

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Monday, December 19, 2022 AM & PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Chair, District 1  
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Vice Chair, District 2  
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
CHa—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board  
NP—Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager

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Summary of significant discussions:

- *Commissioners discuss Second Harvest's unexpected cut in assistance for food pantries in eastern Washington. They plan to use \$200,000 in ARPA funds to help Okanogan County pantries. They hope to have the paperwork ready by tomorrow.*
- *Commissioners vote for Lisa Janicki for the Department of Natural Resources' Board of Natural Resources. They also discuss good forest management and climate change.*
- *Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager, updates the commissioners about the new floor planned for the Annex, the well and the new stalls for the racehorse barn.*
- *Commissioners do Department Head performance evaluations for:*
  - *Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources and Risk Management*
  - *Karen Beatty, Central Services*
  - *Pete Palmer, Planning Department*
  - *Dan Higgins, Building Department*
  - *Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager.*
- *Adjourn at 3:16.*

**01:15**—AH—I'd like to get another new laptop for the office. We had an LTAC (Lodging Tax Advisory Committee) meeting in the little conference room and Lanie's laptop that they used was really slow. JD—No problem.

AH—We should have good technical stuff for outside of this room.

JD—I was talking about Michael (Heath), the Ferry County Commissioner. Brian Dansel is going to come back. They'll have to appoint him because it's a resignation.

**4:10**—CB arrives and apologizes for being late.

**9:45**—AH—Something to be aware of, Naomie (Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager) called me Friday and said they needed a snow-blower over there. It's \$1,500 but it won't get posted until next year's budget. I think they need one over there.

JD—Fine with me.

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CB—This year, you need a snow-blower everywhere.

AH—Ace Hardware in Winthrop said they've sold 60 snow-blowers so far this year.

Commissioners continue to discuss snow and snow-blowing.

**13:45**—No public comments.

**27:00**—CB—Move to go to Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. 30 minutes. Inviting Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources. Later extended for an additional 15 minutes.

**31:15**—CB—Do you know what the finger print fee was increased to?

CHa--\$25, I believe. From \$15.

CB—Do you know the fee for a carry permit?

AH to MG—Are you here for the staff meeting? We've got 8 minutes before a public hearing.

MG—Real quick. It's going to be cold Wednesday and Thursday. And windy. I sent out a message to the DOT. Supposed to warm up next week. We're doing OK on drifts.

CB—Thanks for the update.

**39:45**—AH—Time for public hearing for budget supplemental for Bond Fund 134 and 171. Open to staff. We had a budget supplemental a while ago that moved the bond payment to 134, but the payment for the bond needs to come out of the capital expense fund. This puts the bond payment back where it should be. No public comments. Open discussion to the BOCC.

CB—I move to approve Resolution 201-2022. Motion passes 3-0.

AH—I close the public hearing.

**44:35**—AH—It's 10:35. Public hearing for budget supplemental for the Lake Management District.

CB—I move to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Lake Management District #1. Motion passes 3-0.

AH—We had more in the beginning fund balance than we'd budgeted for. And we had bills in the Professional Services line that need paying. So we need to move the money from one place to another. No public comments. Open discussion to the board.

CB—Is this a function of the county's budget?

AH—No, it's the District's budget. I'll ask the Auditor (Cari Hall). She's on the line.

CB—So the budget supplemental is being done by the Lake Management District?

CH—Correct.

CB—OK. I move to approve Resolution 203-2022, authorizing the budget supplemental appropriation for the Lake Management District's budget. Only discussion is why the District doesn't have resolution numbers different from those of the county.

AH—Good point.

CB—But that's where we are now.

Motion passes 3-0. Close the public hearing.

JD—Move we adjourn as Lake Management District and reconvene as the BOCC. Passes 3-0.

**48:50**—AH—I'd like to get on to the next discussion. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for Food Bank Pantries. What can we do about this? When we provide money, will there be food to buy?

CB—They've been buying from local grocery stores with what money they have been getting. I've involved Aging and Adult Care a little bit and the ACH (Accountable Community of Health for North

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Central Washington). I've been getting feedback from them. There's a long term solution being worked on. But in the short term, I don't have a figure. I don't think you could provide too much. I got an email from Kim Eads, of WSDA Food Assistance Program in Olympia.

AH—I saw something that Second Harvest said costs were high and crop yields were low and so they were having a hard time supplying food.

CB—There are some community service programs that have stepped up to help with this. Second Harvest was processing all this frozen food. But they're getting out of it. I think it's because they can't satisfy its USDA contract. The TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) program. John Schapman with NCACH (North Central Accountable Community of Health sent information. CB reads email from Schapman: We just did \$8,000,000 food purchase for the reserve warehouse with planned deliveries in January and March. Additional TEFAP food \$14,000,000 to \$16,000,000 will start to arrive in April. Painfully aware of food shortage and discussing additional supports to address this. Also we'll be providing crisis funding to eastern Washington to TEFAP contractors given the impact of service change at Second Harvest. (CB—TEFAP is one of the contractors to the Community Action Council.) They've been working with Second Harvest and the TEFAP contractors to implement a transition plan specific to the programs. There are two primary impacts.

