

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, Dec 6, 2021 PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC chair, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
CH—Cari Hall, County Auditor
LM—Leah McCormick—County Treasurer
TH—Tony Hawley—Sheriff
AC—Aaron Culp--Undersheriff
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.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/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm>

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> To locate items in real time, the clock on the wall in the AV Capture screen can be helpful.

Summary of significant discussions:

The public hearing for the 2022 budget continues. Commissioners hear from the Sheriff's Office, discuss creating several new positions for the courts, Planning Department and Prosecuting Attorney's office. CH and commissioners tie up a lot of loose ends. The hearing will continue Tuesday at 10AM, when they hope to finish up.

2:43:00—Continuation of Public Hearing-Okanogan County 2022 Budget

TH and AC discuss Sheriff's Office Budget with CH, LM and the commissioners. Discussion of increased cost to send deputies to the Academy, additional entry level jail deputies, four full-time equivalents (FTEs) requested, additional revenue because of grants.

2:56:00—Discussion of security in the Court House as well as court rooms. If the Court is moving to another building, LM and CH say their offices in the Court House will still require security. Discussion of costs for security personnel, whether contracted out vs hiring security personnel.

3:09:00—Discussion of FTE requests from Planning. GIS technician proposed. Several different departments have requested new FTE positions and the commissioners must make decisions. LM mentions that the Prosecutor has requested a new civil deputy position plus administrative help for that person. AH says the Prosecutor can't have both and must choose. He'd like to hear from Prosecutor about her preference.

3:23:05—AH says next year's budget discussion will be more difficult because there won't be much carry-over.

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Discussion about the current expense budget. LM would like a six month reserve and right now there's only two month reserve. Some budgets, such as Public Health, have a six month reserve. LM talks about the possibility of a road levy shift (a levy shift is when a county transfers revenue capacity from the county road levy to the current expense levy as part of the annual levy of taxes (RCW 84.52). This means that the road levy tax revenue capacity is decreased and the current expense levy tax revenue capacity is increased.) She says she knows of no Eastern Washington county that's not doing a road levy shift.

3:33:45—AH returns to requests for three new FTEs for the jail: a records clerk, records deputy and an executive admin person. Asks TH which is most important. Not the admin person.

AH—Can we get any more money out of our contracts with the towns? Try to get money for a records clerk.

Discussion about the county providing more services without more revenue. AH brings up \$1,000,000 to each county from the state's marijuana fund. That would solve the issue of labor cost increase for five years or so.

JD—But don't give any of the marijuana money to counties that don't have any grows. Can we use marijuana money to fund drug task force member & then take the task force money to fund another deputy?

AH—That wouldn't work with requirements of the grant we get.

3:48:40—PP—Can we look at the Planning Department asking for two FTEs? I think we only asked for one Senior Planner. The GIS position was already funded. Discussion of Planning positions open but funded. They remove positions from the budget because they're already funded.

4:00:15—AH—If we decide about funding which positions we'll fund, the attorney and one more, we could be about done with the budget. CH goes over a list of items that need to be settled to be finished with the budget. AH calls Prosecuting Attorney to find out her preference about new personnel.

Meanwhile, AC asks if the Sheriff's Office can order two new vehicles when the 2022 budget is passed. They're already included in the new budget. The answer is yes. AH and TC leave.

4:14:10—Discussion of vehicle in the Assessor's Office. (ER&R is Equipment Rental and Revolving Fund). Also discussion of vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

4:31:30—CB received an email from the Prosecutor's Office. They don't *need* the administrative position although it'd be nice to have.

CH continues to tie up loose ends on several budgets.

4:44:25—AH—Now the only thing that needs to be decided is the GIS tech position. The position won't go away, but we won't fund it right now. Can we continue the budget discussion at 10AM tomorrow? There's an opening in the agenda then.

4:49:20—AC returns with accurate numbers about vehicle insurance and payment from the Stonegarden grant to compensate for a vehicle that was wrecked. Discussion about which budget lines this money should go into. AH has the decision inserting into the minutes. "If we receive \$25,000 from Geico for the Sheriff's patrol vehicle, it'll go directly into current expense because the vehicles have already been purchased."

CH—Reviews what still needs to be done before the budget is finished.

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5:32:40—AH—Move to continue the hearing on the 2022 budget tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10AM.
Approved.

AH—Move to sign the letter of support for the Washington Geological Survey proposal to map debris flows in Okanogan County. Approved.

AH—Move to approve Resolution 153-2021, the 2022 taxing district levy certification. Approved.

Adjourn.