

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday December 6, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

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 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:

https://okanogancounty.org/officers/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Questions/Discussion of justification for using ARPA funds for Fire District #6 building project – BOCC awaiting answer from the State Auditor – expecting response by Monday or Tuesday next week. Public Hearing on Lake Management District 1 Certifying the Rolls for tax assessment (around Lake Osooyoos) - Approved, Update from Dispatch/Communication Officer – getting applicants through training process takes 4-6 months, 9 of 13 positions filled, have communicated with different agencies regarding the new radio project, response from Lifeline, also questions regarding progress on storage/morgue building. Public Works reports on maintenance and road conditions also filled Capital Project Management Position in- house. Interlocal agreement on Cameron Lake Road project.

Opened BOCC meeting 9:08

Technical difficulties with audio and AH has problems with his computer.

9:15

Public Comment: Paul Sisson (PS) questions whether BOCC will be discussing the possibility of allocating ARPA funds to Fire District 6 for a building project at today's meeting. He has also done research on the ARPA guidelines regarding justification of use and sees that this transfer of funds could be allowable, using the revenue loss category and allocating to a special use district that provides services, even for building. He has also read the list of restrictions and outside those, we can do almost anything.

AH responds that BOCC is waiting for a response from the State Auditor before proceeding. It is expected that they will hear back by Monday or Tuesday next week.

CB states that he also has done some research about how other counties have allocated their ARPA funds & have gotten into some trouble which the BOCC is being extra careful to not have happen. Just waiting on confirmation from the Auditor. Also, the State Auditor will give more detail and we are doing our due diligence.

10:00

Public Hearing on Lake Management District 1 (Lake Osooyoos) to certify the rolls and begin the tax assessment. Staff report presented by Pete Palmer, Planning Director. No written objections within the time period allowed for comments, but one landowner wrote a letter 6/30/2022 objecting to this assessment as does not want the herbicide treatment for the milfoil in the lake. She does not like all the motor traffic on the lake and objects to out-of-county/state residents making this determination. She feels she will be paying for this assessment for other residents because she does not want this and would prefer a 'wake free' lake – she would pay for that. She is a Senior Citizen and looking for an exemption from this. This homeowner has lived there since 2004.

No other public comment. CB states that no matter what, the value of the property still remains and feels the arguments are relatively moot – more of a personal preference. Not inclined to remove from the rolls. 2023 will be the last year of the assessment and would require renewing the district again. PP unsure if it would take a petition again. She will find out. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to certify the rolls as presented Resolution 190-2022, with the removal of a parcel with a previously determined Boundary Line Adjustment.

10:22

Mike Worden (MW). Dispatch/Communications Officer to update BOCC. Budget is at 84% due to staffing shortage. 9 of 13 positions are filled. One candidate is in the background check process. MW states they are still advertising for these positions, will be having a 15 second spot at the movie theater. One obstacle to filling positions is the 4-6 month training process. MW would like permission to speak with the “Associations” regarding some training changes and whether to go from percentage to flat rate.

CB states this would be a good idea and likens the stress level of a dispatch person to an air traffic controller. Having a good training program should also be a help in hiring.

MW states that 2 reserve deputies are picking up a shift or 2 a month but will be reaching out to the Union to see if this can be increased to 6 months as Civil Service rules allow. This is, of course, pending the new administration.

10:39

MW discusses the new radio project. He has communicated with all agencies to see who might want to go first and try the new radio system. Lifeline has responded. The County could assist in purchasing to help agencies get a reasonable rate.

MW asks whether there are any updates on the Storage/Morgue Building being proposed? CB has spoken with the City Planner but not much information other than the fact of it being in the flood plain. There may be other problems per JD – buried tanks possibly. JD wants to be sure everyone's eyes are open going into this.

CB asks MW to please give the City Planner a call.

MW also would like to be able to reach out to legislators as a follow-up on the letter sent by the BOCC. CB says yes, feel free to do this. Jacqueline Macomber is very open to this.

10:52

Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Interlocal agreement – building inspection services – Town of Twisp

2. Interlocal agreement – Mazama Hydrant Project - Fire District #6
3. Grant Agreement – Mazama Hydrant Project – ARPA
4. Agreement – LTAC #23-108 – 2023 Lodging Tax – Capital Improvements – Methow Trails
5. Agreement – LTAC #23-009 – 2023 Lodging Tax – Marketing and Promotion, MV Sports Trail
6. Agreement- LTAC #22-010 - 2022 Lodging Tax –Marketing & Promotion – Molson Museum
7. Agreement – LTAC #23-016 – 2023 Lodging tax – Capital Improvements – Omak
8. Agreement – LTAC #23-017 – 2023 Lodging Tax – Capital Improvements/VIC – Omak
9. Reappointment – Five County Joint Resolution – NCW Libraries – Denise Sorom
10. Fairgrounds Facility Use Rental Contracts Signature Acknowledgments – Francisca Garcia; Carlton Complex Long-Term Recovery Group; Esther Mansal; Emergency Management & Bureau of Reclamation; Adelida Fonseca; PUD; Pamatz Family; Rotary Club; Family Health Centers; Wa State FFA; Verania Bustos; Jennifer Ramirez; Rotary Club; Maria Ruiz; NCESD; Quince; Ok Co Child Development Assoc; Okanogan Schools
11. Resolution 191-2022 – Therapeutic Court Coordinator – Sale Tax Fund 143

These were all completed very quickly, It was difficult to record

Moved, Seconded, and Carried Reappointment of Chance Lesley to the Fair Advisory Committee

Moved, Seconded, and Carried for 2 different Special Liquor Licenses in March 2023

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Collective Bargaining Agreements

MSC, Agreement with Teamsters wage increase

MSC, Dept of Archaeology and Historic Preservation Society- A19-2A Grant reimbursement request for the Pioneer Waterproofing on the Courthouse exterior renovation project \$149,065.88.

MSC – District Court Funds, \$3092

MSC – Authorizing \$249,400 ARPA funds to Ok County Chip Seal

MSC authorizing refreshments for Public Record Training December 7th

MSC 2 recerts of ARPA funds to Cummings on the Tunk Mtn Project

MSC to pay vouchers and payroll

11:00

Josh Thomson(JT), County Engineer updates on Public Works

Brings Draft Ordinance for Compost Procurement which needs to be adopted by the end of year.

However, if it goes into January, there is no penalty. Scheduled for a December 27th hearing @10:30

Maintenance and Road Conditions – only reporting overtime for Sunday and Wednesday last week.

Bridge Road ratings are completed. Only bridge that needs to be limited is the Similkameen –

Restricted to 33 tons.

11:08

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the local agency agreement on the Cameron Lake Road Project. Needs to be signed today to get the process moving.

JT reports filling the Capital Management position in-house and thanks BOCC for approving this new position.

11:10

Some more discussion of ARPA fund approval for \$251,000. Letter needs to be sent out Monday.

11:13

Recess until 1:30

