

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3-Absent  
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Chair, District 1  
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Vice Chair, District 2  
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
DMc—David McClay, CEO, Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare  
DR—Dennis Rabidou, Board Chair, Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare  
QL—Quinn Lontz, Chief Clinical Officer, Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare  
RJ—Roy Johnson, Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare Board Member  
NP—Naomi Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager  
PP—Pete Palmer, Director, Planning & Development  
SK—Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources

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](https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php)

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*Summary of significant discussions:*

**3:03:30**—*Quarterly meeting of Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare. Commissioners and OBHC personnel discuss how to deal with people with mental illness or dementia so that people and businesses are protected and no one's rights are violated.*

**3:57:40**—*Planning Department update includes discussion of forming advisory committees for the upper, mid and lower section of the Methow Valley before rezoning. The deadline for written comments on ONLY the DNS for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) is on July 8<sup>th</sup>. At 4:00 PM, the meeting adjourned until next Monday at 9:00 AM.*

**2:33:00**—AH and CB decide that the BOCC will not meet on Wednesday because neither JD nor CB will be able to attend.

AH asked LJ to send out the list of option for the Court House project to the Department Heads before their meeting with the BOCC on next Tuesday.

AH discusses bids received for the bleachers at the Fairgrounds.

CB—I move to direct NP to order bleachers from Crowd Control Warehouse as quoted—\$111,834.80. Includes tax, shipping FOB Okanogan. Four to five weeks. Two sets of bleachers. Motion passes.

AH—Need a budget supplemental. Please tell NP we've accepted the bid and for her to prepare the budget supplemental. From Current Expense Reserve into the General Fund, and then into the Fair budget.

**2:39:00**—AH and CB correct the minutes for June 13 and 14.

**2:44:30**—Discussion of elected officials' salaries. They've set Commissioners' salaries at 40% of Superior Court judges' salaries but the raises don't take effect until a new commissioner has been elected for the

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current commissioners have been reelected. CB moves to accept Resolution 88-2022 To Adopt Certain Salaries in Okanogan Counties.

AH—Discusses salaries set by Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials. Superior Court Judges will earn \$203,169 starting June 1, 2022 (per [Salary Information | Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials](#) ) Commissioners wonder if the county is reimbursed for at least some of the Prosecutor's salary. The County's portion of that is \$57,765. Chief Deputies are 85% of that. Motion passes.

**2:50:35**—Commissioners approve Consent Agenda.

CB—reads a document about who pays the Prosecuting Attorney. The state pays the county one-half of the salary of a Superior Court Judge for the Prosecutor, and the county can contribute more if it wants.

Commissioners approve vouchers and payroll for the county (\$1,235,798.82) and for the Public Health Department. (\$66,050.07).

**3:03:30**—Quarterly meeting of Okanogan Behavioral Healthcare with David McClay

DMc—I submitted some statistics to you. Easier to do that, now. We've served 1,722 unique individuals in the county from January 1 to May 31 this year. Anticipate well over 2,000 for the year. 423 of the 1,722 were children (under age 18). The packet distributed to the BOCC shows areas that have been served. Do you have any specific questions?

AH—about crisis response? If someone's in jail but shouldn't be there because of issues, how do we get that process to function better in the county? Crisis response, mental health issues, jail. What do we want to do?

QL—Depends on why they're in jail. For crisis response, what we can do is intervene when someone is suicidal and poses a clear risk to him/herself. Also can intervene when someone is in jail and so deeply involved with mental health ailment that they don't understand what's going on and can't take care themselves. Key part to that is—there have been cases lately, due to non-behavioral issues, then things get complicated. Specifically, like emergency rooms, when someone comes in with a history of dementia or Alzheimer's. It's not something we can treat. Jail or emergency room, psychiatric hospitals are all inappropriate.

AH—Solution?

QL—Supported structured care like a Memory Unit. But we don't have one in the area. Closest is in Moses Lake. Nationwide and in Washington, care need is super high and it's always full and expensive. Only true practical advice is to take your parent to Moses Lake and be in the waiting room and say "my dad is setting the house on fire, wandering into traffic".

CB—They're contemplating one in Chelan County, I think. Maybe we could have aging adult care people come and talk to us. Very difficult for family members. Huge burden. CB mentions his brother is a dementia patient.

DR—Also, need to see if Adult Protective Services should be notified. That's a process.

QL—I met with APS recently. They also have limited resources. Very difficult situation.

CB—We could invite (*inaudible*) and Bruce Buckles (Executive Director of Aging and Adult Care of Central Washington) to come talk to us. But the story we'll hear is a huge lack of resources.

AH—Growing sentiment about homelessness—a lot are behavioral health issues. People want to know what we're going to do. People want practical answers. What if someone is combative and doesn't want to go? How do we get them there? We really need to work on as a community about what to do.

QL—I've seen lots of frustration about this. We'll get called from law enforcement about people in a pizza restaurant talking to people who aren't there, taking pizza off people's plates and we need you to deal with it. What we do is just tell the person they can't do that. Finding a grave disability is a high bar

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because we're taking someone's rights away. But our hands are tied if they're not going to die from their disability.

