

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Monday, October 19th, 2020, AM**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."*

**Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Jerry Paul (JP), Equipment Replacement and Repair  
Ken Kovalenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager  
Josh Thompson (JT), County Engineer

*(Time stamps refer to a Zoom recording of the meeting, available on the County Watch website.)*

**Summary:** AH presided over the Public Works Budget presentation. Lower revenues from Solid Waste (22:40), Fuel Tax and SRS (1:31:00); Solid waste should group with Sheriff's office to benefit from planned Fiber internet connection (30:34); Bridgeport will receive fiber (1:13:00); DOT plans to chip-seal 73.3 miles on the reservation and in Brewster and Tonasket (1:45:29); Purchases for 2021 include a new grader that can double as snowplow, and a water truck (34:00), forklift and building addition for the Central Landfill (1:05:38, 1:13:00); Costly cattle guard contracts questioned (2:07:30) as well as Conconully Home Maintenance's ability to cover its own costs (2:58:00).

- 1:24 **Equipment Replacement and repair** - budget of 3.5 M includes purchase of two trucks, a loader, and a grader estimated at \$100,000. JP answers AH that Graders are sometimes used for snowplowing. JT; We'll budget one grader per year for the next 12 years. JP: We try to have two graders per area in case one breaks down.
- 12:40 **Solid Waste (Landfill)** - In spite of increasing the tipping fee in 2018 revenues (60,000) were down this year due to Covid. Internet outages are "an auditor's nightmare." 30:34 - Asking for a \$25,000 fiber interconnection. AH says not to negotiate separately with NCI Data but to share in the \$150,000 county fiber line project planned for the sheriff's office.
- 14:00 Requesting \$20,000 for a side-by-side water truck with closed cab for fire fighting and dust control, as well as an update for software used for their scale, and \$15,000 for chip-sealing around the facility.
- 15:00 A half-hour discussion on shifting funds within the \$11,147,000 total budget to take into consideration unused funds from the closure and post closure funds, and about the crushing of 150 tons of rock.
- 1:05:38 \$60,000 is allocated for a 20'X40' addition to the recycling station (instead of the \$500,000 for a new building, as previously planned.)

- 13:00 Miscellaneous: \$3,000 plus \$1,000 monthly for fiber installation and maintenance in Bridgeport; \$7,500 for operational supplies; converting a temporary position at Recycling to full-time because there haven't been trustees available; \$60,000 for a new forklift.
- 31:00 **Department of Transportation** budgeted in 2020 for \$3.7M but began year with \$5M in available funds. Fuel tax revenue expected to be down by \$837,000 and SRS (USFS funding for Secure Rural Schools) down by \$13,000.
- 40:00 Current Expense budget running a deficit, should be partly offset by beginning fund balance to be figured in, and also reflects rise in postage costs and decline in timber excise tax.
- 45:29 Matching funds will pay for the design side of projects; fuel tax could bring in 4M; matching funds should be accorded to towns and cities for chip-sealing. Half of one percent of the Paths and Trails Fund will be used by DOT for expenses involving both trails and roads such as widening shoulders. DOT plans to chip-seal 73.3 miles (reservation, Brewster and Tonasket). Equipment rental was \$120,000 more than previous year for 8.3 more miles (JT says this year's number is more accurate.) A one seventh percent increase projected for labor costs. AH: Why are operating costs up? JT: More miles in worse shape. Higher than average snow pack and run-off predicted. "Good thing we have a snow blower."
- 07:30 A cattle guard franchise owns the structures, charges \$750 for processing and permitting plus \$3,000 for 10-year maintenance contract. The county paid \$38,000 last year in labor and benefits. AH suggests they address this issue. A driveway permit will now be required in order to have a 911 address.
- 32:00 Bridges need to be low-graded for vehicles with two axels. Employees receive a different sort of training every year- - next year they will do first aid training, more expensive than the safety training and spider recertification done in 2020.
- 58:00 The lodging tax could go towards improving snowmobile trails around Oroville. DOT would name it as a separate project. Conconully Home Maintenance - Covid has stalled septic tank and pump system replacement. AH says to request funding under WRIA (Water Resources Inventory Area). AH recommends that Home Maintenance double its rates because its revenues (\$13,000) are inferior to its expenses (\$17,000) and it is funding itself with County Reserve money. AH: They must fund themselves entirely, including their reserve.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.