

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners **Tuesday December 13, 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.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click 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:

- Public Comment: Thanks to BOCC for authorizing ARPA funds for Fire District 6 building request.
- Tunk Valley: Confusion on dates of meetings/hearings on Tunk Valley Moratorium and Tunk Zoning discussed, with Cmr. Hover leaving to clarify with Director Palmer. Cmr. Hover returns, giving no answer.
- Support for re-introduction of grizzly bears utilizing Stillwater Technical Solutions research-Board to formulate response.
- Auditor reports Wa State Secretary of State office releases funds to help counties with Election Cyber-Security & physical security - \$80,000, Auditor and Deputy Auditor will come up with a plan. Auditor also discusses 3 quotes received for Voters Pamphlet and their recommendation – Consolidated Press in Seattle.
- Prosecuting Attorney, Civil Deputy, and HR discuss reclassification of office position due to duties required – and changing the job title to Family Support Officer.
- Auditor and HR putting together a plan to change non-exempt employees to hourly status to conform to state rules regarding L&I, giving plenty of notice to employees.
- Public Works: Bid openings for new public works shops in Twisp & Tonasket and motor fuel. Road Update –catching up after last snowfall. Also reports weight restriction for F2 bridge and 2023 temporary wage positions agreement.
- 2023 Budget has been adopted.
- Meeting recessed at 11:38.

9:00

Meeting opens *Chair, AH not in attendance until 9:28*

Public Comment at 9:15: Paul & Emily Sisson thank the Board for their handling of the ARPA funds for Fire District 6, and approval of the funds. People involved are very happy. JD stated that AH took a lot of heat for waiting on the decision, but did not want to make a mistake, so they had waited for response from the State Auditor's office.

9:28

AH returns to the meeting and asks about the moratorium on the Tunk Valley zoning change. AH returns to the meeting and asks about the Moratorium on the Tunk Valley zoning change.

LJ - quietly talking to AH

AH to LJ: Tunk Basin? To Feb. 6th?

0: 26:17 - AH - So let me ask a question. I want to be sure we are good with this one. We signed a resolution here the other day for extending a moratorium. Do we have to have another public hearing for that extension? Let's schedule if we do.

CB -No. Yes. No. Yes.

AH - So we need to be sure we schedule that within 60 days.

LJ - Well, she (*Director Palmer?*) had it at a date within 14 days. This was the meeting she scheduled for Feb. 6. It's a public meeting. Because PC met on the 27th, I think?

AH - So we signed a paper and we need to take action within 60 days as far as a public hearing goes.

CB - I think she what was talking about was the recommendation that's coming through. We have to act on the recommendation in a public meeting

AH - Yep. But I want to be sure we don't get sideways with the fact that we re-signed that moratorium.

LJ - (Reading, apparently from memo with Director Palmer) "The PC will hold a public hearing on it again. At the regular meeting on Jan 23, 2023, and within 14 days of that day...."

AH - But that's for the recommendation, that is not for the Moratorium.....OK. I'm going to double-check with her.....I want to be sure we get that thing schedule and were are not....She can probably schedule that as soon as possible, because we have all the info we need to say why we are going to.....

CB - Yeah that's our own hearing....(*and so onall agree.*)

28:05 - AH - Right. (Leaves to talk with Palmer.)

CB - (To DeTro) It's probably written in the ordinance.....

33:20 - AH returns, giving no news from Palmer.

JD and CB discuss e-mail received regarding the county food banks. There is, apparently, another \$4,000 to help with transportation of food delivery. CB explains that there is not enough food in local food banks.

9:45

Discussion regarding the Stillwater Technical Solutions research regarding re-introduction of grizzly bears. BOCC had signed off on the plan back in 10/23/2019, but CB states that he did not sign as he

feels the introduction of new species is too risky – problematic for all user groups.