QL—Also, there are people acting weirdly but not illegally. I'll go and tell them to stop, but that's all I can do.

CB—told about a guy in Oroville like that. Police decided he wasn't dangerous. Gave him boots and told the community about him.

AH—Back to the pizza parlor. I don't want that guy in there. It's hard to "trespass" someone. Takes time, but that's ridiculous. Costing me money and I want him out. We're going to get worse altercations in the public.

QL—We can try to education the community about people who get a lot of attention. Probably about 20 people. Build a relationship with them and then they're more likely to do what we ask them. Not in jail and also not in the pizza parlor.

AH—Law enforcement is worried about dealing with people like this because of what happened during the last legislature.

QL—If you hear someone from the community say that something happened and nobody's doing anything about it, be assured there's more to the story.

AH—Sure. I know that.

QL—We want to help these people. We give a lot of stuff away—boxes of food, shoes, etc. But we can't tell people all that we do.

DR—We had a good meeting with Sheriff Hawley.

DMc—We can do a better job about informing the community, but we're constrained by HIPAA, etc. (HIPAA is the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (Title I includes privacy requirements.))Thursday we have a meeting with CB, Sheriff Hawley, Leah from Beacon, provider of our contract, etc. To talk about what we're able to do. Help us figure out what the programs can do, work through the issues. Part of the contract is to get out into the community with people with job titles less than Designated Crisis Responder. There's lots of confusion.

CB—Our meeting the other night with business people concerned about crime. People say you're only coming up with excuses. Our explanations can fall on deaf ears. It's really a challenge to educate the public. Meet every week. Chelan County has a prosecutor with a procedure to deal with involuntary commitment. He'll share it with Okanogan County.

AH—Problem is: is it really the law, or is it somebody's take on the law? And how do we change the law. If I've got a business and somebody's behavior is causing me to lose money, people need to know how to keep him out.

CB—That's why we met with business people and Sheriff both. So people can learn what constraints law enforcement is under. Jacqueline Maycumber (Washington State Representative, 7<sup>th</sup> District) was there at a meeting, and understands the law quite well. She's pretty consistent with what everybody else was saying about the new laws. We should get together with everyone way before the legislative session begins to decide where we testify, and how proposed legislation would affect Okanogan County.

CB—Having the community understand the problems we face.

DMc—Thursday's meeting about Mobile Crisis, trying to get action items. We're funded with 5 FTEs, so service won't be 24/7, but planning on hiring people for evenings and nights.

CB—Filling the positions is very hard everywhere. For law enforcement, too.

DMc—They won't be Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs), so maybe easier to hire. About 15% of the crisis calls elevate to Involuntary Treatment Evaluation. Out of the 15%, fewer become involuntary detained. We're trying to help the 85% with Mobile Crisis.

RJ—We're trying to get people who are already familiar with the area so they'd be more likely to stay.

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QL—We need to train people who already live here. If you hire and train from within, that can work well. Train through OBHC or the college both.

**3:54:00**—OBHC people leave.

LH and AH briefly discuss ARPA money going to the Economic Alliance. They also decide to discuss tomorrow the door locks and which budget line should be used to pay for them.

CB—I told Maurice (Goodall, Emergency Management) that on the public hearing to interface with LJ to make sure he has the staff report.

**3:57:40**—PP begins Planning Department update. I was asked this morning about the SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) for the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). That’s gone to the newspapers. The period for comments on the DNS for the MHMP ends July 8. Then you’ll schedule a public hearing with Maurice.

AH—Hearing is scheduled for July 11.

CB—The deciding body will occasionally make the approval (especially if they met infrequently) with the stipulation that it’s contingent on the SEPA process being approved.

AH—Does that apply to this item?

CB—No. I’m just sharing with you. But in the future, there is that option.

AH—to PP—when do you decide to issue a DNS (Determination of Nonsignificance) or a DS (Determination of Significance)? When you do SEPA on a plan of action, you go through a checklist, right?

PP—Yes. Go through a checklist, review it for completeness with respect to the law. Then, a majority of the time, the threshold will be issued, the DNS, and when the comments came back, if there are any that warrant a MDNS (Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance), we do that. In this particular instance, it took quite a while to get the plan. Then we got the checklist and now it’s worked its way to the top of the pile.

CB—Important thing is if it isn’t your plan, you’ve got to read it. Somethings may need to be clarified. Ends up being a disclosure statement.

PP—I received a phone call from our new representative from Department of Commerce—Joanne Wright (Sp?) replacing Scott Kutick (Sp?) She’s being questioned by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about our Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). Offered technical assistance about drafting our CAO. Some funding is available for Growth Management Act (GMA) counties, which excludes us. I told her that after zoning, the CAO is next in the queue. And we also want to include the Clearing and Grading Ordinance. We’re hoping to have the Cannabis Code done by August when the moratorium is over. Right after that, if BOCC is onboard with working with WDFW to get the CAO adopted. I want to revisit it close to that time to see where we are. If we’re not at capacity, I’m kind of thinking about doing that.

