

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, April 25, 2022 AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Vice Chair, District 2
CHa—Cristal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board
MW—Mike Worden, Okanogan County Dispatch Center
AC—Aaron Culp, Undersheriff
AL—Albert Lin, County Prosecutor
EM—Ester Milner, Civil Chief Deputy Prosecutor

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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at https://www.okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php. To locate items in real time, the clock on the wall in the AV Capture screen can be helpful.

Summary of significant discussions:

The commissioners review Commissioner Branch's draft spreadsheet showing possible allocations of the county's money from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). They also watch a video about how to complete the Project Expenditure Report due on April 30. The Commissioners also hear from Mike Worden, Okanogan County Dispatch, about his recent conversation with the architect for the new Justice Building about the morgue facility. It's decided that the coroner's office need not include the full suite needed for autopsies, but that the architect will include whatever plumbing, etc. would be needed to add that later.

03:05—After the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting starts. All three commissioners are present.

18:50—CB projects his draft spreadsheet onto the screen.

AH—It's 9:17 so we'll start.

CB—We could also look at the report itself. The one we have to fill out.

(Note: figures and projects being discussed can be found of the spreadsheet that was created using photos of the spreadsheet CB was projecting on the screen.)

AH—I need to talk to the Public Works Director in Winthrop to figure out the figures for their water project.

CB—It's listed as >\$500,000 project.

CB—Did anyone ever come up with something for the Water Sewer Study for the Methow town site?

AH—No. We can just remove that. There's another one that just came up. Duck Lake (?) water system wants to annex some people in Johnson Creek. They're already gotten >\$490,000 from DOE.

AH—PUD, \$2,000,000. We've got to cut that down.

AH—Twisp was \$75,000? CB—I think.

AH—For Salmon Board Recovery meeting, we were in Twisp with DNR and WDFW and USFS. Main thing capacity-wise is they can't find enough housing to hire anyone. True all through the county.

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CB—Nespelem. I talked to Sue and asked her what kind of matching funds they can get. Good chance they can get some funding aside from ARPA.

AH—For Winthrop, plug in \$125,000, and also \$125,000 for Nespelem. One-quarter of the cost of the projects.

AH—Looks at the totals. \$6,900,000 out of \$8,300,000.

AH and CB discuss “this one”. (*Note taker is unsure which project they’re talking about.*) AH thinks they should go to the Governor’s Office for a line item in the budget because that serves the governor’s highlight stuff. It’ll be in the 2023-2025 biennium. Climate resiliency. Checks all the boxes.

CB—Sand Flat? We didn’t really....

AH—No.

CB—What about the sheriff?

AH—We have a cushion of \$1,300,000 right now.

CB—I knocked the PUD down... Looking at my email from Treasury Department. I have to learn how to get the second payment.

51:50—CB—Starts a video from April 22 about how to complete the Project Expenditure Report that’s due on April 30. Commissioners watch the entire video which runs about 25 minutes.

1:14:15—Video concludes.

CB—I think we have enough information to do what I need to do.

AH—The only things we’ve got obligated is the \$1,565,000 for the Justice Building and \$75,000 for the Mazama well project. Also obligated \$1,000,000 for Public Health and spent \$0.

AH and CB discuss potential contracts with the Economic Alliance and Okanogan County Community Action Council. Obligated for the Justice Building because they’ve spent the money already.

AH asks LJ to email Mayors of Omak and Winthrop for information on the projects in their towns.

CB—I don’t think I need anything from Omak.

AH—Are you prepared to fund the whole amount.

AH—Call Todd (?) and email Sally Ranzau (Mayor of Winthrop). See if they’ve got other funds because I’m not interested in funding the whole projects.

CB—Mayor Soo (Ing-Moody of Twisp) says there’s a lot of money for people to apply for.

CB discusses a project at the Omak airport that would involve the DNR.

1:31:00—Discussion with Mike Worden of the Dispatch Center about the Justice Building.

MW—We met with Mr. Beamon (Architect for the Justice Building project) last week to talk about the equipment shelter and morgue facility. He was surprised about moving with that project.

AH—He told me that a morgue facility is costly. So just to put in the plumbing because maybe we’re going to do full-blown autopsies later on. A place to store cadavers where they can be examined, that’s a whole different set of specs.

MW—I sat in with most of this discussion. If you make a cadaver storage space and room for examinations for the coroner now, can you include provisions to get additional plumbing for autopsies later on? Just so you don’t have to drill through the foundation walls later if you want to expand. I thought we took a step or two back but still had a path forward.

AH—How did Michael (Beamon) seem?

MW—He seemed OK with that. He still had questions about the site itself. It used to be a sawmill. He was looking to make sure the county wants to examine this piece of ground to sort through whatever (environmental) issues are there.

CB—Does storage of hazardous materials or wastes come with having a coroner’s office?

MW—Maybe it creates some waste water.

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MW—Don't know for sure but I'd be surprised if there were serious issues.

AH—The sale of the property would come with a lot of other things.

MW—A lot of similar issues would have to be dealt with. Mr. Beamon wanted to be sure we know what's being designed. Dave (Rodriguez, County Coroner) and I agree it's good to take a step back from the full suite to just examination space. And the last question is that the county want to go through with the environmental geotechnical study that would be involved with the property. That has to happen whether we build on or sell it, wither way. Dave and I are on the same page. Examination is sufficient, but do it so we can go to full suite if we need to.

AH—Part of the building was going to be for storage of vehicles for the Sheriff. That's a sound decision?

MW—Yes. Especially if you replace the big green building right at the street edge and remove the back building where Dave currently is, it opens the space for more functionality.

AH—It's better than another place. Do you see any reason not to move forward?

CB—discusses various other places and their drawbacks.

AH—I don't see us going out and buying a piece of property for this storage facility.

MW—The only downside I see is the historic use of the property.

JD—But it was just a sawmill with a circular saw. No environmental issues.

AH—We either will sell or build on the property and either way we have to deal with the environmental issues.

MW—Mr. Beamon said they'd get the site analysis done. He needs to refresh the numbers to renew the contract that would include dealing with the city.

AH—If it turns out the property can't be used, we can move the ARPA money to somewhere else and the bond money—we know we're going to be a little short to build up there. We're still moving forward.

MW—I'll get the contract update for the BOCC to review.

MW and AC leave.

1:46:30—Albert Lin (recently appointed County Prosecutor) has dropped by to say "hello" to the BOCC. They all chat and he is invited to the upcoming Executive Session to discuss potential and pending litigation. Ester Milner, Civil Chief Deputy Prosecutor is included. Executive Session to last for 15 minutes. Later, it's extended for 10 or 15 more minutes.

2:18:20—Executive session is over and BOCC reviews minutes.

2:28:20—CB—I'll complete the report for the ARPA expenses, and then I'll be at a Planning Conference Wednesday and Thursday in Chelan.

AH—Tomorrow can we find time to do the report on-line? It'll only take us 15 minutes.

CB—I don't know about 15 minutes, but that's a good idea.

Adjourn at 11:30 until Tuesday morning.