tonasket and Oroville littered with junk and scrap metal. It was cleaned up at one time but now it needs to be cleaned again.

He wonders if PP should have Kent talk to the crusher guy to see if the scrap metal could be crushed.

AH—Says there's the same thing with junker cars just north of Winthrop near the Blues Festival site. We should the same guy go talk to this guy.

CB—This is a scenic highway and it's right on the highway. Commissioners discuss ways to deal with this situation.

Tape 3:

00:30 AH and LJ discuss minutes from June 1 concerning the Appraiser's Office wanting to hire a new appraiser.

03:15—LJ discussed the comment period for a grant with Eric Hind (?) of the Okanogan Community Homeless Shelter.

04:00—AH asks LJ to make a change in the minutes for June 2.

04:42:--CB discusses Roni Holder-Defenbach (of the Economic Alliance) and her help with people applying for money from the CARES Act (CARES=Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security)

06:35—LJ says she's talked to Dennis Rabidou (Juvenile and Family Services). He'd like to be on the agenda tomorrow at 8:30 to talk about issues at the Agriplex.

Tape 4:--Planning Department update with Pete Palmer

01:10—AH and PP discuss issues with the Fairgrounds.

03:25—PP—I talked to Gene last week to come up with a program to put all the contact information into a database. It would be a record of communications with people, all the documents, etc. It would be based on parcel number. Gene said he could do it pretty easily.

AH—This is because of a call to me last week where I couldn't find the information.

CB—This would be good to have. Based on parcel numbers.

06:17—PP—the issue in Mazama came up a couple of weeks ago about a right-of-way easement and a trail. I want to talk to Josh (Thomson? County Roads Engineer) about trail maintenance and the ROW. Is it OK to meet with the people from Mazama?

CB—I talked to David Geches about this because he was contacted by the person's attorney.

AH—If their lawyer is there, our lawyer has to be present.

09:27—PP—There's a water law conference in August I'd like to attend (maybe attend on-line).

AH—I move that PP register for the conference. Motion passes 3-0.

11:35—PP—Discusses how and when to open to the public.

AH—What you're doing now is fine.

PP—We have a plan for what to do when we do open up to the public. Intercom and sneeze guard.

AH—Ask other departments what they're doing.

13:30—PP—We need reschedule WRIA meeting from last Thursday to this Thursday.

AH—Didn't have it last week because of concern for safety with protests going on.

14:22—CB—I have a couple other items to discuss. What about the Oroville development agreement discussion?

PP—Angela is handling that.

CB and PP discuss plans for hiring a planner with salary split between Oroville and Planning.

CB—One more thing. Can you project your covid costs by October or by the end of the year?

PP—Sure. We didn't spend much. Bought wipes, sanitizer, etc. We were pretty much full staffed the whole time.

AH—This brings up CARES costs. The county spent some money for hard costs (ex: sneeze guards), but the main loss was productivity. We were paying people who weren't in the office. For some departments this loss was quite big, over \$100,000.

AH and CB discuss CARES money, the Economic Alliance and Twispworks.

Tape 5:

00:00—AH and CB continue CARES discussion.

02:01—JD tells PP about earlier discussion about Midway Tile junk situation. Asks PP if Kent could take someone there to see if the junk pile is salvageable.

AH—And there's another pile just north of Winthrop. He's got about 30 junk cars.

04:20—AH, CB and LJ discuss minutes for June 2.

09:10—CB and AH use Google Earth and discuss the junked cars just north of Winthrop and other similar sites.