

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 4, 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: Update from Planning Director on staffing, and alarm system incident last week, Emergency Services discussed getting a coordinated plan for the fire alarm system for detection, activation and alarm and other incident safety protocol with local fire departments, etc, raises possibility of a fire marshal position, Maintenance Supervisor explains where fire detectors are currently and he's waiting to hear back from Divco regarding compressors/units not functioning correctly, discussion of need for buildings assessment, along with the newly acquired building, water problems at the fairgrounds, BOCC appoints District Court Judge -Chancey Crowell, Significant discussion regarding redistricting in the County based on 2020 Census results, how & who does this, Auditors office update, adopted budget for 2022 is on the Auditor's website, needing communication with all department heads on the possible new computer system, Bidding for 2022 Public Works fuel supply continues, Public Works Update.

9:00 Meeting begins.

Pete Palmer (PP) Planning Director proposes a suggestion for Senior Planner position as a training position. Business is starting to ramp up, Planning Office debriefed on last

week's incident regarding alarm system. Needs to talk with Emergency Services Manager. PP states the meeting is set with Coppertone (?) CB would like to get input from David Gecas, Civil Attorney.

9:09 Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Services Manager expresses need to a coordinated system of detection, activation and & alarm for fire and other security issues. People need to be trained to what it does and how to use it, and who to call MG has spoken with the Okanogan and Omak Fire Departments. They will automatically respond when the alarm is activated. Someone needs to coordinate this. *Lengthy discussion regarding what would be needed for a good security/alarm system and also raised the possibility of having a fire marshal position for Okanogan County. It needs to be a coordinated effort and people need to be trained to use it, and a protocol that everyone would know about*) This lasted until 9:40 with the BOCC asking MG to come up with something to present.

9:40 Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor reports that he has been shoveling snow, also gave information on where fire detectors are in different buildings. AH asked JP if there is going to be a name for the new building (FS) JP states that he is just calling it the Justice Center at this time.

JP hasn't heard back from Divco regarding the problems with the compressors/units. Also the water heat pumps at the jail. Discussed building assessments and wondered whether all buildings needed to be assessed. JP will be calling Divco. JD mentions to look at the contract – maybe we are due some money back. Expects to hear more next week.

9:58 Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager (*On Zoom*) reports on the fair. Problems with the water in the office, needs permission to order Culligan water. (water quality is compromised). BOCC needs to approve this purchase and asked LJ to write up a resolution in line with previous resolutions. NP reports the pickup is fixed, the fair advisory board met last night and they have more recommendations for BOCC to consider. NP also reports working with the Civil Deputy on a project with the Tribe. Will get back to BOCC with this information.

10:04 BOCC went into executive session with Tanya Everett (TE), HR and Risk Manager. Session lasted 5 minutes*****

10:11 AH moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Chauncey Crowell for District Court Judge replacement. JD seconds the motion. CB abstains from voting because he does not like the process that was used for this, and he hadn't gotten to talk with other staff regarding this appointment.

10:14 – TE and HR staff member, Shelley discusses the non-bargaining employee

adjusted pay scale, keeping in mind the skilled and unskilled labor. Also, are requesting a 2% raise, across the board for County Employees. They will write up 2 Resolutions to bring back to the board.

TE also explains there is a problem in the Auditors Office regarding previous resolution that needs to be corrected. Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor states there may be a need for a budget supplemental. Of note, AH states that he created the problem with the resolution. TE will resubmit, as wrong line item was defunded.

CH – we need a good resolution for Essential Services also.

10:23 CH, Auditor gives report; sent an e-mail to BOCC regarding the need for redistricting according to the 2020 census. AH talked with Gene Wilson in Planning regarding the mapping to determine adjustments to the 3 districts. CH states that it is ultimately the BOCC job to take care of this. Auditor will bring the information to BOCC.

BOCC is scheduling meeting with Gene from Planning and the Auditor to get this taken care of. AH hopes by 12/31. But, a Public Comment period is needed on the changes. A voter that has been changed as a result of this redistricting can petition the Ok Co Superior Court to review, but that is after it is completed. CH brought the RCW to follow for this.

10:35 CH is working on voter pamphlet for Special Election in February.

CH also asks about the new computer system and when they might have input from all departments.

CH also states the newly approved 2022 budget is on the Auditors website, under accounting and payroll.

(More discussion on redistricting until 10:54)

11:00 – Bid Opening for Public Works 2022 fuel supply. 3 different bids taken, all different, with different prices for different areas in the county. Jerry Paul – Public Works will come back with recommendation.

11:09 – Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports on Public Works. AH asked JT whether Public Works has been able to review new software. Yes, should do what they need it to do.

Some discussion of using FEMA money to fix water system at the fairgrounds. Will need to send for RFP

11:20 more discussion among BOCC on the redistricting. It appears that District 2 & 3 will gain about 450 people each and District 1 should remain about the same.

11:36 JT discussed maintenance and road conditions. Reported the state highways are working with about 50% less staff in this area, so they are changing scheduled and areas to plow. JT reports Supervisor meeting tomorrow.

11:43 JT reports still having problems getting materials. They are talking with other counties to coordinate.

JT explained levy shifting – has to do with unfunded mandates.

11:54 Meeting adjourned