

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, September 19, 2022 AM

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
CHa—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning
NP—Naomi Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager

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:

- *Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management updates the Commissioners.*
 - *He hopes to get a USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant that might be used to fund a Fire Marshall.*
 - *The injured bear mentioned last week has not been found.*
 - *Camp fires may soon be allowed in camp sites.*
 - *He plans to help winterize the Fairgrounds by blowing out the water pipes.*
- *Pete Palmer gives the Commissioners a timeline for the BOCC and Planning Commission to correct mapping errors and for rezoning the Tunk Basin. Also, she has received ten applications for the Subarea Advisory Committees in the Methow Valley.*
- *Commissioners hold two executive sessions—one dealing with pending litigation and the other dealing with potential litigation. Ester Milner (Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor) and Shelley Keitzman (Human Resources and Risk Management) are invited to both. After the second executive session the commissioners pass a resolution approving the denial of defense for a former county employee.*
- *Naomi Peasley (Fairgrounds Manager) updates the commissioners.*
- *Commissioners adjourn at noon until Tuesday at 9:00.*

3:00—Pledge of Allegiance.

CB, who had planned to have hip replacement surgery on Tuesday, September 20 says the surgery has been cancelled and he'll know more about the situation in November.

CB—I had a request for documentation on reporting for SLFR (Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund).

AH—I was asked about the Courthouse money. We're using the rule for counties received less than \$10,000,000.

CB—Maybe we should pass a resolution about that. I made the (ARPA spending) report on-line.

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CB—Do we have a draft resolution for RCW4.96, or are we just going to have a discussion about it.

AH—Ester (Milner, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor) is getting all of that stuff together this morning. It's out for review.

AH—Can you look at that little draft blurb that I sent about ARPA money?

CB—I've looked at it. My initial thought is that it needs a little meat on it.

AH—I agree, but I didn't know what the meat should be.

CB—We should have a discussion about it.

CB—You know about the transfer of property to Oroville at the trail head? We've discovered that there's only a 20' easement. Try to negotiate with property owners.

19:50—Public comments. Emily Sisson asks if Commissioner DeTro will be absent today. Yes. He has called in to say he won't attend the meeting today.

AH & CB discuss the easement issue while looking at the properties on the Assessor's website.

34:55—Staff updates.

MG—We're working on a USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant. It's a big grant and we'll see if we qualify. Due October 5. If we qualify, we could get a match for served communities. We might also get some money for five years for a fire marshal. I'll have to talk to the fire chiefs about it. They could enforce fire codes.

AH—On DNR land?

MG—I'm trying to figure that out. Also more funding on CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) maybe.

MG—We can't use the money to buy equipment. It's more for fuel reduction. Maximum grant award is \$10,000,000. DNR has a designated person that I've been talking to.

CB—I see home owners' associations are eligible for the grant. Do they have to be a part of the county?

MG—No. I asked that.

MG—Doesn't fund communications gear.

MG—Working on Okanogan Emergency Services Organization interlocal agreement and by-laws.

MG—They weren't able to locate the injured bear (mentioned in last Monday's meeting).

MG—State Rt. 20 blockage was cleared quickly.

MG—Burn ban. DNR will meet tomorrow. Plan to have a phone meeting Wednesday morning with the advisory committee to tell them what the DNR is doing. It appears DNR will lift the ban on campfires in their designated campgrounds. Generally things with burn bans change on Friday. Do you want me to update you before the change.

AH—Maybe we need a resolution that says that the Advisory Board can make changes in burn bans without asking the BOCC. Changes go into effect on Friday and we're not around on Friday.

MG—I want to stick with what the Advisory Board says.

Discussion about whether the Advisory Board's meeting is a public meeting.

AH to CB—What would the public get out of the meeting?

CB—It's just a technicality that I'm checking. But what the public gets out of it is what it gets out of any public meeting.

AH to CB—do we want to do a resolution? (To MG)—What do we want to call it? Burn ban? Burn restriction? We want to get the terminology right. Try to do it be tomorrow.

MG—Last thing: I got an email from the Fairgrounds to be there on October 19 and 20 for water blowouts.