CB—Is there any species you’re not targeting because of the WDFW?

PP—Only the laws that require it. Staff is good about best available science and going to the WDFW site where the information is.

CB—People say to me—if you’re using WDFW science is, why don’t you use other science, too.

PP—WDFW has a handbook updated regularly with best available science.

CB—We get feedback from them with their comments.

PP—We’re not starting from scratch. We’ve got the 2016 stab at that. We’ve got lots of comments about weakness in the prior plan. Same with Clearing and Grading Ordinance. I had a stab at it a year ago and Josh (Thomson, County Engineer) reviewed that and provided lots of good feedback. So I’d like to bring those two forward because I’m sure we can handle them now.

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PP—Update on the file retention project. We're down to about 60-70 boxes, but the documents in the boxes aren't organized, so each box takes longer. We had to buy another set of 16 brackets, costing \$126.72 plus \$357.13 for shipping. We should have bought another set of 16 the first time and saved the money for shipping. They're for shelving that we've already got, so that's why we have to order them and pay the extra shipping.

PP—Submitted an agenda bill for the Shoreline Review update. Cost is \$53,795. It's gone through the review with the Prosecutor's Office and Risk Management. Paid for by a grant from Department of Ecology. We hope it'll be a quick process.

PP—We sent out the RFQs for the Zoning Code. Proposals are due of June 23. Received some questions but not received any proposals yet.

CB returns to the issue of the cost for the Shoreline Review update. Makes a motion to pay the bill. Motion passes.

PP—Lastly, this discussion might be a little bit longer. Advisory committees. Gene split it into 3 districts. Upper Methow is already represented by the Mazama group. Then for the mid and bottom section, we'd need subarea advisory groups approved.

AH—I think we should work on the southern section first. Here's what I keep forgetting. The School District line is at Gold Creek. Everything above that line was the Methow Review District. The zoning and density and use chart is different for those zoned MRD-5 and MRD-20. But south of the School District line, you're into R-5s and R-20s. R-5s and R-20s over here could be a lot different than in the Methow Valley. I finally figured out that the concerns are that they don't have the same zoning restrictions as in the Methow Review District. So it's important to get the southern advisory group going.

PP—I know that in the Tunk area, they want acreage requirements enlarged.

PP—I think that we get advisory groups going in both places at the same time, so we have them in place once the consultant is on board. If the consultant starts working with the communities before the advisory groups are in place, we'll waste a lot of time and money.

CB—Does the sub-unit drive the zoning, or does the zoning drive the sub-unit?

AH—Sub-unit drives the zoning.

CB—Right. So you've got three separate areas...

AH—Two are already covered under the Methow Review District already.

CB—To me, it's area. What I look at the zoning, I don't care except that the south end is inappropriately zoned. So I guess that's why you want to move to that first.

AH—In the Methow Valley all the way down to right above Pateros, it's a water issue. So you might as well make it consistent. You can't put multi-family dwellings on it, even if it's zoned for that. Obviously, water takes precedence.

CB—If I create a sub-area in the blue section, and those folks want things and have to recognize things, then doesn't what comes out the other end address those things.

AH—Totally. But now we've got 5 acre parcels called MRD-5 or R-5. Total difference in what you can do on them. There's a hierarchy. There are other things you have to look at. There's water availability, shorelines, Critical Areas Ordinance. Lots of things narrow down what you can do. Why not just change all the R-5s to MRD-5s? We can if it's more applicable. Look at Carleton. There's lots of flat ground and you could build a lot of houses except for the water. If the water bank goes it, then you might change

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the zoning. Conditional Use Permit (CUP). You don't want to not allow something to happen if it might happen unless you absolutely don't want it to happen.

CB—CUPs tend to be approved. They come with conditions that mitigate the situation.

AH—Yes. You could build multi-family dwellings if you have these things, and do these things.

PP—I just want to make sure we don't put the horse ahead of the cart, and start talking about zoning before we get the groups in. That's the whole point of the advisory groups. If you're happy with the boundaries I drew, I can come back with a formal adoption of the boundaries, and you'll tell me to get the notice in the paper. Try to get some people interested.

AH—Check our Comp Plan to see if it doesn't list the sub-areas. And check in the More Completely Planned (MCP) document to make sure boundaries weren't adopted.

PP—The commissioners set the boundaries.

AH—We just want to make sure the sub-areas are consistent with the Comp Plan and MCP areas.

**4:31:25**—LJ—Before the next item of business, could you consider the A-19s(a kind of voucher), so I can pay them?

AH. CB and LJ discuss how to pay them out of the negative economic impact line in the ARPA funds.

**4:36:15**—CB—Move to go into Executive Session for 10 minutes to evaluate the qualifications of a job applicant or review performance of a public employee, inviting Shelley Keitzman of Human Resources. Motion passes 2-0.

**4:45:55**—Commissioners return. The only other business to be done, paying for the doors will be postponed until next Monday because CB needs to go to another meeting soon.

AH—We adjourn until 9:00 AM next Monday.