

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, Feb.15, 2021 AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC chair, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
TH—Tony Hawley, County Sheriff
NW—Nathan Weymer, Loomis Fire District
RH-D—Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director, Economic Alliance

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 audiotape of the meeting on this date at <https://www.countywatch.org/> .

Summary of significant discussions:

Commissioners and the Sheriff discuss establishing a dog control zone near Oroville. BOCC sets April 20 at 3:00 PM for the public hearing to consider establishing the zone.

Commissioners, RH-D and NW discuss a grant to fund a feasibility study for a new fire hall to serve the Loomis Fire District. The Fire District needs the permission of the BOCC to apply for the grant because the County would administer the grant. RH-D also updates the commissioners on upcoming funding that will be available from the Department of Commerce.

Commissioners have received a petition signed by at least 30 people to create a dog control zone near Oroville. Because there are 30 signers, the law requires that the commissioners respond to the petition. They want to discuss the issue with the Sheriff before holding a hearing to help determine if such a zone should be created. Due to technical problems with Zoom and AVCapture, the meeting's broadcast ends and it's several minutes before it begins again. Due to a different technical problem, the note taker was unable to record the beginning of the meeting.

Before the recorded portion of the meeting: The BOCC has received a petition with at least 30 signatures to create a dog control zone. According to Okanogan County Code 06.08.050 the commissioners must hold a hearing to decide if they should establish such a zone. Before setting the date for the hearing they would like to discuss the issue with the Sheriff to hear his views of the matter. Sheriff Hawley will be available at 10:00AM today.

00:00—LJ—There are two things for the commissioners to be aware of:

- On the Consent Agenda tomorrow, Resolution 32-3031 is for funds for training for Crystal.
- The Maintenance Department requested a work attire allowance of \$200 per person per year. Expenditures would be approved by the supervisor and reimbursed twice a year. It would pay for appropriate work pants, jackets, boots. The board would need a resolution to approve something like this.

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CB—Do union contracts allow this?

AH—Sheriff's Office does. Solid Waste & Roads wanted a work wear allowance.

CB—What about shirts? Just buy them shirts.

Discussion of embroidered shirts—cost, what kind of shirts the workers would want, etc. Would they have to wear the shirts when they're at work?

AH—Maybe we should put this off for a while.

LJ—I just brought it up so you'd know it was an issue.

11:50—Sheriff Hawley (TH) arrives.

AH—We've received a petition to create a dog control zone near Oroville and would like your opinion if we'd need to change any of the OCC that deals with this area.

TH—The fee schedule is important. Compare to fees in other areas of the counties and other counties.

CB—It's a misdemeanor. Do we want to make it a civil infraction?

Discussion of fees and penalties for violations. TH supports dog violations being civil infractions because it would save time in the prosecutor's office. Repeated offences could become misdemeanors.

TH—What about licensing? Does that need to be part of this code?

CB—We have the option.

CB—The date we chose for the hearing will be April 20 at 3:00 PM. If there's something that we want to change in the code, we'll look at them.

AH—Maybe we should hear testimony at the hearing about what enforcement is like so it's in the record.

CB—And when we have the hearing, we'd want someone from the Sheriff's Department .

TH leaves.

CB—RCW has a statute for dog control. Not much to it.

AH & CB discuss fee schedule. Not displaying the dog tag. Having an unlicensed dog. Dog running around off leash. They'll ask Darnell (?) for an analysis of the fee schedule.

AH—Move to direct the clerk of the board to create a public hearing notice for creation of a proposed dog control zone. Begin advertising next week subsequent to the Auditor's review of the signatures of the registered voters. Set the date for April 20, 3:00 PM. Motion passes 3-0.

39:40—AH—Something was recently brought to my attention and it's really interesting. I want to find out from the WSDA why this is. H2A housing cannot be within 500 feet of livestock. Livestock is defined as one animal—horse, cow, etc. But they can operate within 100 feet of a pressurized sprayer. I understand water contamination issues if the housing is near a feed lot, but what if it's just a backyard horse?

CB—Obviously we aren't enforcing that much.

JD—The concern is the H2A inspector would come up there and then....

AH—But they said they were enforcing. Maybe we could write a letter to WSDA asking for clarification on why this exists. In Okanogan County it makes it difficult to site H2A.

CB—I think we should.

AH—Want me to work with LJ? I was given the number of the inspector to call, so I'll call him and check that.

43:35—AH—I've got an email from Joe (Poulin, Maintenance Supervisor) about repairing roofing. Install new ridge cap, rescrew the entire roof to replace the roofing nails. I'd much rather ask to put on new metal.

Discussion of replacing the roofs or just replacing the roofing nails with screws.

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50:20—Discussion begins between BOCC, Nathan Weymer of the LFD and Roni Holder-Diefenbach, Executive Director of the Economic Alliance concerning a Feasibility Study Grant application.

NW—We're trying to apply for an RBDG (?) grant to study the feasibility of building a new fire hall for Loomis. Trying to buy chunk of ground right now.

