

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Monday, December 14th, 2020, AM**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."*

**Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Cari Hall (CH), Auditor  
Lisa Shreckengast, Auditor's office  
Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer  
Dennis Rabidou, Juvenile Family Services  
Tanya Craig (TC), Behavioral Health

**Summary of important discussions:** a new Probation Manager position for Juvenile Family Services requires overtime; still unclear if vehicles will be bought straight out, be leased or require a loan; \$2,825,826 will be spent on capital improvements including work on the Courthouse and Virginia Granger; Pest Control is hiring a Training Technician and changing Field Supervisor post to Field technician; department cuts in transportation and communications; why request for Miscellaneous/Dues up more than 40%?; resolution passed to increase minimum wage to meet state requirements.

(Time stamps refer to time on the clock. AV Capture video of meeting available via County Watch website.)

Continued Public Hearing on Okanogan County 2021 budget: many previously red-tabbed budget items were resolved. Dennis Rabidou of Juvenile Family Services explains that the new Probation Managing position goes over the 40 hours per week provision. CB asks to "spell out the hours."

9:53 Vehicle purchases: a confusing conversation about using surplus to buy vehicles outright (instead of taking out a loan), and "trucks get a better return." They would take it all out of the budget in "baby steps". A question of leasing vehicles to themselves, however odd that may appear. LM: "I'm all about local."

10:31 A total Capital Expenditures budget of \$2,825,826 includes \$25,000 for a fairgrounds sprinkler system. \$1 million will be spent on public works in the Courthouse and Granger buildings. The \$265,000 for the Courthouse includes \$150,000 for a power generator. Grant money should be available. LM says once they have a bond they have three years to spend it. LM recommends that the commissioners 8 take a look at grouping requests so as to take advantage of temporarily low interest rates.

The Pest Control budget includes a full-time training position which will become seasonal once training is finished. Resolution passed to replace the Field Supervisor, retiring this year, with a full-time Field Technician. The Noxious Weeds Manager is retiring and will be replaced.

Cuts: with limited travel due to Covid, those budgets were reduced or eliminated for Superior Court, Court Facilitator, County Commissioners and State Examiner. The Sheriff's communications budget request was cut from \$20,000 to 10,000 because spending in past years hasn't exceeded \$6,500.

\$10,000 was allocated so Public Health could digitalize archives for its website.

New CARES Act money was received and after distribution \$261,303 remains in the General Expenses Reserve Fund, bringing the reserve to \$1.6 million.

Unemployment benefits need to be increased to keep up with Labor and Industry rates, says CH. AH prefers to wait until next year.

(Maintenance Dept.?) budget for Miscellaneous/Dues has gone up from \$11,426 to \$19,445 and the commissioners would like to know why.

11:31 TC from Behavioral Health Care says there is a CJTA grant for administrative costs, and the County takes 10%. There is also a stipend for their court services. A resolution was passed to reclassify the Juvenile Services' Therapeutic Court Coordinator as Treatment Services Manager. This should be covered by a grant but in case it isn't it will be paid for by the Therapeutic Court Fund. Resolution passed to increase the minimum wage to meet state requirements.

It was decided that the new planner position to be shared with Oroville should be paid for entirely by the county and billed out half- time to Oroville so there is one principal employer.

12:10 Meeting adjourned