9:46

Auditor Cari Hall (CH) and Jamie Groomes (JG), Deputy Auditor in to discuss the Secretary of State office releasing funds to increase Cyber-Security for elections, and also physical security. A possible \$80,000. CH is concerned about interrupted power supply and would like to shore that up with good generators. Also, for actual physical security. CH states this is funding that is definitely needed. She and JG will come up with a plan. AH asks if we could use some of these funds for overtime. CH only if related to security issues. There are 4 weeks from the mail out of ballots until the elections are certified. CH wants to meet with Karen Beatty – IT Support and then come back to BOCC.

Other business with CH and JG; 3 quotes received for Voters Pamphlet publishing; Lyndon Tribune, Consolidated Press, and Sound Publishing. They recommend Consolidated Press of Seattle at \$1200 due to less handling needed by Auditors Office staff, and they helped the County for this last election. It is Moved, Seconded, and Carried to take the Auditors' recommendation of Consolidated Press.

9:58

Shelly Keitzman (SK)- HR, Risk Manager

Esther Milner (EM) – Civil Deputy

Albert Lin (AL) – Prosecuting Attorney

SK begins with request for reclassification of position in Prosecuting Attorney's Office – Support Enforcement Office. They have compared duties and pay range in other counties similar to Ok County. However, not all counties have this position. Due to the duties required, it needs to be a higher range than that of a Legal Secretary. Recommended at 5% above. There is a similar position for the court at range 22. SK recommends Range 22 for this position and to change title to Family Support Officer. AH and CB comment on whether there is funding for this within the reimbursable funds from the Feds or State.

10:11

JD likes the letter from Chelan/Douglas County *Perhaps regarding the Grizzly re-introduction.*

AH mentions that there is a lot of information from the Stillwater Research Group.

10:14

CH and SK back in to discuss moving non-exempt employees to hourly status to conform with L&I requirement. They are drafting a letter to the Unions. CH and SK have a plan for this and plan to give

plenty of notice to the employees as this will change their check amounts depending on the hours worked in a pay period.

CH also notes that the County will be moving to the UNIS (computer system) in January 2024. She wants these changes to be completed and put into the new system. No need for formal motion.

SK also reports performance evaluations are going out soon. Lanie is working with Department Heads SK will meet with CH to get a letter started.

10:27

More discussion of Grizzly re-introduction comment to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) CB states there should be a single point of contact. BOCC is attempting to formulate a response.

10:30

JD and CB discuss more about building needed for food banks to store food. CB has been hearing from organizations regarding this problem. JD suggests a building just refurbished by Rod Rumbolz in Tonasket that might work well.

11:00

Bid Opening for Public Works Shop Buildings – Shasta Stidman and Josh Thomson

AH we only have 1 bid from Halme Builders for both buildings.

\$2,300,000 for the new Tonasket Shop and \$2,250,000 for Twisp shop.

AH wonders what the architect consultant projected for this. JT states he actually did not come up with an amount. Lots of discussion regarding how to finance – more money than expected.

County has a \$9.8 million dollar bond. AH states it is important to get the shop done, but which is the greatest need. JT states Twisp shop, probably. CB wants to contact architect to see how much the judicial building will cost.

11:15

Bid opening for Public Works – Motor Fuel with Jerry Paul

3 bids; Coleman Oil, Whitley Fuel, and CO Energy. All different prices for different types of fuel and different towns. Public Works will come up with recommendations. JT states that we utilize over 200,000 gallons of fuel per year.

11:320

JT gives Public Works update:

Catching up on road maintenance after this last snow. JT is trying to find out how much the carbon tax will be.

JT reports on the weight restriction on the F2 bridge and needs approval for the 2023 temporary wages positions. JT asks if the 2023 budget is adopted. AH states yes, it is adopted.

JT reports that there will be a bid opening for building at the landfill next week.

Some discussion about whether this is a disadvantaged County.

11:38

Meeting Recessed until 3:00 this afternoon – after the Public Health Meeting.

