

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, February 27, 2023 AM & PM

JN—Jon Neal, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, Vice-Chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, Chair, District 2
LJ—Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
CHa—Crystal Hawley, Deputy Clerk of the Board
IS—Isabelle Spohn, Commenter
NP—Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager
PP—Pete Palmer, Planning Director
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management
LG—Larry Gilman, County Assessor
SS—Susan Speiker, Clerk of the Courts
EM—Esther Milner, Chief Civil 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

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Summary of significant discussions:

- *A public comment from Isabelle Spohn, regarding the need for an updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan regarding wildfires, ingress and egress and escape routes with up-to-date signage for dead-end and closed roads, sparks a discussion by the Commissioners. They agree that an up-to-date plan is important and discuss problems of achieving that. Maurice Goodall (MG) of Emergency Management talks about this topic later in the meeting, and the Commissioners plan to discuss it with Josh Thomson, the County Roads Engineer tomorrow when he appears before them.*
- *Zak Kennedy updates the Commissioners about the state legislature's current session in Olympia.*
- *Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager, and the Commissioners discuss funding sources for new rabbit cages and barns for both racehorses and 4-H horses. The rabbit cages and some of the horse barn project will have to wait until next year.*
- *Pete Palmer, Planning Director, tells the commissioners that Isabelle Spohn continues to disagree with Pete's assertion that the Tunk Rezone Hearing was properly advertised. She also says several members of the Farm Bureau have requested public records associated with the Tunk rezone.*
- *Maurice Goodall and the Commissioners discuss roads during fires. Commissioner Branch says the BOCC should pay attention to the NEPA and SEPA documents and make comments about roads going through forests. MG says the county maintains a list of people with Special Needs who are notified in emergencies. County residents can call Emergency Management to discuss being included in the list.*
- *Commissioner Neal says that the Priest Lake, ID, Sheriff's Office is offering hiring bonuses of \$10,000 for new hires and \$25,000 for lateral transfers. He knows this because he saw an advertisement of TV for the bonuses.*

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- *Commissioners review the amount of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds they've allocated to date. They've allocated \$7,100,000 of the \$8,200,000 the county was awarded.*
- *Commissioner Branch urges the other commissioners to sign a letter to Senator Murray, requesting money for a feasibility study for a multi-county treatment evaluation center designed to keep people out of jail if a jail term isn't what would help the situation. He'll also solicit support from David McClay, CEO of Okanogan Behavioral Health Care and Sheriff Budrow.*
- *Commissioners have two Executive Sessions.*
 - *To discuss litigation and potential litigation, inviting Esther Milner, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Pete Palmer, Director of Planning, and Rocky Robbins, Planning, and*
 - *To discuss potential litigation, inviting Esther Milner and Shelley Keitzman, Human Resources and Risk Management.*
- *Commissioners and Esther Milner discuss proposed changes to the county code.*

02:05—Pledge of Allegiance

CB—Changes to the agenda. There's one item that is a little misleading. "\$6,000,000 Tribal Allocation."

AH—It's the second half of our payment to the...

CB— LATCF (Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund). Discussion won't take 30 minutes. I'm trying to get the second payment from the Treasury Department, but there seem to be computer issues.

AH—At 10:35, there's a hearing for the budget supplemental for the sheriff. It'll take about five minutes. Do we need to discuss anything about the Fairgrounds? We move the LATCF discussion to 10:40, or we could discuss it right now.

CB—Do we want to discuss the ARPA funding distribution now?

AH—or at 10:40. And leave the rest of the stuff where it is.

CB—Did you guys get the email from Jerry in Chiliwist? He said he couldn't hear. Is anybody monitoring the AVCapture? (Two people attending via zoom say they can hear the meeting.)

IS—There's a problem with the agenda published on Friday. The Zoom links don't work for several meetings. I've told LJ.

AH—Thanks.

CB—On the Consent Agenda for tomorrow. We have an appointment letter for an Alta Vista Irrigation District Director. Two people resigned at the last meeting. What's going on?

LJ—I think they accepted one resignation and they'll accept the other one when the first vacancy is filled.

CB—I wonder if they've got any information about Zachery Claussen, the man they want us to appoint to the Irrigation District board. We should have something from them that tells us about the person.

AH—On the Watershed Council, we interview people for a vacancy, and then we send letters to the initiating governments about the person we approved. We didn't get anything from the Irrigation District.

