

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 27th, 2022 AM

Present:

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Chris Branch (CB) – District 1 (*out on sick leave*)

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 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.

There was no quorum until 9:11 when JD arrived.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Action:

- Jail and Court Administrator in to discuss staffing and upcoming changes,
- Update from Communications/Dispatch officer; for upgrade of equipment on Pilcher Mtn; will need to go with sole vendor – approved
- Human Resource/Risk Manager update regarding staffing and pay upgrades – working with the Union
- Public Hearing on Compost Procurement Policy,
- Public Works Update: lots of complaints about roads, approval to start process of awarding the 2 shop bids to Halme Builders, Inc in spite of high cost. \$4.55 million. Budget supplemental needed for construction costs on Twisp River Road Overlay.
- Approval for Chief Deputy to the Treasurer for signing power.
- Recessed @ 11:15 until afternoon Session

8:15

Dennis Rabidou (DR), Court and Jail Administrator in to discuss and update BOCC on future needs with regards to planning for the Justice Center Building. AH states that the bids are coming in so high and has talked with the architect – utilities seem to be especially spendy. & they don't appear to be going down in the future. AH states that we are bonded now for 30

years and believes we need to get started with the building projects in spite of costs. DR relays his discussion with the architect regarding jail and court needs. DR is trying to keep jail population into consideration and we need to give thought to whether to contract with other counties. DR states that we are using every inch of space now. AH asks is there only one Court trial at a time? DR – Yes, this is the case and it is working right now with the pandemic issues. AH comments that with their space issues resolving, there will not be the need for BOCC Meeting room.

9:11

Commissioner DeTro arrives – *Now there is a quorum.*

9:16

Public Comment: Ruth Hall gives kudos to BOCC. Isabelle thanks JT for his service, especially in regard to the County Fires.

9:26

Mike Worden (MW), Communications/Dispatch officer arrives for his 9:30 presentation. AH is currently on the phone.

9:32

MW states that we need to address the fact that there is only one vendor that is able to work with Wa State DOT communications and in order to be compatible, will need to also use the one vendor – Racom. Due to this, we are not going to other vendors and Racom will be our sole source if this is accepted by the BOCC. It will cost \$400,000 to upgrade Pitcher Mtn Site. Racom is also recommending some other upgrades but MW will take those recommendations slowly due to costs. This system would be good for Lifeline and they will be contributing to these costs also.

9:38

It was Moved, Seconded, and Carried to utilize this sole source – Racom- as vendor for upgrades to communication system. Resolution 207-2022

Short discussion with AH and MW regarding use of Reserve deputies in dispatch. If these appointments go 6 months or more will need to take out retirement monies. MW will double check with HR on this issue.

9:44

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve BOCC Proceedings 12/19 & 12/20.

9:45 – 10:02

Moved, and Seconded, and Carried to approve Consent Agenda, however, with some modifications as more information is needed.:

1. Award -Motor Fuel Contracts – CoEnergy, Coleman Oil, & Whitley Fuel – Public Works
2. Award-Central Landfill Phase 4 Development to WRS (the least bid) – Public Works
3. Award-Public Services Building window replacement – DR Glass Works – Public Works
4. Contract -Ellisforde Decommissioning – Rains Contracting
5. Cattleguard Renewals – 2022, BIA Real Estate Services, CGF # N-74A
6. Agreement – Lodging Tax 23-002- Marketing & Promotion – Cascade Loop

7. Employment Agreement – Dan Higbee
8. Employment Agreement – Stephanie Palmer
9. Proposal – PUD Grant Application – WSBO – John MacDonald
10. Resolution 206-2022, Reclassify Detention Manager Position
11. Resolution 207-2022- Sole Source- Racom Corporation
12. (Holding off on Resolution 208-2022)– authorizing incident response pay- more info needed.
13. Resolution 209-2022 – Budget Amendment – Clerk's Office
14. Resolution 210-2022 -Reserve Corrections Deputy – Jail
15. Resolution 211-2022 – ARPA Allocation – Community Action Council – FOOD

10:02

Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR/Risk Manager – Regarding some changes to Employee benefits, Union wants to bargain. Also, AFSCME wants retro-active pay for the Grade 20 moving to Grade 22 employees in the Prosecutors Office. This affects 2 employees. AH suggests maybe to begin this grade increase on December 1.
SK will get with Auditor, Cari Hall regarding this.

10:05

AH has been talking with Michael Beaman, Architect, and there will be 3 RFQ's this afternoon; RFQ for utilities, RFQ for Building bids, and RFQ for Design of the Juvenile Facilities

10:30

Public Hearing – Compost Procurement Policy – with Ken Kovalchenko, Solid Waste Manager and Josh Thomson, County Engineer. This law (HB-1799) requires counties to set a policy to use composted materials when available and cost effective.

No public comment

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Ordinance 2022-10.

10:35

Public Works update with Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer.

There have been plenty of roads to complain about and they have been hearing them. Another 6 inches of snow overnight in the Methow. They are trying to catch up. Glad they decided to wait before blading the last snow.

10:37

JT brings up the shop bids – Tonasket and Twisp. Only one contractor; Halme Builders, Inc No other bids received. The cost will be \$4.55 million. AH shares that he spoke with the architect regarding the cost of the buildings, and the costs are not coming down and we are probably not able to use wood. AH states that we need to get these shops done.

10:39

Moved, Seconded, and Carried instructing the County Engineer to move on awarding the contracts to Halme Building, Inc

JT will proceed.

AH asks JT what the actual cost of replacing the Public Works building windows = \$40,174. This is for 30+ windows.

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve supplemental for construction costs of the Twisp River Road overlay project.

10:49

Executive Session under 42.30.110 1 g **Employee evaluation.

11:10 Moved, Seconded, and Carried for Title 3 agreement. (*Unsure of what that was. Zoom not turned on before this vote*)

There will be no meeting tomorrow. All other business is in the PM session.

11:13

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve resolution 212-2022 giving signing authority to the Chief Deputy to the Treasurer – Becky Abrahamson.

11:15

Recessed until the afternoon session @ 1:30