

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday October 12, 2021

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2 – Absent, not in attendance

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – 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 published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps 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: Only 2 commissioners in attendance, update from County Planner; staffing issues and Comprehensive Plan right on schedule, discussion of consultant assessment of courthouse upgrade, getting quotes for lighting on upper parking lot for courthouse. Public Works update – road maintenance, projects completed. Also, discussion of communication regarding Omak Mountain Road.

AV Capture and Zoom did not begin until 9:37

9:37 – Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director, update of staffing issues; senior planner leaving and administrative secretary will be on pregnancy leave, PP is hoping to hire a person to job shadow senior planner that is leaving.

PP also reports that they are right on schedule with the Comprehensive Plan. And is expecting it to be a better document – is happy with it.

CB reminds PP that Comp Plan is a living document with more changes to come.

9:43 – LJ reports that the assessment of courthouse is beginning. Considering little wire spikes tapped on building to discourage pigeons.

Also, 2 changes on budget work session schedule. Superior Court is re-scheduled from 11/3 to 11/10 and Planning Board is rescheduled from 11/3 to 11/20.

9:46 – CB -= Naomi Peasley will not be here today.

Is Joe Poulin coming back? - LJ notes that he is currently moving lift so people can get out of parking lot.

LJ – other changes; October 18th @2:30 is the public hearing for marijuana moratorium. Presentation at 1:30.

Discussed the approval of people requesting to have wedding on courthouse steps. JD & CB – if there is no objection, we should allow.

10:04 Joe Poulin to be a few minutes late.

LJ states WSU resource Manager, Jim Kroft, wants feedback on performance of extension agent.

(10:30 was supposed to be update from County Auditor -apparently re-scheduled)

10:43 – Joe Poulin (JP) – Maintenance Supervisor – discussing the upgrade to courthouse and need to change some of window structure. LJ points out that this is a grant funded project by historical society. Grant will not pay for modification if not historically accurate.

Beeman - Architect states that County could pay for separate from the GRANT.

10:47 – JP – last week spoke about the HVAC system for Public Works – only 1 quote, but need to get that ordered if that is approved.

CB wondered if this was planned for this year. JP said it is important to get it ordered as things are so slow coming these days.

10:50 JP has been sending letters to neighbors around the parking lot to notify and get input about lighting project in parking lot – will be using LED and quotes have been requested. JP talked with the PUD, who suggested talking with the City of Okanogan and adjoining neighbors.

10:54 – CB discusses with JP – wanting him to look at the new Forest Service building. He will try to get JP a key before he takes off on vacation.

11:00 – Josh Thomson (JT) – County Engineer reports on current maintenance and road conditions. Loup Loup guardrail project completed. Also discussed the ongoing communication regarding the Omak Mountain Road maintenance requested.

11:05 – JT drove it again last week and doesn't believe that it is in bad condition. There are 6 or 7 houses off the road.

CB would like to go with JT to take a look at the road and will respond to the landowner.

JT regarding the consent agenda; would like to just purchase the 1 pickup and awarding of contract for guard rail project on Cache Creek.

11:10 JT will be attending the County Engineers' Conference in Spokane – it is a hybrid; Zoom & in person. He wants to attend in person.

11:17 JT asks if there has been any action on HVAC system for Public Works.

CB stated this will be dealt with this afternoon. He also discussed the new Forest Service Building with JT as it is next door to Public Works building.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:17