CB—It's time for public comments, but I'd like to look at the rules for appointing people to the Irrigation District board afterwards.

IS— Public Comment—As all the downed branches and trees emerge from under the snow here in the Methow, people are already looking ahead to preparing for fire season .

The commissioners signed Resolution # 89-2022 adopting the Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan on July 12th of last year, stating that "The BOCC would conduct an annual review of the Mitigation Strategies."

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This is just a reminder that the reason behind this statement was to deal with the problem that the proposed mitigations in All Hazards Plan have been passed on year after year from plan to plan and year to year, but a large number of these promises and plans have still not been implemented. Regarding just the fire-related mitigations, many of them have listed “lack of funding” as the reason for not accomplishing the goals - for almost 10 years now, since the Community Wildfire Protection Plan of about 2013.

We’re still operating under this Wildfire Protection Plan of 2013, which is Pre-Carlton Complex. It’s hard to rationalize such neglect for 10 years, considering our fire situation.

I’ve heard the commissioners being informed by EMS that the MHMP’s main purpose is to acquire grant money. But money for what? There needs to be a plan.

I’m still concerned about safe egress for folks in the Methow should Highways 153 and 20 experience blockages for any reason. That’s already happened once for a brief time—both highways were closed. We don’t need more deaths by entrapment. That was discussed at the time the Resolution was passed, and with good reason.

According to the response to my public records request, apparently everyone is apparently awaiting a fully signed copy of the most recent MHMP, which doesn’t exist yet - even though the county adopted it last July.

But since the County has officially signed off, what’s preventing the conversation from starting between the county and the agencies which could agree upon priority routes for possible evacuation?

At last word from EMS, we’ll be fortunate if the plan is in place for even a late fire season this year. Our last Community Wildfire Protection Plan was signed almost 10 years ago, in 2013.

I’d like to hear the commissioners schedule the annual review that was promised in the Resolution last July. Once again, my personal interest is in fire, adequate egress and posting of roads, especially dead end roads so there’s no entrapment. There isn’t any reason someone can’t initiate the discussion. It would involve the DNR, the county the USFS, etc.

That’s it. Thanks.

CB—Thank you, Isabelle.

AH—We have been providing a lot of money for Firewise protection. We have been allocating Type 3 funds to Conservation District to do Firewise projects. Spent a lot of money for computers, etc.

CB—The comments generally point to the Mitigation Plan and wildfire.

AH—IS just said one of her interests is the ingress/egress and so the people that died on our fires, one was on USFS road and there’s 30 miles of USFS dead-end road and one was on a private driveway. I don’t know how you get the Forest Service to put up a bunch of signs that say “Dead-End Road” though that may be a good idea.

CB—It would be worthwhile to go over the MHMP on the issues is brought up, with Maurice (Goodall, Emergency Management).

AH—Have we already completed the back roads study?

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JN—I'm 90% sure it was completed. Like everything else, it's a moving document but the basics were completed.

AH—Maybe we should coordinate this with the MHMP. Did it say possible solutions, or that these roads need to be adequately addressed?

JN—It basically prioritized which roads get the most use.

AH--We should attach it to MHMP.

CB—We should take a look at this. But that study was also, had a larger scope - to provided BOCC information on how roads are maintained or be vacated. Also to look at the roads log, which roads are valid and which are not. But because of the use of these roads, could be looked at for other things too.

AH—Could we bring the up when Josh (Thomson, County Engineer) is here tomorrow?

CB—Sure. Would behoove us to make sure we have our copies and review it. The other piece is important and Isabelle had brought it up more than once--those neighborhood plans when it comes to roads. MG says these are plans the people in these locations help put together. If so, should we be playing a larger role in this? Sticks in my mind—the situation in Paradise (California). The mayor came to meeting and talked about egress. A lot of people died in the fire. Would behoove us to take a look at that in once way or another.

CB—Have to converse with MG in the MHMP. If we can chase down more funds, that's great - the preparedness we've been dealing with Title 2 funds and Conservation District are site-specific, home specific. They don't deal with the egress issues, which would be the concerns. And like MG said, some roads are not open, but get opened during fires. But do they go all the way through? Would private roads be locked, or be useable, in those remote areas all over the county.

CB—I would go back to the Rocky Hole fire and see what was working or not working. Jon, is that a good example?

JN—That's a good example. The USFS had shut off multiple roads, and when it came time to fight the fire, there was no access left. As county, I'd be really reluctant to even consider shutting off any roads because of this. Whether you maintain them or not is another option, but it can detrimental to actually close them.

