

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 7, 2021, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice 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

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 security and alarms at the new building (FS Building recently purchased) with maintenance supervisor and emergency services, (recent false alarm at county) budget work session with the finance committee (revenue shortfall) to be continued tomorrow @9, planning records being scanned and sent to archives, update from Communications/Dispatch officer, Public Works update, and discussion of potential sale of property in the Methow to WDFW.

(I was unable to get the audio through Zoom, had to dial in for that, then lost Zoom, but I did have the sound)

9:10 CB and LJ discussing public records request for every county department on how ARPA funds were utilized and/or requested. This is a big workload for all departments.

Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor reports on the security, fire alarms, and HVAC needs of the newly purchased building (FS Bldg), security alarm had not been used for years per FS Representative.

9:17 JP and AH discussed making a temporary fix, as needs to correspond to the architect's overall plan. Maurice Goodall (MG), emergency services manager also got in on the conversation. A procedure needs to be known by all. JD states that Law Enforcement hands are ties, but MG continued with what needs to be in place cooperating with the Sheriff's office. CB states that we can work with law enforcement to make things work.

9:42 Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director reports that first invoice came in for the Mazama Water Quality Fund. Some discussion on how to get that paid, with input from Cari Hall (CH), Auditor. PP also discussed the fire alarm that went off and would appreciate direction for her staff. They did not hear it very well. PP also reports that records are being scanned and archived.

9:54 MG discusses some phone issues with Verizon, especially in the Methow and Brewster. MG reports a couple of earthquakes. More discussion re: alarm system, security and fire.

10:00 Finance Committee in for Budget hearing workgroup; Cari Hall (CH), Auditor, Lisa Schreckengast (LS), Assistant Auditor, and Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer.

CH brought up some action items, and the budget was put up on the board. JD feels the Treasurer's office is the biggest generator of revenue in the County and would like to consider adding a staff member. LM reports that they are getting behind. They currently have 7 workers. The Auditor reports 4 staff in the Auditors Office

Lengthy discussion of the budget, getting ready to draft the final budget for 2022. *This will continue tomorrow starting at 9 AM, Wednesday) they are calling this a hearing, but it appears to be more of a work session. CH suggests that board double checks the figures, and her office will also.*

11:00 Public Hearing for Utility Franchise Renewal – Elmer City Utility Public Works. Staff reporting Jo Stansbury, no public comment BOCC approves Resolution 156-2021.

11:03 Mike Worden (MW) Communications officer reports on the courthouse generator project, expecting construction this week, but may need to wait until spring due to ground freeze. Refreshed radio signal @ Oroville base @ Oroville PD, using existing fiber. Also, waiting for hazard mitigation funding for Tunk upgrade, also working on Jackass Butte.

11:11 Verizon Cellular is having issues.

11:14 *****Executive session for possible litigation, with Dave Gecas, Civil Deputy Prosecutor, and Mike Worden. *****Until 11:24

11:35 Discussion with Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer about the sale of land in the Methow Valley to WDFW. *(I think I heard that it is valued at \$700,000.00)* JT and BOCC, more budget discussion regarding loss of revenue this year, but not actual figures yet. JT report maintenance and road conditions; expecting a snowstorm this weekend. Contractor working on guardrail on Cache Creek Road. Discusses the windows and HVAC system in Public Works office building. JT also reports bridge road ratings soon ,32 bridges – state requirement.

11:52 BOCC Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve Res 161-2021 regarding sewer system, and Resolution 162-2021 regarding termination of a fund.

Discussion of whether BOCC can modify a levy after it has been certified. Answer is yes. They will be looking at this, along with the Budget tomorrow. The Jail and the Courts have the largest loss of revenue due to Covid.

12:00 Meeting adjourned.