

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
10/13/2020 PM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC chair, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC vice-chair, District 1 (absent)
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
AC—Aaron Culp, Undersheriff
CG—Charlene Grooms, Superior Court Clerk
SS—Susan Speiker, Chief Deputy Clerk
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development

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/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm>

Summary of significant discussions:

The Sheriff's Office is interested in buying body cameras for its employees using Covid money from the Department of Commerce. JD and CB are supportive, but CB wants to be absolutely sure that Commerce will reimburse the county for the purchase.

The Commissioners lift the burn ban.

The Clerk of the Court says they have a budget that has been unreconciled for years. It's decided to consult the Auditor and Treasurer about how to resolve the situation.

PP learns she has to schedule a second public meeting before the Commissioners can approve the Recreation Plan. The meeting is scheduled for October 28.

Body camera for Law Enforcement Officers

(Note taker joined the discussion after it had begun.)

AC—discusses body cameras for Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) that record automatically. The cost would be approximately \$250,000.

JD—AH was adding up our Covid expenses to see if this is affordable.

LJ—We're down to about \$1,000,000. This purchase would take us down to \$750,000.

CB—How many devices are you proposing to buy?

AC—32 for patrol officers and 11 for those in corrections.

CB—Has anyone else spent Covid money for this?

AC—Not in Washington, but there's a Police Department in Illinois that did.

CB—We don't want to be surprised if it turns out we can't use the Covid money.

AC—This could be Covid because you can get the data without handling a DVD. It downloads automatically.

CB—I want to make sure the Department of Commerce will pay for this.

LJ—Maybe it falls under telework capabilities of public employees.

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CB—We want to make sure we have a way to recover the money from the vendor if Commerce won't reimburse.

LJ—The key is how well we're complying with Covid recommendations.

CB—I want to make sure if we don't get reimbursed by Commerce and we haven't used it yet—do we get our money back?

AC—I'll check.

JD—This is an opportunity we'd never be able to address, and the police will get the best equipment available.

CB—Do LEOs use body cams currently?

AC—Only a few individuals have bought their own.

(Unclear who the speaker is)—I think that soon there will be a mandate for the cams and it will be unfunded.

CB—The body cams are good to have even if there were no Covid, because you'd have the video as evidence.

CB—Moves to use CARES Act funding to buy body cams for patrol division and corrections division. Motion passes.

AC—GE Pac has the lowest bid.

Budget Supplemental Appropriation for Central Services

LJ—Central Services has been making purchases and needs a supplemental appropriation.

CB—Move to approve the supplementals. Motion approved.

Commissioners lift the county burn ban as of October 14, 2020 at 12:01 AM.

Discussion of budget issues in the Court Clerk's Office

CG—Susan will explain the project. *(We need systems that talk to each other. Odyssey is a true accounting system. The clerk's office has a budget that has always overages and shortages.)*

CB—Doesn't this come up in audits?

SS—You'd think so, but it never did. Janet Deeder brought this to the Board's attention, but couldn't get it reconciled.

JD—Lanie, if we want to get them to 0 balance, where do we get the money?

LJ—Well, a resolution. With consultation with the Auditor and Treasurer. The Whereas clauses would tell the history of the issue.

JD—Can the Clerk's office consult with the Auditor and Treasurer?

LJ—If they can find out if there needs to be a check or a transfer, I can write the resolution.

JD—Find out from the Auditor and Treasurer and write the resolution and then you can put it on the Consent Agenda.

CG—Another issue, to quash rumors. Several judicial employees have to go to the Forest Service to check out its suitability as a court room.

JD—Well, for several months we've had ongoing negotiations in executive session concerning purchasing real estate. Now with what Judge Culp said in a public meeting, the information is out.

LJ—Best not to talk about it.

JD—But it's out there, so we can.

JD—Right now, nothing is finalized.

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CG—But I never got any advanced word of such things.

CB—I understand what you're saying.

JD—The Board has never gone at this with the intention of springing a big surprise on Charlene.

CB—My advice is to keep everybody in the loop. It's obvious that the Fairgrounds are only a temporary site due to Covid.

Recreational Plan meeting to be scheduled.

PP has just realized that the deadline to adopt the Recreational Plan is November 1, so she needs to have its second meeting scheduled. There was much discussion about what date would satisfy the requirement that it be 10 days after the last meeting and still time to be advertised in the newspapers. The Recreational Plan is a stand-alone plan and so doesn't affect the Comprehensive Plan. Also the meeting would be held only to approve or reject the plan. If changes are made to it, the plan would have to go through the public meeting process again. They settle on October 28 as the date.

Commissioners approve the minutes of October 6 and 7. They also approve several vouchers, including an EMS voucher for over \$57,000.

They return to the subject of the Court system mystery budget.

CB—It's weird about the budget with unreconciled overages and underages for all those years.

LJ—Maybe it was a special account. Maybe a trust fund?

CB—Maybe Cari (Hall, County Auditor) will have an explanation.

Meeting adjourns.