

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday October 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

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

Crystal Hawley (CH) – Deputy Clerk of the Board

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

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate 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:** Considering extending the Burn Ban until the end of the month, with the exception of fire in approved campfire rings. Budget work session with Central Services. Preparing to send out for bids on construction of 3 buildings: 2 County Shops, and storage for Sheriffs Office/Coroner, establishing policy for temporary employees. Results of apple maggot survey, Public Works/Solid Waste Update. November election ballots go out on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Adjourn 11:29

9:00

BOCC signed contract #47-2022 approving payment for Poultry Judging at the Fair. \$250.00

Maurice Goodall (MG) in, briefly, to talk about current status of Burn Ban with Forest Service and DNR. Fire Chiefs are recommending Burn Ban be extended to end of the month, with the exception of campfire in approved sites.

Public Comment

Ruth Hall asking about burn ban.

9:30

Budget work session with Leah McCormick (LM) Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH) Auditor, Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Deputy Auditor, and Karen Beatty(KB)- Central Services

*BOCC, along with IT staff worked on getting the Budget spreadsheet onto Zoom for Public to view during Budget work session.*

KB updates about problems with phone system. We're way behind on phone system updates and will probably be needing to upgrade equipment to be compatible with computer system. KB is also not impressed with current IT Support services and considering changing to one in Wenatchee.

10:30

Treasurer, Auditor, and Deputy Auditor talking with BOCC regarding prioritizing of services should there be a major emergency in the future and discuss the reserve fund for future needs.  
CH reports they have gotten new ballot boxes thanks to the BOCC.

10:41

CH and Josh Thomson (JT) bring to the board a need for policy on taking retirement and paying matching retirement funds for temporary employees that have remained temporary for 5 months or more. This happens in both Public Works and the Auditors Office. CH would like permission to work with HR on this matter. CH also states that since we already have some temporary employees that have gone over this 5-month time and retirement needs to be paid retroactive, is asking that the County pick up that error, rather than bill employees for this as is a large chunk of money now – around \$8000. It was moved, seconded, and carried to direct auditor to work with HR on developing policy regarding this.

11:03

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve letters to the Towns of Twisp and Winthrop approving them for ARPA funds. A Resolution will also need to be created.

11:05

Ken Kovalchenko (KK) Solid Waste Manager and JT County Engineer in to update BOCC

KK reports that everything is drying out. He brought a copy of the results of the Apple Maggot Survey. We (Okanogan County) definitely made a mark on this. Will Carpenter would be best to explain the areas of concern. The apple maggot is active through September. *It appears there is a lot of concentration in the Oroville area, and the hawthorn bushes along the river.*

KK also reports another chipping event in the Methow Valley – being the first fall event.

11:14

JT reports on road conditions. Salmon Creek project going well. Tomorrow, the contractor will be putting the structures together. The County does the inspection of this work.

JT also reports on upcoming equipment purchases. JT went to the OCOG meeting last night. The new administrative position brings up the liability issue and so they are looking into insurance coverage under risk management. JT still looking into the RCPO position.

11:29

Meeting adjourned until after the Public Health Meeting this afternoon.