CB—When the USFS closes those roads, maybe not enough consideration is being given to egress.

JN—On Rocky Hole, there weren't many residents, but still no access to fight fires.

CB—on Rocky Hole, not much consideration on county's part as far as numbers of homes there.

JN—I was listening to the radio coming in and they commented about they don't argue about land ownership, they just fight the fire. The Rocky Hole one, the DNR and USFS were sitting in their trucks watching a tree burn trying to decide whose fire it was. Then the wind came up and it was everybody's.

CB—Same as Salmon Creek. The Good Neighbor Agreement has changed that. Maybe we should get MG in here and use those examples. Should we be maintaining roads for access to public lands?

30:15—JN—Zak (Kennedy, County Lobbyist) is here now.

ZK—Good morning. Quick update: There's not much going on except for floor action. Finance Committee finished up Friday night, and allegedly bills not passed out are dead. Waiting to see what's left. The legislature is going to run late into the night a lot. There a quite a few bills that are coming down. I made a list. The firearms bill got through the committee. It's not too onerous. There's one I strongly suggest you look at. HB 1445—talks about law enforcement misconduct. Basically, if the Attorney General thinks that your cops are out of line, he can investigate (*inaudible*). Directly in response to the Sheriffs' Association across the state coming out and saying if you pass these laws about firearms, we're not going to enforce them. I suggest you read the bill analysis and summary. It requires only one act to investigate, not a pattern.

CB—Are there other bills that fix it?

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ZK—Discusses pursuit issues. The Governor and Attorney General have pushed hard on handguns, but lots of push back from both sides of the aisles, except for the extreme. Same with the riparian bill. We're far from being over, and the Governor may veto things.

CB—We're in for a big fight.

ZK—We'll see what happens. Another bill—HB 1832 didn't make it out of the Transportation Committee. It was the per mile charge. It would be voluntary now, but the worry was it would be mandatory later. Any questions?

CB—We've got some budget items we requested in—do you know about them?

ZK—They've been working on that in the general Budget Hearings. Get your asks in, and it'll come down to the last week of the session—what they're leaving in and what they're taking out. No way to tell what deal they'll cut.

CB—OK.

ZK—It's interesting because we're starting to see feedback from the Democrats with the Democratic governor. Not how it usually happens when they're in the same party.

JN—I've got a couple of quick things. What about the bill addressing vehicle theft?

ZK—I don't remember the bill number.

JN—Send us an email later. Another thing about the per mile issue. I heard talk about moving licensing fees to Transportation, where they belong.

ZK—There's been some conversation. We can move it there, but how can we keep it there? They don't have a mechanism to keep the money in Transportation.

CB—OK.

ZK—I'm done! Are you coming to Olympia?

CB—Maybe Jon will do it for me. It's hard for me to travel.

ZK—I'll see you if you're there.

46:15—AH—I just sent you two an email about the last Fair Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting. They moved to recommend a policy change. They'd follow the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). They'd post the agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting. With "track changes", you can see the changes they want. I want to get the policy changed. It's hard to post the agenda a week prior to the meeting. I'll get NP or LJ to write a resolution. I'll try to get changes done a little bit at a time. It's labeled Rev.1 because it's the first revision. The FAC didn't make the changes specifically, but looked at what I recommended.

CB—Did you make sure the FAC agrees with the changes?

AH—Yes. And I'll have them vote on the recommendations in the future.

Discussion of the schedule for FAC meetings. Also, CB wants to make sure that the FAC has training about the OPMA, and that they should review the changes so they'll feel they have ownership of them.

59:20—NP—I'm Naomie Peasley, Fairgrounds Manager. I've just got a few things this morning.

NP—The guys have been cleaning out the bone yard. Getting lots of stuff to sell for surplus.

AH—Make a list, and make sure to take it off your list of equipment.

NP—We were wondering if we can surplus all the scrap metal—railing, etc.

NP—Contacted about an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with WSU and I referred them to you. I don't know what their agreement has been, or even if there was one. Wanted to make sure you guys know about it.

AH—It's about a garden they have. Do you know how many square feet?

NP—It's between two buildings. I'll measure and tell you next week. I'll forward it to you, Kayla (Wells-Yoakum) and Angeline.

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AH—FAC changed its policies and procedures—changing posting date for agenda, and corrected the meeting place. Wanted to make sure it's OK with you.

