

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday PM, November 30, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director (*briefly*)

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. See AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions: *Unused CARES money will likely be re-directed to other applicable costs ; Review of the two candidates from the Methow applying to fill Planning Commission vacancy, former commissioner Ray Campbell and scientist John Crandall ; Land Trust seeking to preserve McGlaughlin Falls property ; John Crandall appointed to PC with JD abstaining, having served under Campbell ; Administrators charging close to \$200,000 a year, 8% of total, to facilitate ARPA grant ; talk of Chronicle's request to respond to (County Watch) editorial on mask-wearing.*

1 :37 - *Concerning the process for sending back unused CARES money, LJ : They need the Auditor's report first. They would prefer that we find other eligible costs that we could apply these funds to. AH : Let's print out the guidelines from back then.*

LJ : The second item is the Planning Commission. There are two letters of application, from John Crandall and Ray Campbell. Both are district 2 residents. AH : ...Do you have bios on the members ? I'd like to look at the diversity of the Commission. I'm not ready today. CB : There are enough areas of agreement and disagreement ; it's pretty diverse. I'm looking for experience and understanding. (*JD arrives. AH tells him about two lone cougar kits he found on his property.*) (1 :40) *Resuming their discussion, CB says he likes to look at how a candidate sees the planning procedure. CB : (Crandall) talks a lot about about things– a planning commissioner– we'd want them to know and understand. A point against him is maybe that he's a fish biologist. But, on the other hand he speaks to the issues relative to the Planning Commission. AH : Ray was a commissioner for four years and he's been around too. CB : (1 :49) Yes, when the Planning Commission was doing their work, and he made comments to them that make me think that he wouldn't be a very objective planning commissioner. AH : Paraphrase the comments ? CB : One of them was something about being communist in the work they were doing. To me that throws up a red flag, when you have to be objective. AH : You have to be objective, but on the other hand, Rob (*he means John*) has spent a lot of time in natural resources. But is there objectivity ? CB : If he was in natural resources that would seem to me to qualify that person. *He says they talked science, AH says he doesn't disagree, JD brings up Dr. Fauci : ...who says he's the lead scientist. I agree with Ted Cruz that there ought to be an investigation. He should be prosecuted.* CB : I'm in Okanogan County. AH : ... I want to interview a candidate to see if he knows what he's doing. CB : You and JD choose one because I have a definite bias.*

1 :50 - AH : Gina (McCoy) was more along the lines of what (John Crandall) would bring to the table. JD : She left because she had another project she was working on.

(PP enters, says according to advertisement, comment period for the draft EIS goes to the 10th at noon, asks if there are comments for the Comprehensive Plan meeting, AH says no, it's not a public hearing. PP says comments were still coming in for the DEIS.)

1 :56 - CB : I believe Gina left because she was disgruntled too... AH asks who the members are. LJ : Verlin Hughes, Albert Roberts, George Thornton, Dave Shultz, Phil Dart and Sally Bull... AH : There is diversity of thought. CB : What it came down to is they in the majority said « let's move on.» Gina was disgruntled with that. It's probably why we have the concern from Futurewise... Someone with the experience of Gina, didn't feel she was listened to, but on the other hand, it's the majority that makes the decisions. *They discuss Dave Shultz' experience and understanding of the issues.*

2 :07 - LJ : They're looking for an at large position on the Board of Equalization. JD : *(regarding the Land Trust)* We've got a fairly good working situation now... The current director is a lot more balanced than we've had before. *They discuss a piece of land with a lot of history, McGlaughlin Falls, mostly flood plain, say it should be held. AH reminisces about when there were fewer houses and more bucks to hunt, says they should keep a corridor for animals to come down in the winter.* JD : There are pieces of land that the County should preserve for heritage. Too bad one bunch is against everything that's development. It's been a challenge to keep roads in the Methow without a gravel source. AH : That crush is done now for ten years, and you didn't hear a peep about it.

2 :12 - *(Back to the vacant P.C. position)* AH : I'd be willing to take a chance on John Crandall. *He moves to appoint him, CB seconds the motion, JD abstains because he served with Campbell when he was County Commissioner. Motion to appoint Crandall is carried.* JD : I think John has a lot attributes Gina had.

2 :16 - Administration of ARPA funds - *CB will bring the scope of work to look at on Monday, says administration of fund will cost 8%-10% of the total,* CB : It's over four years, they communicate with the treasury, it's a tall order. *AH does the math : That's \$200,000 a year. CB : That's an RFP. Their rate is really 8% , I just threw that out there. There's a lot to (talk about). This would leave our staff to do other things that they have to do.*

2 :22 - *LJ talks with AH about Monday's agenda : Commissioners' briefing, discussion with Naomi about policies and procedures, hearing on County Budget, department heads reports. AH suggests not to schedule anything else in order to go over red-tabbed items in the budget, asks for a list to be ready for 11 :00 public hearing. CB prepares to leave for a meeting to discuss framework for commissioners working with the Health Authority, integration of mental health in the health system.*

AH : Have either of you replied to the request from the Chronicle ? CB : I got a message but didn't understand completely. JD : Because of the new *(inaudible)* that came out. I gave him an earful, then my response as a commissioner. CB : They wanted a written response to that editorial. I wrote a written response, said the same as you, that it's our own position. They didn't publish it. Maybe they're just being respectful of everybody. Are you going to, Commissioner Hover ? AH : We've had two discussions and I suppose we could take a lot of information off of those recordings.

2 :30 – *Meeting adjourned*