

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday January 11, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC District 3

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via Zoom. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://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.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Discussion with Planning Director regarding year end report and difference issues between short plat vs long plat, Fairgrounds manager working on Department of Ag grant and other maintenance updates; domestic and irrigation water upgrades considered and approval of tree removal quote, maintenance update, BOCC moving forward with 20 year master plan by architect consultant -cost \$148,845, Public Works update – road maintenance and staffing concerns.

9:05 – Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director reports status of applications, year-end report: Appeals, nightly rentals, parcel consolidation, plan development, permits granted for year- short plat vs long plat. Each given a numerical value.

9:20

AH asks about the process for short plat development. People get frustrated with process, get stopped after thinking they can keep moving. PP states preliminary approval needed, no denials at this step during PP's time in office. *Shouldn't be as confusing if people start with the Planning Department and get Preliminary Approval before moving forward.* PP states this would clear up a lot of confusion.

9:30 PP reports problems of filling a planning position, only one applicant and is 'in house'. Wants to make this a training position – working with HR. Will bring Resolution next week to the BOCC.

9:31 Report by Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager. Fair Advisory Committee (FAC) cancelled due to lack of quorum. NP expects these meetings to be moved over to the fairgrounds. CB brought up the need for the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and wondered whether they could use Zoom and in person. They could use BOCC Zoom account.

NP reports of the Dept of Ag grant for ecology blocks. NP working on this still She is managing the Dept of Ag grant.

9:38 NP reports Agriplex roof is leaking due to snow. AH reports De-Icer can be used for this. AH maintenance folks can take care of that.

9:41 NP discusses tree removal contract. 24/7 never got back to her. Skirko's bid of \$13,000 includes everything needed done to brushing and clean up. It was Moved, Seconded, and carried to have Skirko Tree Service do the tree removal.

9:45 NP also spoke regarding the rental tax. And dump truck paid off.

9:52 Working with a Control Specialist to follow health dept guidelines on the domestic water system and irrigation water. CB states that safe water to drink is the main priority. Not sure we can do both the irrigation and domestic water system, right now.

10:00 short report by Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor. Discusses need for testing soil under cannister where transfer switch is installed. Will work with a Doug Port on this. Also, will go with Kruse Electric for the lighting of the FS building parking lot, along with the daycare.

10:11 *****Executive Session for Potential Litigation regarding county employees – meeting with Dave Gecas (DG), Civil Deputy, and Tanya Everett (TE) HR/Risk Manager*****
Session lasts until 10:21

10:21 Vouchers for \$1,923,812 approved, Public Health payroll & vouchers for \$237, 432 approved

10:28 to 10:30 Approved EMS District Vouchers: Methow Valley \$60,815, Tonasket for \$16,206, Oroville EMS for \$96825.

10:32 Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Ordinance 2022-1 regarding redistricting based on census results.

10:40 – AH wants to move forward with the Okanogan County 20-year master plan completed by Architect Beeman. LJ budgets transfer resolution needed.

AH would like a motion to approve the proposal which costs \$148, 845. Moved, seconded, and carried to approve.

10:56 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports road maintenance, Most issues in the Methow Valley due to the drifts and slides. There are open positions in Public Works in most all areas. BOCC would like a printout map of the areas – numbered.

11:08 JT also discusses the need for radio system upgrade. Will need to replace radios at a cost of \$300,000.

There are also some items on the consent agenda. There is a petition for a guardrail in the Methow Valley – residents cite accidents that may or may not be reflected in the reported count. JT will talk with the resident.

Consent Agenda approved

LJ is drafting a budget resolution for next week's consent agenda.

Adjourned 11:30 – BOCC will not come back after Public Health Meeting @1:30.