

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
December 20, 2021
Monday AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, chair, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners
GW—Gene Wyllson
CH —Cari Hall
NP—Naomi Peasley

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers paraphrasing and/or comments is in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.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://okanogan_county.org/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm

Volunteer took the notes via Zoom. AV Capture not available.

12-20-2021 Monday AM Summary of significant discussions: *Discussion of Redistricting Plan, Review of upcoming meetings and resolutions. Extension of Homeland Security Grant for Emergency Management. Review of various resolutions, and motions on those resolutions. Pete Palmer discussing need for clarifying language in some of the County's code. Resolution 2021-12 approved: a procedural amendment to county code for approving subdivisions, plats, Planned Developments, other developments to reflect changes to title 2 that designate the Hearings Examiner. Fairground report including tree removal, Grandstand demolition, proposal of changes to the Commercial building, irrigation and electrical system in RV area.*

NOTES:

9:00: Meeting opened with Discussion of Redistricting Plan. AH and CB at the table looking at the map with a couple of members of the audience. (Sound is cutting in and out) Map is then projected onto the screen. Looking at Population density and making comments about how things need to be changed. It is not possible to understand the details of the discussion, sound is cutting in and out. AH states that this will be done by Wednesday. LH gave a link reference to look at (the plan?) JD described getting hacked and having to change his Facebook Page. LH talking to CB about upcoming meeting at same time so difficult to hear what she said.

10:01: REVIEWING COMMISSIONERS AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA: LH describes resolutions coming up including the GIS position. Crystal is applying for another job because of the wages. AH does she know what the new wage will be? (sound cut out) discussion of wage increases. JD talking about someone robbing a business in town, and also an unpleasant encounter his wife had in her car with someone being aggressive or threatening. Someone talking about needing signatures related to Homeland Security Grant (Maurice Goodall?) AH moves to approve the extension of emergency management

grant program. "Any discussion?" MG says he use it for training and equipment CB makes motion, AH moves to approve the extension of grant, CB seconded. LJ: the 28th there is a Dept. head meeting. JD cannot make it, has an appointment. AH makes move to approve resolution related to 170-2021 Planning CB seconded. Approval of addition of Network positions. AH 172-121 proposes approval of restructuring of non-bargaining pay-scale. AH moves to approve 173-121 General Wage increase: CB seconds. states we might need to get 3 more people in Planning Office. Something to think about in relation to Comp Plan.

PETE PALMER: Description of need for some corrections to the code for clarification and consistency. Puts forth to Commissioners to approve the procedural mandates. Provides a draft ordinance package. States that it does not require Public Hearing because it is only a "clarification." Has been reviewed by Dave Gecas, he has signed off on ordinance. AH - move to approve **Resolution 2021-12**, a procedural amendment to county code for approving subdivisions, plats, Planned Developments, other developments to reflect changes to title 2 that designate the Hearings Examiner.

AH: states that there is an hour gap of time, nothing more to do, perhaps Naomi Peasley could give us her info early. States he has been working on Capital Facilities Plan. Waiting for Naomi to get back to him, then it can be put out for Public Hearing. CB contributes to discussion about fairground issues, purchases made. AH we have to spend ARCA money by (didn't catch) has questions about lost revenue from last year being a legitimate cost. We have a Finance meeting tomorrow and we can talk about that. AH I would like to get a cost estimate from an architect about a facilities master plan. Long-range planning, for future growth and needs. CB and AH contributing to discussion. CB suggests reviewing the Strategic plan and lining things out. AH talks about things that he believes County needs to bond. Also CB and AH are discussing who can work from home, and who cannot.

10:58: Naomi Peasley, Fairground Report: Have the edited version of FAC (sp?) AH and CB talk about a video training that is needed for some kind of certification; LJ will set it up. Naomi needs to send a document in, she confirms that she has it. CB refers to a previous discussion that went well regarding the fair. Naomi has talked to Skirko, and 24-7 about removing some Cottonwoods. AH will they grind the stumps out? NP: All stumps will be ground down to ground level. 24-7 came down twice, and Skirko came once, he had done the work before. Estimates come in around \$13,000. AH Reviewing: Remove 4 Cottonwoods, remove 1 Willow-dead wood. Skirko looked at the trees and had suggestions about more work that needed to be done. It looks like his bid includes more tree removal than 24-7's. As well as cleaning up courtyard. Naomi felt that Skirko did a thorough job of looking over the area. Naomi will clarify with 24-7 about the cost of the additional trees that were being considered. Discussion continued about Grandstand. AH last year we had a good year. A normal year we are 200 thousand in the hole. Fair made money this year. I want to be sure how much it will cost to demolish the items proposed. Is this part of a bond, do we need a bond to finance the new Grandstand. Just want to be sure about the amount of money and the speed with which we are spending it. CB Income is going to fluctuate. Naomi has been researching how much it will cost to demo the building. CB so we need to identify costs and a plan to make the improvements. AH does not want to tear down Grandstand without a clear plan of what it will be replaced with. NP People are continually asking me why the Grandstands are not torn down yet. Naomi has been working on a plan to replace them. Some joking and banter. Naomi has bid for demolition. Discussion about where the debris material will be disposed of. CB says bid needs to reflect what will happen with the debris. JD suggests that people might want to salvage the material.

AH we could surplus the building for salvage. Then we could see if there are any takers, for lumber, etc., NP Our new hire is well versed in recycling and waste management. Discussion reflections about possibilities of the Demo including salvaging options. CB will run ideas by Josh to see how this affects bond issues. Banter and reflection about how it was done in the past. Commissioners all agree that some form of surplus is a good idea. AH Do we want Lainie to create a resolution for surplus? They agree that first CB will talk to Josh. NP will wait for further direction. NP Outlines what is going to happen with Irrigation at the Fairgrounds. AH moves to upgrade electrical system at FG. CB seconded. AH moves to fix irrigation at FG, phase 1. Discussion about irrigation options for maintenance. Naomi has proposed the construction of a pole building with dirt floor that would function as an arena and could be used by the public during the off season. Proposes getting rid of the Commercial building. Received permission from tribe to build a racehorse barn, tribe will pay for certain expenses (this part is unclear) in exchange for being able to use facilities for equine events. Commissioners agree this needs more discussion. NP says new maintenance person is doing really well, enthusiastic and hard working. Naomi has been given a large amount of historic photos of the construction of the Fairgrounds.

12:03 CH: speaking at the end about aspects of redistricting that need attention to remain clear. Need to have discussion with representatives from both parties, and with a commissioner present. Questions about a "Wilderness Precinct." AH said he would be there. CH offers to reach out to both party chairs about PPO's (sp?) Suggests that the County's GIS might want to be informed about district changes. CH will keep the Commissioners informed of her process, and will cc the Pete Palmer.

12:17: Meeting Adjourned.