AH—Right across from where the fire department meets?

NW—Yes. Quick Stop owner says he'll sell the parcel to us. They said it'd be best to own the property before we start applying for stuff.

AH—Next to the parcel you already own?

NW—Yes. Tear down the existing building and see what we can get. With grant we can also apply to fix up the community building and make that part of our meeting facility. So across the road would just be for equipment.

RH-D—Nathan and I met with Mika (?) who's our regional USC (?) representative. Saw different opportunities. Feasibility or feasibility and incorporate training, and finally, a community facility component. I wanted to have this discussion with you because their funding comes through the county. Asking for the BOCC to allow LFD to apply through the county for the USDA funding. Applicant would be Okanogan County, specifically for the LFD. To apply for this funding, they have to go through the county.

AH—I want to do it. Already done a site analysis. Public Works has looked at it because it's close to the road. It's a good option.

RH-D—a couple of years this was a priority. We need to know costs and where the funding would come from.

JD—What about the expansion they just did? (Expanded the size of the Fire District.)

AH—Even then, the tax base is still....

NW—Palmer Lake is getting annexed in, but that money hasn't come to us yet. Maybe \$20,000, but it hasn't come to us yet. So we need to get something going because now we've got a bigger base to support and we don't really have anywhere to support it. All vehicles are housed at people's houses. We're strictly volunteer.

RH-D—We need to be sure they're prepared to order the study that will help them make their case.

AH—Another thing that needs to be looked at, and Public Works should be involved. If they had a building with enough space, the county could lease a space for a plow or something. Save miles driven for the county.

RH-D—Last year I met a Fire Chief for Stevens County. He's willing to work with me. Feasibility study is important to know the costs of a new facility.

AH—Any matches for that grant.

RH-D—USDA has funding right now specific to Okanogan Co because we are a (unintelligible) county. They're encouraging us to apply for as many projects as we can. Mika advised to apply for 100% funding, so there's no matching.

CB—So what do we need to do today.

RH-D—Approval of the BOCC to allow LFD to apply for the grant through the county.

CB—Nathan is writing the grant?

RH-D—I told Nathan that I would insist he write the grant.

CB—Apply to USDA. And there's an administrative component. Just because the pass-throughs...

LJ—Sounds like a pass-through grant and there's some reporting requirements on the county's end and some review to make sure the expenses to be reimbursed are adequate. A lot of times, the pass-throughs require the entity to pay for and submit for reimbursement. Then the county gets reimbursed by USDA. So there'd need to be a budget supplemental. Sometimes the County can apply for administrative costs.

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AH—Clerk administers lots of grants and whether we hire another person to work for the clerk—this needs to be discussed. My question to LJ is: do you think you can handle this grant along with all the others you do.

LJ—I can do the work. I understand how to. I need to make sure all my other clerk of the board responsibilities I have for other boards get done. If I had someone extra in the office I could train to do those things, it would leave me more time to do the technical things with grants.

AH—We need to have that discussion, but I move we allow Loomis to pursue the USDA grant underneath the Okanogan County.

CB—Pursue means to figure out what the application is like, and come back to us with answers to our questions?

RH-D—Yes. Application is due at the end of the month. Pre-application will include a budget so you'll know it'd look like. Because it's not construction or land, we won't have to do a report every quarter for a long time.

Motion passes 3-0.

1:11:45—AH—Laney, could do a staff report about what you think could be taken off your plate to manage more of the grant technical matters? By next week.

RH-D—We meet with Department of Commerce regularly and Thurston County has taken the lead. Shared a document with me that's their process to identify stimulus money—millions of dollars going to local jurisdictions. A strategy to prioritize. It's their model. If you'd like to look at it, I can share it with you. Helps as a planning document.

CB—Are they working on their allocation direct to them, figuring out how they'll spend it?

RH-D—Yes. It's a list of things they plan to do. Good to prepare ahead of time. I'll send the document to you.

RH-D—I met with Governor's Office a week before they rolled out Phase 3. Get input from Economic Development councils, Workforce Development Councils, to see how we wanted to pursue and give input to rural areas. Discussed moving away from regions and going to county by county. Had discussion about looking at cases and hospitalization rates. Looked at vaccination rates. Anywhere there's a tribe, a reservation, the vaccination rate is high. The tribes got assistance in vaccinating everyone 16 and older. So some counties don't have a hospital and we have three. So because of high vaccination rate, we might open up a little sooner. Businesses are happy. When they're operating at 25%, they're still losing money. So happy to move to 50%.

CB—With people wanting to buy local, sometimes the selection is just not there.

Discussion of on-line buying and that now sales tax is based on the delivery location, so Okanogan County didn't see such a dip in sales tax revenue. Same with hotel/motel tax.

AH—I just got a question the other day about what are we doing with the fire hall.

CB—Tonasket's Fire Hall was a CDBG grant and it took them a long time to get the right person to lead the project.