

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday November 29, 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:** Budget work (2023) with Treasurer and Auditor; Planning for adding a Chief Deputy Coroner position, along with car. Public Works/Solid Waste updates; new law regarding composting, bids are out for 2 shops. Adjourn 11:45

9:00

Meeting opened. *AH reports a storm warning – 8-16 inches of snow expected this evening.*

*AH also discusses with JD how his Rheumatologist prescribed Hydrochloroquin for his arthritis- very inexpensive and it is working. JD's mother-in-law gets shots that are very expensive. JD takes medicine for his back pain.*

9:15

No Public Comment

9:30

Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH) Auditor, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS), Deputy Auditor, also with Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR/Risk Manager in for finance committee meeting/2023 Budget work session.

*AH shared the working budget document on Zoom. They went over many line items attempting to shore up to be submitted for next year's budget.*

9:40

One change is they are planning for a new position as Chief Deputy Coroner and purchase of another car. Moved, Seconded, and carried to authorize this new position as specified in Resolution 189-2022 with an amendment. Coroner position.

10:12

Coroner, Dave Rodriguez has questions regarding how this will work – process. They are putting

enough money in budget for 2 vehicles as current one will be surplussed.

More discussion on where, in the budget, to put tort claims against the county.

Also, AH reports how the Attorney General is suing Opioid makers and there could be money coming to the counties if they sign on.

Budget session to continue in the PM session.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT) County Engineer and Ken Kovalchecko (KK) in to report on Solid Waste and Public Works.

KK reports that this is the slow time of year. They are getting bids for a new building for recycling storage as the snow caved in roof, after last snow, and building needs to be replaced.

New law (HB 1799) wants Counties to make ordinances regarding procurement of Composted materials.

*Considerable discussion regarding this requirement.*

AH doesn't want to compete with private businesses. AH asks KK if there are other counties that own and operate their own landfill as Okanogan County does. KK states there are a couple and he names Stevens and Cowlitz Counties. KK states that there are no permitted compost facilities in the county. KK also goes on to say that King County has composting which is all contracted out. This current House Bill is not to 'make' compost, but to make procurement of these materials a priority as is pointed out by CB.

CB goes on to explain that Chelan County does chipping at their transfer station, and they may be having problems due to apple maggot.

KK has a draft resolution that he will present to the Board later.

11:27

JT reports on road conditions – good but expecting more snow.

\$5,000 for windows at the Public Works building.

JT reports he will be getting the CRAB list after the January meeting.

Bids are out for construction of the 2 County Shops with Bid Opening scheduled for 12/13.

CB (going back to composting discussion) asks KK what it takes to license a compost facility. KK is not sure but would be working with DOE. CB states he is just curious. KK believes the permitting requirements are set on volume of material.

11:45

Recess until 1:30 PM