

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday January 26, 2021 AM

Present:

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice-Chair, District 2

Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board

Pete Palmer (PP) – Planning Director

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 the <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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%20Minutespage.html>.

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: Problems/complaints by developers regarding planning dept processes and communication problems between surveyors, real estate agents/developers, and landowners. The Miranda Beach Incident. Update from Assessor's office, Solid Waste/Public Works updates.

9:05 Executive Session in meeting room until 10:45*****

10:45 - BOCC and PP discussed problems for developers/landowners. BOCC getting calls. JD says people are wanting to build multi-million dollar homes.

PP getting lots of calls from surveyors, real estate folks, and landowners regarding processes and timelines. There are communication problems between all these players. Usually from the time an application is accepted/vested, it takes 4 years to meet all conditions.

Discussion of Miranda Beach incident. There was an infraction with the Dept of Ecology. Long platt had to be developed first. Also, liability regarding shorelines and flood plain.

Permits are required for all stages of development.

JD – does Planning Dept need help from BOCC with these issues/complaints?

PP – Doesn't believe so. There is some untruth going on because 'they' are trying to push us in the process.

JD – that is why U'm asking what BOCC can do.

CB cited a previous incident where communication was a problem also.

AH – wondered if, in the process, there was any requirement grandfathered in due to the time it takes?

PP – I don't believe so. Everything must be permitted and approved, even when things change in the process.

AH asked PP to come back this afternoon to discuss some more.

Yes, after public comments.

JD – PP has done her homework.

11:00

Assessor (unsure of name) – gave an overview of changes within different taxing classifications, ie open space. There was a 50% Adjustment in 2008 – nothing since. There have been changes regarding wildlife habitat, etc. Criteria is more stringent now. When the value changes, the scoring changes. Values/taxation needs to be brought into parity with current changes.

When a parcel is re-scored, it goes back to the Planning Commission.

(I believe this person talking was Sharon from Planning?)

1/3 of Assessors Budget has been delayed (unsure why??)

Hired 2 positions; Appraiser 3 and Janitor

11:14 – Josh Tomsen, County Engineer reporting on public works and solid waste management. Solid Waste is now able to take credit cards.

Maintenance and road conditions ongoing. Going through a lot of sand.

CB – received a call from Bonaparte area re: plowing up to private roads. Not sure but it is where school bus turns around.

JT – already going beyond County Line boundary. County is maintenancing to sno park.

11:18 after system failure due to cyber attack, they are mostly functional now. Still some are down and they are working with Central Services. Compliments both Central Services and the Auditors Office in working relationship.

JT – all projects are still on track. However, Bids received date has been extended due to the systems problems, especially on the Hwy 97 project.

Still working on other projects

The system failure modified dates and compromised/corrupted a couple of excel files.

All and all, on track. Back in business.

11:24 Meeting adjourned until 1:30 for public comment period. 2:00 discussing more with Planning Dept/ PP