NP—Yes. You'll tell the FAC?

AH—Yes.

NP—What about the registration documents for vehicles. Who signs them?

AH—Commissioner Branch does.

NP—I got an email from Lone Star about the status of the racehorse barns.

AH—In my mind, we've got the big horse barn that may need a total re-do. That will cost a lot of money. The other horse barns were going to be about \$150,000 in county money.

NP—In the breakdown that I emailed to you, it was \$150,000 from grant and \$184,000 from the county. That includes the electricity and the water.

AH—I don't think we can do both in the same year. I haven't heard from the insurance adjuster. I'll find out about that.

NP—One last thing, you've talked about buying rabbit cages. Approximately \$15,000. Should I move forward? What BARS codes if I do?

AH—Rabbit cages are pretty bad. That's why people are concerned about them. We could use the interest on the \$12,000,000.

JN—I'm fine with that if it's a necessity.

AH—Or they could go one more year, and then put it on the Fair Safety grant. It's the end of the biennium and we can get a new grant next year.

NP—Also, there's \$200,000 in fair funding.

AH—Let's just table this for a while. Maybe some other funding will appear.

AH—There's \$40,000 for windows. And \$250,000 for the jail. But there's supposed to be \$300,000 in interest and the rate just went up to 4%, so there would be more than that.

CB—Coming up is the prioritization for the infrastructure projects. We can apply for grants and we could have matching funds to make the projects shovel-ready. Not necessarily at the Fairgrounds. Projects in general.

AH—The rabbit cages aren't life and death right now. But the horse related barns...To get it done we need to get bids quickly. We keep pushing it off. Do one or the other. Can you keep 4-H horses and the racehorses together? We've been getting along without the racehorse barn.

NP—We did once, but it's a safety issue. We won't do it again.

AH—We could build a pole barn that we could add to.

NP—There's the Boots and Saddles money and pole barn options. The High School Rodeo is in May. The agreement is already made. And the Team Roping School with some NFR (National Finals Rodeo) cowboys is coming, so we need to keep going on this issue.

AH—Either do the big barn up at the top, or do four smaller barns down below, or a combination. But what will the cost look like?

JN—You asked about the Booster Club wanting a rate reduction. When do you need that?

NP—Next week. They support the community.

JN—Serve the underserved.

AH—I'm willing to give a 50% discount. The Booster Club pays for uniforms, travel, etc. for low income kids.

NP—Total cost would be \$2,000, and reduction lowers it to \$1,000. They've got the form filled out.

NP—Thanks. I'm done.

1:18:25—PP—Pete Palmer, Planning Director. I don't have anything pressing this week.

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PP—I was prepared this morning for Isabelle. We’ve been getting emails regarding the public notice on the Tunk. We filled her public records request, but she’s not satisfied with what the information says. She thinks we should have published the corrected notice in the paper. We published it for 21 days rather than the required 10.

PP—We’re getting information requests from people with the Farm Bureau on the Tunk. Trying to get those out ASAP.

CB—Requests from the Farm Bureau specifically?

PP—We had a request from Dick and asked for documents used for the water study. I sent it a couple of weeks ago. But now I’m getting information requests on behalf of the Farm Bureau from a member of the Farm Bureau.

CB—Let’s compare notes and make sure we fulfill it fully.

PP—Sure. That’s all for me.

1:20:50—MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management.

MG—No report. Questions only.

CB—Did you hear the conversation about hazard mitigation this morning?

MG—No.

CB—Comments relevant to community wildfire protection plan, egress, etc. Maybe we could spend 30-60 minutes looking at that soon.

MG—Sure. It’s a community wildfire protection plan. Discussed it with the Conservation District. They’ll update it for us. The MHMP, Northwest Management out of Idaho, they’ll send us the hard copy. It’s in the final stage. Everything has been approved. They’ll send it electronically and one hard copy. It’s 800 pages. You’re talking about evacuation routes?

CB—As an element of any of those plans.

MG—Evacuation routes—very interesting. Had discussion with many people how to designate a route as an evacuation route. It’s not like a tsunami. It can happen any place. It’s a discussion I’m willing to have. Those conversations will be had when the Community Wildfire Protection Plan is revamped. Again, I look at it and say what roads are designated and where to put signs. A lot of it is coming out of the Methow Valley. They feel “trapped”. What if all the roads were blocked. There’s always a safe place to get to, but people feel anxiety when this road’s closed. More times than not, roads are blocked all the time, but people don’t know about it. They’re usually short-lived. There are ways of getting around that are safe.