1. Second Harvest will not be able to continue as the TEFAP redistribution center for frozen and fresh foods which delivered these foods to other contractors.
2. Second Harvest will not continue as the contractor for two programs in Whitman County.

CB—So, there are all these logistical issues being addressed at the moment. But in the short term, that's where they need supplemental dollars.

AH—I'd like to do it quickly.

CB—Let me figure it out by tomorrow.

AH—I heard they were going to provide \$1,400,000 for January. That's statewide. So when you look at Okanogan County, the number will be smaller.

CB—I'm saying anything can help. \$200,000. And it can be ARPA funds.

AH—We can get the paperwork done tomorrow. Community Action needs to be up on this. Tell them we're going to address part of this problem in the short term, so what are those needs.

CB—This was in the Spokesman Review. She (*Rena Shawver, Executive Director of Community Action Council?*) was interviewed. Second Harvest supplied 285 food pantries.

AH—For just Okanogan County for a month and a half, \$200,000 may be a high number.

CB—I'll ask her.

AH—Or do it on a reimbursement basis, with a "not to exceed..."

CB—I'll get the paperwork going today. I brought Aging and Adult Care and ACH into it because I'm affiliated with those agencies. That's where Bruce Buckles has talked about the food insecurity problem for so long. Do you know Bruce? He said we could get him to come and talk about aging and adult care programs.

CB—While the supply of stuff was decreased, the trucks were only 1/3 full and then the price of diesel increased. That hit them real hard.

**1:11:15**—AH—OK. Northwest Forest Plan—Discussion of nominee for Board of Natural Resources.

CB—Have you had a chance to read what they need on the committee?

AH—Yes. Do you want (Lisa) Janicki?

CB—Janicki is a good choice.

AH—I think so, too.

CB—I had a communication that encouraged me otherwise—from Conservation Northwest. It's about carbon credits mostly. WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) had interview with DNR and it

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sounded pretty experimental. Putting some of the west side parcels into carbon credits, meaning it wouldn't be harvested.

AH—I agree forests are carbon sinks, but they have to be managed or they'll become carbon producers.  
CB—Understood.

AH—If you're going to have carbon credits for forests, you need to find money to clean them up. The problem is the DNR is mandated to make money on their lands.

CB—I was in that encumbered land analysis with Janicki. I recognized she was knowable about producing profits on the land.

AH—This isn't directed at you, but I'll say it out loud. We had giant carbon sinks in this county. 100,000s of acres that are not there anymore. They take the harvest component out of it, saying we need the carbon sinks. Well, it's not burned trees that take up carbon. It's green trees.

CB—I agree. Lots of people lose track of the forest practice issues—treatment of the forest for many reasons, but one is to keep the forest from burning up.

AH—Climate change. I'm not necessarily against the theory of climate change. I'm against some of the theories that make it be one way to move an agenda forward. But if you're going to embrace it fully, then understand what you have to do for management. Disease, density, all of those other things.

CB—Most people who follow the issue know that. Having spent many hours listening to people talk about it, I think they know that.

AH—There are a lot of people that don't.

CB—It's sometimes more in the extreme. Those with a philosophical standpoint that doesn't include all these other things you're talking about, and there are ideals. Ideals don't always touch the real world. I've said this to some of the non-profits—do you have meetings where you invite other people to come and talk? Sometimes they don't even have those. At WSAC, we invite other people come in.

CB and AH talk about funding systems for schools, taxes, who pays for forest recreation, economic benefits from forests (ex—flood control).

AH—In the last 15-20 years, the worst things that I've seen happened are because forest health practices are not observed. Not from logging practices.

BC and AH discuss how the voting process works. The vote can be divided into three. AH and CB will vote for Janicki.

CB—I move to approve the ballot not being fractionalized and the vote being for Lisa Janicki. Approved 3-0.

**1:37:25**—AH—Naomie, you want to start?

NP—I'm Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager. We're getting our new tractor delivered tomorrow. Getting the snow-blower delivered today, but the bill won't be paid until January, so it's in the 2023 budget. Maintenance staff is out right now. Lots of ice at the fairgrounds.

NP—We've offered the job of Maintenance Tech to someone and hope to hear back soon.

NP—After the last event on New Year's Eve in the Annex, it'll be closed and we're replacing the flooring. Going to go with decorative flake, epoxy or stone (*inaudible*)

AH—Does it have enough sand for grip?

NP—It's slip resistant.

AH—And area rugs, too?

NP—We could get them. We rent rugs for the entry ways.

AH—With water on the floor, we don't want people slipping.

NP—The contractor said it would be safer than the concrete in the Agriplex.

AH—There's \$10,000 in the budget. Have you gotten prices on that?

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NP—It's \$4 to \$5/sq ft. with 2400 sq ft. We're buying materials only. The staff can do the epoxy flooring instillation. They've had experience doing that.

