

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, May 23, 2022 AM

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
TE—Tanya Everett, Risk Management and Human Resources
MF—Mike Fort, Position #5, Okanogan Water Conservancy Board
CH—Cari Hall, Okanogan County Auditor
Lisa—Financial Management, County Auditor
PJ—Pam Johnson, Chief Deputy, County Treasurer
LM—Leah McCormick—County Treasurer

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:

Tanya Everett, HR and Risk Management, tenders her resignation.

BOCC discusses ways to provide approximately \$5,000 annually to the Okanogan Water Conservancy Board.

County Auditor Cari Hall reviews the Annual Report to the state Auditor for the commissioners.

Meeting adjourns at 12:05 for lunch.

01:02—Commissioners discuss an auto accident where two people were killed. Traffic was diverted onto Hubbard Road. They discuss possible safety study of that section of Highway 97 north of Omak.

CB—Fair Manager in Chelan County has the contract done for the music. They'll try to forward it to Okanogan County. Naomi knows the Fair manager.

CB—Chelan hired a firm to manage their ARPA funds. So they sent us their FRP.

14:45—TE—Today's the day I'm tendering my resignation.

AH—What if we don't accept?

TE—That would be unfortunate. I'm still leaving. Last working day will be July 4. Would like to take my exempt leave after that if it's OK with the BOCC. That takes us to August 4 and I'd be available to answer questions, etc. I'd just cash out my annual leave. TE reads her letter. She's learned a lot in the last 11 years and been training Shelley in best practices. She and her family will be moving out of state to enjoy new adventures.

Commissioners all remark how much she'll be missed. They plan an executive session to discuss qualifications for the open position. AH says they should do this next week to give the news some time to sink in.

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25:25—Commissioners correct minutes. AH says he asked Naomi (Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager) to hold off ordering the barn until they see prices for wooden vs steel. CB wants to make sure that the county has an agreement with the tribal government before they order the barn. Also he wants to be sure that the agreement spells out the difference between tribal government and tribal users in case there's a disagreement between the government and the users. It's important to get it all straight.

36:15—LJ received an email several weeks ago from Michael Beamon, architect for the Courthouse project. He's proposed two options for district court. Now he's wondering what the BOCC thinks about the options.

- Option 1 is to move district court to 1234 2nd Ave S where Public Works is now. Least expensive, but it depends on renovating the building before the move.
- Option 2 is to move district court to the 1234 2nd Ave S to a new building. Various pluses and minuses. This is Beamon's choice.

Commissioners decide to have a brief discussion with Beamon in the afternoon session at 1:45. Commissioners also discuss potential names for the new buildings.

54:25—Follow up conversation with Mike Fort of the Okanogan Water Conservancy Board (WCB). *(Note: On the BOCC meeting of April 18, 2022, Mike Fort asked the BOCC for several thousand dollars per year to cover costs not covered by the application fees the Board charges. The costs are almost entirely administrative costs. He'd also like the Board to meet annually with the BOCC to discuss costs for each upcoming year. The BOCC asked him to compile data from past years and summarize its annual income from application fees and its expenses for administrative costs.)*

MF—I've sent more information about our accounts: what we've done, bank statements, what we've spent—all for the last three years. I'd visualize a draw down account we can use as needed. We'd spend the money we got from application fees first. Our secretary is about three months behind right now so we'd probably withdraw up to \$2,000 now for outstanding expenses.

AH—Your major costs are administrative services?

MF—It's the only cost we have. We can get reimbursed for travel, but generally we don't. Remote meetings.

LJ thinks there was once a WCB budget but it hasn't been used in many years.

CB—Everything else is paid for by the application fees?

MF—Yes. We have business to conduct monthly whether we've received any applications or not, so there's always the administrative cost.

AH—How much would you need?

MF—We'd like \$5,000 for this year, and maybe a different amount for later years. We owe the secretary 3 months back pay.

AH—The work (of the WCB) serves the people of the county.

CB—Department of Ecology couldn't do this in as timely a manner. If we take on the work, it's good for the county.

AH—Can the WCB send us applications to send water out of the county?

MF—When the application is submitted or when it's done?

AH—Submitted.

MF—We've currently got 15 applications, and I'll send copies of all of them.

CB—We can comment all we want, but it's their decision.

AH—I know! But maybe the people applying don't the water bank, or we could convince them to keep the water in the county.

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CB—The WCB is there to expedite the process.

AH—Absolutely.

LJ—During other meetings, counties agreed to let the other counties have this information. Not to coordinate, but just to keep informed.

MF—I can send outstanding applications every month.

AH—We commissioners could tell them options in case they wanted to use them.

AH—It looks like you'll \$8,000 per year to cover your costs. We can help, but maybe you can help yourself, too. Can you cut it to bi-monthly meetings?

MF—We really do have issues to discuss every month. But maybe we can look at our fees and compare them to other counties. Some applications are simple and some are very complicated.

AH—If someone has a complicated issue, do they realize it'll take a while?

MF—Yes. But if they come to a meeting, we discuss the applications in the order they were submitted. First in time, first in right.

AH—Can you charge an annual fee for long-lasting applications?

MF—We're thinking of that.

AH—to CB—Where did you find out about payment the WCBs from the (*inaudible*)?

CB—From an attorney at MRSC (Municipal Services and Research Center) who advised me that they would notify the prosecutor when I asked that question. Prosecutor was notified but didn't make any comments.

AH—If we do an agreement, we can just attach the statutes to it.

CB—Should be an inter-governmental agreement. Since I think about the future a lot, later, when we're all retired and we fund the WCB, there will be an expectation, and we want to be clear what it is.

AH—Why we want to do an agreement every year and not just do \$5,000 automatically.

CB—We need to be able to tell if we're creating an obligation.

AH—Get this going for \$5,000 for 2022.

CB—Good to do this every year.

LJ—The WCB fund was 139. Inactive, but it still exists.

AH—I'll ask the Auditor about how easy it is to use this fund.

CB—Need to establish the reason. Functioning of the board, not a gift to the applicants.

BOCC passes resolution to move forward to partially fund the WCB in the amount of \$5,000.

AH—Asks CH, who has just entered the meeting room, to check about the old fund 139. What's the status? We'd like to give the WCB \$5,000.

LJ—I've got a lot of information about the WCB and the fund I can send you.

AH—Can we just reestablish the fund?

LM—I think so.

1:32:15—Review of the Annual Report by Auditor Cari Hall

CH—Meeting to review the proposed Annual Report by the Auditor and Treasurer's Offices. I'm Cari Hall, Auditor. Here with me is Lisa, my Finance Manager. Pam Johnson, Chief Deputy for the Treasurer's Office and Leah McCormack, County Treasurer introduce themselves.

CH distributes the report (at least 1" thick) to the BOCC. Mentions that there are not a lot of changes since last year.

CH and PJ review the report in detail for the Commissioners. They find a few typographical errors. At the end, CH says she'll correct the errors just found, sign the document and "push the button" to submit it.

LM—Kudos to these three people who have produced this document in the last few months along with doing all their regular work, too.

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JD—You should ask for more money like the Health Department does.

CH—We're hoping for a new accounting system. But the numbers we put in are correct because we looked them up ourselves.

JD—Those state auditors! We have to pay, but other counties pay a lot more than we do.

AH and LJ ask a question about paying a bill from the Mr. Beamon, the architect. CH asks if he could stop by the Auditor's office and give them some ideas about a glass barrier in the office.

Meeting recessed until 1:30 this afternoon.