CB—There’s arterials and main roads. But we were talking about backroads. Some discussion could be about policies on closing roads. I understand what you’re saying about floods or tsunamis and how fires are different. It’s hard to know which roads to mark. . Old roads can be vacated. Should we have a policy to deal with that?

MG—I agree. The DNR and the Forest Service need to coordinate about roads.

CB—The Good Neighbor agreements help. And we need to read NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) and SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) documents. We need to comment about roads that go through the woods. They’re used to fight fires, get out of the way of fires and get access to public land.

MG—I sent you an email about a person wanted to know about people with Special Needs. There’s a Special Needs registry. Call Emergency Management if you want to get on the list. We want them to have a plan if there’s an emergency. But Emergency Management doesn’t come to rescue them.

AH—How do Special Needs people know about the list? It should be on your website so people will know to call you about the list, and know to call you.

CB—I’ve got a question. If you’ve got the option of being on the list, what are you prepared to do? It’s like Public Works with remote homes with drifting snow? What’s our policy about that?

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1:32:25—AH—Sorry to interrupt but it's time for a public hearing.

CB—I'll open up the public comment period for the hearing for a Budget Supplemental Appropriation for the vehicle reserve for the Assessor's Office.

LG explains the need for a new vehicle. He's already received two bids. A 4-cylinder vehicle is available and adequate to their needs.

No public comments.

AH—I move to approve Resolution 30-2023 to approve the budget supplemental for \$41,200. Motion passes.

1:35:55—CB—Open the public hearing for a budget supplemental appropriation for the Sheriff's Office.

No one from the Sheriff's Department, so AH gives the staff report. It's a federal NW3C grant for small tools and minor equipment. \$35,034.

No public comments.

AH—More to approve Resolution 31-2023—a budget supplemental for \$35,034 for the Sheriff's Office. Motion passes.

CB—Since we've got some time, we can update the ARPA and government and tribal allocations, PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) that we've (*inaudible*) for so long. A \$6,000,000 payment. I need to apply to the Treasury's website to get the \$6,000,000. The Treasury website isn't working properly. I'm in a queue to be helped. Hope it will be fixed soon. That's the LATCF money.

JN—On a totally different subject, I was watching TV Saturday night and saw an ad from Priest Lake, ID, Sheriff's Office. They offer a hiring bonus of \$10,000 for an entry level and \$25,000 for laterals.

CB—But who'd want to live in Priest Lake?

JN—Yes, but I saw it on the telly.

AH—I'll share my screen for the ARPA funding. As for the LATCF, I just want to make sure we've got only the windows authorized on that.

CB—There's a project I propose we'd put into that. Upgrade to the Rodeo Trail Road—make it all-weather. 2.5 to 3 miles of road. Extend the infrastructure for the business along it. Good to get the planning phase all done. Possible money from Omak and federal and state money. We'd be all ready to go if funding came along.

AH—I'll share my screen now and look at the ARPA funding.

Commissioners discuss ARPA projects they're funding. In the end, they've allocated approximately \$7,100,000 from the total of \$8,200,000.

2:05:40—CB—Another topic. I just sent you a letter from Leah Becknow (spelling?). She's with Beacon (a Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization—BH-ASO) about the effort to establish a treatment evaluation center and diversionary stuff for the River Care Work Group. It's a letter to Sen. Murray. It's due tomorrow, and it's hoped we all sign the letter. I've been meeting with them for quite a while. If we sign, we can send it to Senator Murray's office.

JN—The letter talks about satellite outreach. Any ideas where that would be?

CB—That's part of the conversation. I threw out Pateros. It's centrally located and a City Councilman would be happy to entertain that idea. Pateros is pretty central, except for Moses Lake.

CB—Chelan prosecutor is involved and will be happy to help with our prosecutor for voluntary and involuntary commitment.

JN—Should we ask our sheriff.

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CB—Yes. He should be involved.

AH—(Talking about ARPA) We've got \$837,000 left to allocate.

CB—I feel pretty good about the list of projects even though we didn't have a real formal process. And also we didn't spend any money to generate the list.

CB—How about that letter? What do you think?

AH—I've got to read it? What's a diversion facility? Like Eastern Hospital, essentially?

CB—It's a treatment center that keeps you out of jail.

AH—So if the sheriff picked someone up who had mental problems, it might be this instead of jail.

