

Okanogan County Board of Commissioners Staff Meeting
Tuesday December 15th, 2020 AM

Jim DeTro (JD), BOCC Chair, District 3
Chris Branch (CB), Vice Chair, BOCC, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) , BOCC, District 2

Lanie Johns (LJ), Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer from Zoom. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible and otherwise summarized, or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official record of the proceedings.

For officially approved minutes of the meeting, which are published at a later time, see <https://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>

Time Stamps are in real time from the clock on the computer. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the right spot on the video recording.

Summary of signification discussions or actions:

How best to purchase/lease vehicles per budget (ER&R), discussion of progress with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan/ whether MV community Wildfire Protection Plan has been adopted by county or not, Fairgrounds upgrades, budget, purchases and new fee schedule, Resolutions regarding HR Employee changes/ pay raises for bargaining and non-bargaining employees, new HR position, pay scale, results of Methow EMS audit, more on budgeting for capital projects and ongoing work with budget. Update from Public Works.

9:06 staff meeting with Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Services Mgr.

AH asked Mr Goodall about the status of the Community Wilfire Protection Plan that the County invested \$32,000 in. Constituents have been asking.

MG states that it progress has been sidelined due to COVID. So far, have contracted with NW Management.

CB What plans are laid out? Will something be in place after the 1st of the year and what will it look like?

MG – looking for natural hazards, identifies and prioritizes most at risk areas, with focus on established Firewise Communities.

AH – Wildland/Urban interface has been determined to be the highest priority by USFS and DNR. Is this being considered?

MG – every year, USFS, DNR and Emergency Services meet to identify these areas.

Methow Valley already has a completed plan. Unsure of whether this has been adopted by the County. More discussion. (*Stressing need for action*)

9:25 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Manager of Fairgrounds reports on upgrades to some buildings per ADA access requirements – donated \$\$ by NW Farm Credit Services. Christmas baskets in Commercial building readying for distribution, Moving forward with purchase of dump truck/snowplow. Discussion of whether part of Fairgrounds budget or general maintenance.

Also, discussion of 2021 plan & need to generate revenue to cover these expenses. NP has ideas for renting out facilities and possible event coordination by fairgrounds Mgr - added more service. Change of fee schedule to be published on the website and on Facebook.

NP clarified that the management of the fairgrounds is different from the Fair. The Fair is an event that happens at the Fairgrounds. Management of Fairgrounds takes in maintenance, rentals, upgrades. Per CB statement, the bathrooms may need to be upgraded to be up to par with other facilities – to make it more attractive. The Fire Camp will no longer be using the fairgrounds due to lack of good facilities.

It is suggested that NP come back to 1:45 budgeting session this afternoon.

10:05 – Tanyia Craig, HR and Risk Manager, Family First (*regarding leave during COVID*) program ends 12/31/2020 unless Congress acts.

She has presented 7 resolutions that need to be signed by the BOCC:

176/2020-reclassification of IT techs. Moved Seconded Carried - Approved

177/2020 – Including Event coordination to Fairgrounds MGR (*denied as need to talk with fairground Mgr first*)

178/2020-Upgrade of HR Coordinator to “HR Analyst” due to taking on of more tasks than normal for her classification with salary increase to grade 22. This position does not have supervisory duties. TC – She far exceeds previous skill requirements and has included risk management, disciplinary actions, benefit specialist, and other duties. Moved, seconded and carried to approve

179/2020 – regarding longevity, every 7 years bump of 2% for both bargaining and non-bargaining employees. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve

180/2020 – Approving 1.5% COLA for all employees – bargaining and non-bargaining. Last wage increase was in 2016. MSC to approve

(*these were the only resolutions that I was able to capture*)

10:31 BOCC meeting adjourned to listen to audit of the Methow Valley EMS District

10:32 James Weaver and Eric Clark on Zoom from the Auditors office explained this audit is completed ever 3 years. This audit is for accountability. They stated that it was “clean & well done” These results will be published on Thursday. No question from BOCC. The audit costs \$2500. Discussion as to who pays this fee – the EMS District or the BOCC.

10:42 – Back to BOCC meeting.

11:00 – Josh Tomsen, County Engineer, Public Works. Sinlahekin road work completed., There has been a lot of road maintenance in the county. Some people are happy, others not so much.

JD received correspondence from Annie Kier, advocate/volunteer helping with the Palmer Lake Fire Victims. She asked if the County could support their work by doing road work in the ellemham Road area. Discussion followed. Will suggest using 24/7 services for this road work as it would take away from already stretched road needs .JD to get back with Ms Kier.

No FEMA designation is occurred for these fire areas yet. JD states these people are difficult to deal with.

Discussion of vehicle purchases – use of ER&R vs purchase/lease.
Also, some upcoming 2021 projects; windows in the Public Works Building.

Discussion of when and why to use electronic signatures. Cari Hall, Auditor and Leah McCormack (LM) treasurer explained some of the reasoning.

11:20 – Board adjourned until afternoon.

Public Comment @ 1:30 and 1:45 more work on the budget.