

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, November 8th, 2022, 3:25 p.m.

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Present:

Jim Detro (JD), County Commissioner, BOH Board Chairman
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Roni Holder-Diefenbach (RH), Director, Economic Allianc
Ashley Range (AR), Executive Director, Oroville Housing Authority
Collen (C), Oroville Housing Authority

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

Summary of Important Discussions:

- *County pledges support to Oroville Housing Authority's 16-unit project now in bid stage, could benefit from bond-generated infrastructure fund.*
- *Economic Alliance chief strongly encourages applying for an advantageous grant for broadband*
- *Public Works allocated ARPA (American Rescue Plan) funds*
- *Short discussion about Tunk moratorium and future minimum lot size increase*
- *Pearygin Lake should be getting "no wake" zone.*

3:25 - *RH is telling Commissioners about grant applications for broadband which the PUD as well as COCP are applying for; she heard about it from Misty in Brewster. RH: What I've said is funds for matching up to \$500,000. If the three projects come in we have to have help to fund all three, Pine Creek, North County and Methow.*

(A Zoom call comes in from the Oroville Housing Authority director.) AR: I've been working for two years on this project with Collen, and for a year with the architectural firm. We were awarded a grant in January. The bids came in too high. Construction is over what we estimated. We were urged to meet with you. C.: This is a 16-unit housing project. ... We still have \$78,000 left from the previous project but we're requesting all we can. It's housing for people earning up to 50% the median family income. AH: Then we could draw from our Affordable Housing fund. If you could get that gap down it shouldn't be a stretch. (He shows a chart with county projects and expenditures to JD and CB.) If we deemed it infrastructure we want to build, we can help close the gap (about \$500,000) but you should go out for a re-bid and try to get come down by at least \$200,000. AR: ...It's huge to be able to go ahead with this project. You are nice and kind and professional. I get calls every day; the need is increasing. AH is sorry lower income people won't qualify. RH: People earning 50% of the AMI will move into these homes and leave places for those coming in. AH encourages Collen to come back and tell them where they're at, and to tell the authority they can count on \$100,000 from the County's Affordable Housing fund.

Contract Renewal, Economic Alliance - **AH:** For Economic Alliance is this something we don't have to bid for? **RH:** Every 2-3 years you delegate the Economic Alliance as the associate economic development organization for Okanogan County. That allows us to contract for state funding. All the counties are mandated to have these associations. Since 2007 it's the County through ".09 dollars" instead of the city paying per diem which finances them. *AH says if they could vote on the contract at the same time as them being designated the associate organization it would avoid confusion. They talk again about broadband; RH says Mike Worden didn't get his grant application in but the deadline is 2023.* **RH:** I have a project of 911 dispatch receiving funding. **AH:** With Mike we did a \$2M ask of the legislature... Broadband is on the County's list of projects. **RH:** That's one of this grant's requirements, being on a list of projects. *While leaving she says Misty's passion for installing broadband came from the couple with their baby, caught in the Cold Springs Fire.* **AH:** That was cellular. **CB:** Whatever motivates you.

4:03 - *BOCC approves \$249,000 for Public Works from ARPA funding, and \$212,000 for the Economic Alliance contract.*

BOCC approves proceedings, agenda and vouchers.

4:22 - **JD:** I'm meeting with Jim Soriano. He wanted to discuss water availability in the Tunk. Anything you want to tell him? **AH:** We put down that moratorium still. Looking at increasing zoning, making minimum lot sizes a lot bigger so it keeps them from subdividing from 40s to 20s. **CB:** That was a real interesting ATV situation. **AH:** The number 1 road is open to ORVs. **CB:** You might be prepared to tell him that it's not open to WRTVs. *(Unable to know what this is.)* She (?) sent me the resolution. I didn't explain why you can't change that, because I didn't know why.

4:25 - **AH:** At the Audubon Society they were worried about Pearrygin Lake. They talked about the ends of the lake and putting in "no wake" zones. Reducing the speed would help the nesting. A no wake zone would keep that shallow water cleaner. They are being provided the buoys. Lanie, will you look at the waterways in the County code?

4:28 - *Commissioners adjourned until Monday morning.*