CB—There's an involuntary commitment process. They have a guy who's a coach. Don't know his exact title. Joey Hunt. He's a former addict and spent time in jail. He says sometimes it's good to have them go to jail for a short while. Gives him a chance to talk to them. The program is designed to keep people out of jail if jail won't help them.

AH—I don't see anyone from our Behavioral Health Center that's signed it.

CB—I'll call David McClay (CEO Okanogan Behavioral Health Center) and see if he wants to sign.

AH—Great. If he signs it, I'll sign it.

JN—I'm thinking about getting the Sheriff's Office.

CB—I'll call him, too.

AH—It says "Rivercare will provide preventive outreach and programming, Law Enforcement will provide co-responder, street level assessments". How does that work for us if they're in Wenatchee?

CB—That's what we're trying to get during the planning process.

AH—I'll sign it if they sign it.

JN—I will too. Do they have a goal about how many beds?

CB—No. Kevin's doing a good job about determining that. It's been very conceptual at this point.

JN—How much you can staff would be an issue.

CB—And see about the money. Do we save anything from the jail budget? We need to get down to the nitty-gritty with numbers.

JN—Good to see them try to address causes.

CB—In meetings, I've talked to Sheriff's Offices from larger counties and have larger problems. If they stop someone and you can see jail might not be the place, you have to know where to take them.

There's a saying about people who spend their lives in jail 30 days at a time. Joey Hunt can help when he goes to the jail to talk to people there.

CB—This is a pathway and we need to get on to it. It's a lot to spend on a feasibility study, but we need it.

AH—We need something regionally.

2:22:30—JN—The Superior Court Clerk is here.

SS—I'm here to follow-up on a previous meeting. I didn't hear back if we received funding for the 15 extra index books. I've picked up the 19 boxes that I know we have funding for, and I'd like to know about the additional 15 boxes.

AH—How much was it?

SS—I reprinted it.

AH--\$6,000.

SS—And there's a little left over from doing the other files, but not enough. They're picking up the boxes we have funds for this week, and it will save \$150 to send the other 15 boxes along with them.

AH—So we need another \$3,400. I think we should do it.

CB—I do, too.

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AH—I think we should just run the line negative. Moves to authorize the clerk getting the other 15 boxes scanned. Motion passes.

AH—Tell Cari (Hall, County Auditor) that the budget line will go negative, but it's OK.

SS—I'll email CB the document I handed to the other commissioners. Thanks.

2:28:10—JN—I got a call from Michael Heath, Ferry County Commissioner, and he said he's on the Quad County Forestry Board. He was wondering who was our commissioner on that board.

AH—I'm on it.

JN—He wasn't sure who was.

AH—The problem is that I'm not getting much information for it. And their last meeting conflicted with my Upper Columbia (Salmon Recovery Board) meetings.

JN—He was just curious.

CB—Would you like a back up, Andy?

AH—Yes.

CB—Since he called JN, would you do it.

JN—Yes.

CB—It's about all that close to the border stuff.

CB—Anything else before we adjourn for lunch? I'll try to get the Treasury account open. I'll call someone from WSAC (Washington State Association of Counties) and see if it works for anyone else of if it's just me. I'll also call Dave McClay.

Adjourn at 11:30 until 1:30.

2:34:10—EM—We need an executive session about litigation. We had two hours for code review, but the need for executive sessions came up and we'll do code update afterwards.

AH—Move to go into Executive Session RCS.42.30.110(1)(i)—to discuss on-going and potential litigation, inviting Esther, Pete Palmer and Rocky from Planning for 15 minutes. Motion passes and off they go.

2:37:40—Upon their return—AH—I move to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, inviting Esther and Shelley (Keitzman, Human Resources and Risk Management) for 15 minutes (until 2:15). Motion passes and off they go.

AV Capture didn't begin recording again until 2:30, several minutes after the discussion of updating the county code began. Commissioners and ES discuss Title 1 at length, but they're reading a draft document and discussion only changes, so the note taker was unable to follow the conversation.

4:08:30—After the discussion of the county code, LJ brings up the topic of the letter CB has asked the other commissioners to sign this morning.

CB—That letter should come back with several names on it—ours, the CEO of OBHC (Okanogan Behavioral Health Care) and the sheriff.

AH—So we don't need to do anything about it today? My other question is: are you willing to look at the amendment to the FAC policies?

CB—OK.

Adjourn at 4:03.

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, February 27, 2023 AM & PM