AH—Let us know if it's over \$10,000.

NP—Waiting to hear back about racehorse stalls—have we purchased them yet? Or the well.

AH—Looking at the video of the well, can we do a drawdown test?

Discussion of drawdown tests and necessity of a backflow preventer so domestic and irrigation water stays separate.

AH—For racehorse barns? We're into that for about \$100,000 from the general fund?

NP--\$150,000. About \$250,000 altogether.

AH—We have \$130,000 in the (*inaudible*) Trust?

NP--\$120,000. We don't have Team Penners, but we do have Boots and Saddles. I believe it's \$35,000.

NP—I'm considering the whole project.

CB—Put it on paper.

AH—Get specs from the company. What prep work do we need? Are we just doing gravel?

NP—Boots and Saddles recommends mats. I'll get it all on paper.

NP—I don't remember why we tabled this topic when we did.

AH—We tabled it because your recommendation was for the less expensive ones, but the other ones look a lot nicer and will probably last longer, too. They were the ones with the gambrel roof.

NP—The company builds them.

AH—Get specs from the company. What prep work do we need? Are we just doing gravel?

NP—Boots and Saddles recommends mats. I'll get it all on paper. Compare the two or just move forward with the gambrel roof.

CB—I just think the commitment needs to be put on paper, so we know what we're getting into.

AH—We're about to slow down with large projects because we've got bond payments now and other stuff. We need to get the barns done, but pump the breaks on other major stuff until the next biennium.

AH—There's the safety grant we might get, but make sure we're all in the loop with the grant. If we get \$250,000, we've got to pay \$125,000, so we're all on board with what we're getting for the \$375,000.

NP—I've got a two page list of ideas I think are important safety-wise. What would you like to focus on?

AH—Can you give us a short outline?

NP—Here are some—

- floors in the Quonset hut;
- drainage in the parking lot and entrances; water and ice are huge issues;
- commercial building is condemned. Used for storage only right now.

AH—Maybe get the Commercial Building demolished. Get it ready is there's money to rebuild. Also maybe re-roof some of the buildings.

NP—Some of the roofs are fixed. I think I've got estimates for all of these already.

CB—What about prioritizing all of the projects and use safety as one of the factors.

NP—Do you want community input on this?

CB—The FAC (Fair Advisory Committee) and the BOCC should be involved.

AH—Also, I want to get the cages for the poultry and rabbits. It's about \$15,000 for all of them.

NP—I have all of the maintenance request forms from all of the FAC and the superintendents for the past eight years and those are included in that.

AH—And it's the younger kids that do that and they need the cages. But CB is right. Put it on the list and we go through and rank...

CB—Not just the safety ones, but use safety as an issue and score them.

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NP—Lastly, I emailed you a pdf slide show. Shows a lot of the changes that have occurred in the past few years. Part of the grant application for the WFEA (Washington Festivals and Events Association) grant is before and after photos. I'm working with the Auditor about what grant accountability I'll be responsible for.

NP—And that's it.

Recess at 11:49 for lunch.

**2:04:50**—AH—Executive session to do performance evaluation for Shelley Keitzman, Human Relations & Risk Management. 15 minutes.

**2:09:00**—AH—This Opioid Abatement Interlocal Agreement, how do they come up with North Central Washington Behavioral Health Administration?

CB—It's new to me. We're talking about a funding source. Who's that from.

AH—It's from (*inaudible*) Kevin. Kevin said you'd be expecting it.

CB—Here's the details. If you ask me that question, I wouldn't be able to answer it.

AH—to CHa—Can you ask Karen if she can come now?

AH—Looks like he's asking if North Central Washington Behavioral Health Administration can be used to distribute the funds.

CHa—She'll be right here.

CB—Just another brainchild of Kevin.

**2:17:24**—CB—Move to go to Executive Session for 15 minutes for evaluation of a public employee, inviting Karen Beatty (Central Services). Motion passes 3-0 and off they go.

**2:21:20**—CB—Move to go to Executive Session for 15 minutes for evaluation of a public employee, inviting Pete Palmer, Director of Planning. Motion passes 3-0 and off they go.

**2:22:10**—CB—Move to go to Executive Session for 15 minutes for evaluation of a public employee, inviting Dan Higbee, Building Department. Motion passes 3-0 and off they go.

**2:27:05**—CB—Move to go to Executive Session for 15 minutes for evaluation of a public employee, inviting Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager.

JD—Just Naomie and not Shelley?

AH—No. Motion passes 3-0. Off they go.

**2:30:50**—AH—All right. Anything else we want to do?

CB—I think we did pretty good in one day.

AH—Me, too. And I'm not ready to do anything else today, so anything more, you'll have to do it without me.

JD—I just got a nice text from my wife. The hot water is broken in her shop. That's going to be fun.

CB—How about we do vouchers and payroll?

AH—He's got to do the water heater.

CB—We can do it tomorrow.

Adjourn at 3:16 until 9:00 tomorrow.