

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Monday, December 28th, 2020, AM

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(Time stamps refer to a Zoom recording available on County Watch website.)

Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2 (the last hour)
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Cari Hall (CH), Auditor
Pam Stevens and Eric Fritts, Veterans Relief Board

Summary of important discussions: (18:20) Superior Court asks for and receives \$20,000 to cover a shortfall, mainly in rental and payroll costs; (48:39) Tonasket Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received a budget supplemental appropriation of \$72,000; (1:07:35) The Veteran's Relief Board is changing its bylaws and manual to allow the opening up of "at large" positions on the board; (1:50:14) Other business: Evaluation of employees, Oroville Housing Project to go forward, LJ to meet with Community Action for a CARES fund request clarification, cancellation of Tuesday's Superior Court budget hearing and this week's meetings with Planning Director Pete Palmer.

- 18:20 Superior Court budget - In a public hearing Auditor Cari Hall presented requested that payroll and benefits deficit of \$6,000, over-budget building lease payments, juror checks and other vouchers be covered out of the contingency fund. In a resolution the commissioners approved \$20,000 for this purpose, including "a little cushion just in case."
- 48:39 Tonasket EMS got a voucher of \$16,200 to cover services contracted for November, not covered by the 2020 budget. Emergency District funding is down to \$16,200 /month from \$21,900 as of November 1st. The commissioners voted a total budget supplement of \$72,000, to come out of the district's ample reserve fund.
- 1:07:35 The commissioners passed a resolution to amend the Veterans Relief Board's bylaws and Veterans' Assistance Manual. These formerly stipulated that board members represent different parts of the county. They now provide for "at large" board members so that a board position won't go vacant if an area lacks a representative. LJ asked PS and EF of the Veterans Board for the names of all board members.
- 1:50:14 Other business - In separate closed sessions the commissioners evaluated Building Official Dan Higbee and County Clerk Lanie Johns. Resolution 188-2020 allocates \$68,000 to the Oroville Housing Project. LJ says she will send contracts out this week. She also will be meeting Wednesday with Community Action to "straighten out" a CARES funding request, and announced the cancellation of Tuesday's Superior Court budget hearing and this week's meetings with

Planning Director Pete Palmer. CB suggested that the others leave home 10 minutes early the following morning in order to check out the road up to Leader Lake. He had tried his luck at ice-fishing for perch which, in spite of the guide book's recommendations, weren't biting, but he enjoyed the transformation of the dirt access road filled with potholes into a smooth, paved road.

2:28:33 - Meeting adjourned.