

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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

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 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:** Discussion of County property; Highland Drive duplexes. Prosecutors Office staff and HR discuss exempt leave accrued but unable to utilize before the end of the year due to trial schedule. Presentation by the Okanogan Co Housing Coalition with funding request for \$382,771- representatives from Ok Co Community Action, Support Center, Ok Co Housing Authority, Foundation for Youth Resilience & Engagement (FYRE), Ok Co Homeless Shelter, Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare (OBHC), and Room One. Bid Opening for Ellesforde Landfill Wells & Gas Probe – 2 bids. Public Works update on current and upcoming projects. Recess at 11:35.

9:00

AH & CB talk about need for an executive session and have summoned Esther Milner, Civil Deputy for this.

LJ had received e-mail from Okanogan resident inquiring about land the County owns on Highland Drive in Okanogan. LJ suggests he call in for public comment this morning.

9:13

Public Comment Period – Pete Day, Okanogan interested in purchasing county parcel with 2 duplexes adjacent to VG Building on Highland Drive. AH explains they are currently working on a 20 year Master Plan which may include these. However, if the County decides not to use, it would need to be surplussed, then go to auction. AH also states that the buildings are compromised with asbestos. Pete Day might be interested in renovating and would like to be notified if the parcel does become surplussed.

9:19

\*\*\*\*\*Executive Session under 42.30, 110,1 (I) Ongoing litigation, inviting the Civil Deputy\*\*\*\*\* until 9:44

*At this point, AV Capture not working, and Zoom had no video.*

9:44

Albert Lin (AL), County Prosecutor meets to discuss how due to rigorous trial schedule, there is not time for staff to take their accrued exempt leave by the end of the year, thereby losing it.

AL has spoken with other counties on how they handle this. He is concerned with the workplace morale. Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR/Risk Manager explains how AL has brought examples from other counties and she is looking at this.

AH explains there are 32 exempt employees and the state has put a mandate (restriction) on what exempt employees are paid. We do need to look at this before the end of the year. CB asks whether the exempt employees are the problem or the use it or lose it detail.

AL asks to plz look at what other counties are doing regarding this. SK urges sooner than later. AL & SK will come up with something.

10:00

Members of the Ok County Housing Coalition to present proposals and recommendations based on collaboration and point system on addressing homeless concerns in Ok County. Explains their established goals and priorities and the lack of other funding sources at this time. Representatives gave updates on work they are doing re; case management in housing the homeless; Okanogan County Homeless Shelter, Okanogan Co Housing Authority, Support Center, Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare (OBHC), Foundation for Youth Resilience and Engagement (FYRE), Room One, and Community Action.

AH explains the BOCC is not yet prepared for going into this yet. Explains how Budget Supplemental works and takes a couple of weeks to do this.

11:00

Bid Opening for Ellesforde Landfill Wells & Gas Probe Decommissioning with Shasta Stidman (SS) from Public Works presenting. There are 2 bids; Rains Contracting for \$58,140.81 and Empire Well Drilling for \$108,500. Sending back to Public Works for recommendation.

11:09

Josh Thomson (JT) County Engineer reports on maintenance and road conditions. Roads are starting to get icy.

AH brings up the calls he has been getting regarding South fork of Gold Creek Road. There is a berm with a lot of ice. Since the grader is currently in the area, AH wondered whether they could get that taken care of before they head back up valley as this would be too costly to have to come back.

CB & JD state, let's just get this done.

11:18

JT went to conference last week with DOT who has been directed to look into the road funds for different projects. \$1.2 million per year.

JT lists current and upcoming projects;

Salmon Creek Drainage

Twisp River Bridge Rehabilitation

Spokane Grade Overlay

Gravel Crush – haven't heard back yet

Area 3 (Winthrop) and Area 5 (Tonasket) Shops out for bid

Landfill Development  
Foster Creek Bridge Project  
Cameron Lake Road Project  
Old 97- state funded in 2024  
Twisp River project in 2024  
Loomis/Oroville Road Drainage

JT requests permission to go to the National Engineers Conference in Alabama in April. There will be emphasis on how to maintain unpaved roads.

11:35  
Recess until 1:30 in the PM