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AH—When we went over there, you knew what was going on. I want to get a good winterization sheet, showing exactly needs to be done. I'd appreciate it if you'd come with me so two brains to figure out how the system works.

MG—But I don't want to be liable if someone turns a line back on and it breaks during winter.

AH—You're not taking on any liability.

MG—Blowing the lines out is the perfect time to learn the system. Also, I noticed 24-7 (24-7 Property Maintenance in Omak) will be there. But why can't we rent an air compressor from Public Works?

AH—Maybe 24-7 will operate their compressor?

AH—Once you've had someone figure it out, then you can go from there.

MG—Prior to the air compressor showing up, we need to go over the schematics.

MG—We also need to make sure no one can turn a valve on after we blow out the line.

54:40—PP—We did a schedule with time lines for Planning Commission and BOCC to meet for upcoming mapping error changes and zoning in the Tunk. This will meet the moratorium on Tunk before it expires. Nov 28 to have the public meeting for the mapping errors and on the December agenda would be the public meeting for the Tunk rezone. Public Hearing for those with the Planning Commission would be in October and at their November meeting.

PP—We're scheduled documentation to discuss and give direction on density changes on the Tunk and final review on the mapping error correction.

AH—Just to make sure, on September 26, with the Planning Commission are the two things going on. On October 31 is a public meeting for the Planning Commission on the mapping error. Rocky will send that notice out first week of October. Then at that meeting you'll finalize the density changes for the Tunk, but no public hearing?

PP—Correct. It'll be just discussion and move forward.

AH—Then November 28 will be the public hearing for the Tunk Basin rezone and the notice is the first week in November? And that same day...

PP—It won't be that same day, but in November.

AH—So let's take those two off of that because people are going to want to ask for that. And send those two to Lanie to put in on for November and then December.

PP—Update on Advisory committee applications. I've received 10 complete applications with resumes. 5 for subarea B. 3 for subarea C and 2 that didn't specify which area. I'll have to find out which I'll put them on the list and wait another quarter for more applications to come in.

AH—Can you send everyone an email telling them the situation, so they're not left hanging. We need 7 at least for each subarea and we want a mix of people.

PP—Last item. I received CB's email about two other consultants to contact. But because we'd already told the other consultants we were going to close in two days, I didn't reach out to them. This is the only one of the 12 I reached out to. Recommended by Paul Jewell. Seemed to be well versed in what we are looking for. Done similar work. Had a zoom meeting with the owner. Verdoise (*spelling?*) is her name. Very intelligent. Woman owned business. Minority. Communicated well. I was impressed talking to her.

AH—I like that she did the research. She discussed the Methow Valley More Completely Planned Areas and the WIRAs (Water Inventory Resource Area). September 15 was the cut-off dates? People have lost a lot of staff and are having trouble getting the planners we were looking for.

AH—We need a recommendation.

PP—Would you a resolution to recommend? Contact them for a price? Oh, they did give a budget.

AH—to CB—are you OK with her recommendation for her?

CB—The intent is to rely on the recommendation of the Planning Department?

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PP—I think for the SMP (Shoreline Management Plan), we did a resolution for you to select the contractor.

AH—Yes. Let’s put it on the agenda for Monday to review the statement of qualification for zoning code. I think it’s better to put in on the agenda so people will know we’re talking about it.

PP—That’s all I have.

CB—Key participant player in this thing is Beckwith (Beckworth?)

1:31:40—CB—I move to go to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation RCW42.30.110(1)(i) for 15 minutes inviting Ester Milner and Shelley Keitzman (HR and Risk Manager). Approved 2-0. Later the session was extended for another 10 minutes.

1:56:35—They’re back.

CB—About the planning contract, we don’t need a resolution because there were no other interested parties. Do we have a budget item for that? I suggest we go for the higher amount.

CB—Move to go to Executive Session for potential litigation RCW42.30.110(1)(i) inviting Ester Milner and Shelley Keitzman until 11:15 (15 minutes)

2:20:05—CB to Milner or Keitzman—Did you look at what Kitsap County is doing? Milner (?) replies she didn’t read all 39 counties.

