

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, December 14th, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Janet Peters (JP), Professor, survey project, WSU Extension, and her students :
Hope (H), April Arredondo (AA), Anisa Rodrigues (AR), Zaryn Duong (ZD) and others.

*No AV capture published at time of redacting notes. Beginning of meeting not noted. See if 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: *Results from a WSU-led survey on county residents' satisfaction show universally lower levels for affordable housing, the economy, and (except for Winthrop) education, while respondents were satisfied with parks and recreation, major services and Okanogan County overall as a place to live; vacant District Court Judge position filled; (after a BOH meeting where re-writing Public Health ordinances was discussed) all three commissioners agreed to set aside some time to review County Code.*

A needs survey was conducted this year by WSU students who assessed Okanogan County residents' satisfaction with different aspects of county life. They gave a summary of their conclusions. The survey was taken on line with voluntary participants who rated the various features from one to five.

H : With parks and recreation there was no difference between income groups. The rated a 3, a good mark. It came out during the pandemic when people were wanting to be outside. The higher the number in the household the less satisfied they were with the services but there was not that strong of a relationship because it was so scattered.

JP : There was a small but significant relationship with household size.

JP : On housing affordability Winthrop was less satisfied. That was the only difference. All were dissatisfied. The higher end of the income scale was more satisfied. That wasn't surprising. We're pretty close to bottoming out at 1.

JP : Education - Across the communities Winthrop was at the high end of satisfaction, much more, almost a 4. Oroville was lower than Brewster, Twisp and Winthrop, Tonasket and Okanogan. Except for Winthrop they were all below the neutral level 3 of satisfaction.

AA : We see that all income levels are between 2 and 3. First we thought the higher the income the higher the satisfaction but not so much. We took the survey during the pandemic. They might

have considered on-line learning when the rated, while we were trying to get satisfaction with in-person learning.

AR : In looking at people with or without college degrees both categories had similar satisfaction, between 3.12 and 2.86.

ZD: Most parents thought quality child care was hard to come by.

JP: We're not seeing differences in education level, income level or gender. It's on the lower end of what you might want.

JP: In all the analyses we shared, that students ran, some factors showed a relationship with the places they lived in. Omak was on the lower end. Income seemed related for questions related to the economy. Race was a big factor. Gender was non-significant. The lowest-rated questions were education, the economy and affordable housing. The highest-rated questions were the major services, sheriffs, EMS, that and the overall satisfaction survey, Okanogan county as a place to live, play, work and retire. That survey was one of your highest-rated surveys. So even though they might have some gripes in specific areas, like education, the overall survey was actually rated at fairly high. That's really promising... My students have been working on this in some form for three semesters now and being able to look at and analyze real data—they're not just abstract numbers in a text book example but they're people who live in our community and in our state—means a lot to us. Here's what they've said: "Thank you. We have greatly enjoyed this partnership. We hope we have given you something that at least makes you think about some things or that creates discussion for you..."

JP offers to run other analyses that they may want, and to do more analyses on regional grouping—north, central and south county.

Other business - AH announces the filling of the vacant District Court Judge position. The appointee will serve from January 1st until the next electoral cycle.

LJ requests an extension of Community Action's Homeless Health contract until the end of January as they have received \$20,000 of their \$40,000 allocation. Amendment approved.

Discussion about a large space, bigger than an office, in the Fish and Wildlife headquarters that may be walled-off and used for something else. Maintenance? AH says F & W rent will help pay for utilities.

The next levy for Oroville's EMS district will be lowered to correct last year's "overlevy" of \$1,230.

LJ says there's a change in the company publishing General Code but employees staying the same. They are partners of local government. AH: We need to review our code. CB agrees. AH refers to some things not going according to process in ordinances they adopted. JD: Let's take a day and go through it. AH: Let's put it on the agenda, the code, with exceptions. We have a section for Public Health in County Code.

Meeting adjourned.