2:26:30—CB—I move to approve the denial of defense for Isiah Holloway, served with civil complaint 222CV00195-TORW in District Court, having been a past employee of Okanogan County. Defendant has requested defense under RCW 4.96.041(1). (*See below*) I move to deny that defense request. No discussion. Motion passes 2-0.

RCW 4.96.041 *Action or proceeding against officer, employee, or volunteer of local governmental entity—Payment of damages and expenses of defense.*

(1) Whenever an action or proceeding for damages is brought against any past or present officer, employee, or volunteer of a local governmental entity of this state, arising from acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform his or her official duties, such officer, employee, or volunteer may request the local governmental entity to authorize the defense of the action or proceeding at the expense of the local governmental entity.

2:31:20—Naomi Peasley for the Fairgrounds update.

NP—I have contracts left over at the end of the Fair for some of the vendors. One needs payment processed in vouchers and need a signature from the commissioners. For Lifeline Ambulance.

AH—to CB—The Fair Advisory Committee (FAC) tried to get volunteers for emergency services. I didn’t even know that was possible. Also liability. So we approved the \$1,026 fee for Lifeline Ambulance. I’ll sign it.

NP—Fair budget still has expenses of \$13,667.41 that need to be paid. That doesn’t include the \$14,000 for premiums either. I think the budget supplemental for the FAC was submitted last week.

AH—I emailed Mike (?).I’ll get the agenda together and we’ll go over complaints, concerns, what we could do better and then look at the budget.

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NP—Speaking of complaints, here are 35 pages from the public. Three pages from Fair Facebook page, some email that came directly to the Fair and the last 28 pages from a survey about how the Fair could be better. I forwarded it to Crystal and Jim. I'd like all of them to be on the public record.

AH—Who did the survey?

NP—Someone's personal account.

AH—It's interesting I guess.

NP—I think the person wants to be on the FAC and maybe taking over as superintendent of one of the barns.

AH—I appreciate this person doing it, but maybe should have talked to the county first.

NP—I knew she was doing it, as did several FAC members. I'll put out a survey to barn superintendents to see how we can help them.

NP—Keep in mind when you discuss the Fair budget that I applied for and received a \$15,000 grant from the Washington Fair Events Assoc. We were granted the money but not yet received it yet. Supposed to get it in November. To reimburse for entertainment expenses.

AH—They're OK with us just showing we've paid the bill already? And what you're saying is our carry over cash will have \$15,000 extra?

NP—Correct. And nearly \$15,000 I obtained in sponsor and donations to the Fair.

AH—That's going towards all of the spending this year?

NP—Yes. \$6,000 in overages.

NP—(She distributes document to the commissioners.) Update on 134 for capital improvements. Money spent or planned to spend. Underground irrigation was scratched from this, but there were some things that had to be done to the well before that decision was made. You asked for the update a couple of weeks ago.

AH—Spent more than \$500,000 in improvements to the Fairgrounds. \$112,000 for the grandstands.

NP—We had \$600,000 in revenue last year above projected...

NP—Three events at the Fairgrounds next week, and there's a stack of events for the month. Surpassed revenue already for the Fairgrounds. You changed the fee schedule for the Fairgrounds, but I wasn't aware of it.

NP—I have information about race horse stalls. Four quotes and my recommendation with all the documentation.

AH—We'll make copies.

NP—Did you do follow-up on the email I sent to you and HR and Risk Management last week?

AH—We are looking into it. Any issues you have re: HR things, go to HR.

NP—I will.

NP—I'm down one maintenance staff person and one office staff person. The temp person in maintenance will soon be gone. Usually have two full-time maintenance and one part-time office staff. I want to talk to Norm before I advertise the job. It's the lead position that's open and I want to talk to Norm first to assess the situation.

NP—I applied for a LTAC (Lodging Tax Advisory Committee) grant to update the bathrooms. Showerheads, toilets, etc.

AH—MG talked about going to help blow out the irrigation system. Why is 24-7 coming?

NP—They're not. I cancelled 24-7 and got the system from the shop. Norm will run it.

NP leaves.

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AH and CB discuss a spring on the Loop Loop Highway and a DNR campground.

Adjourn at noon until Tuesday at 9:00.