

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday February 1, 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/offices/commissioners/commissioners\\_proceedings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/offices/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: Fairgrounds manager updates re: upcoming events, grant proposals and replacing the pedestals at the RV park, 2 different executive sessions regarding possible litigation, Update from Sheriffs' Office Dispatch Mgr, Mobile unit could possibly qualify for ARPA funds, 2 open positions in Dispatch, updating of radio system in coordination with Skagic County, Update from Solid Waste; grant approval and involvement in apple maggot survey due to effect on Solid Waste Management, Update from County Engineer on roads and maintenance, a couple of concerning house bills in the legislature, also, discussion regarding purchase of county vehicles, vs leasing, and sale of., updating snowmobile advisory group.**

*BOCC meeting began at 9:11 with only CB and AH in attendance. Issues with Zoom – no audio until end of Fair Manager report*

9:11 Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Manager reporting on upcoming scheduled events. Public Health is now having vaccinations every other week, some conflicts but Public Health has been very accommodating. They are still working on grants for historical fairgrounds buildings – not the barn. New maintenance staff doing well, there is a learning curve.

9:25 David Gecas (DG), County Civil Attorney, in attendance for a scheduled executive session regarding lawsuit filed against BOCC. DG has an agreement that was approved by the Judges. AH asks why do we need this approved by a Judge? DG – We have no Prosecuting Attorney at this time.

DG stated both Superior Court Judges have recused themselves. (*I'm not exactly sure for which case*) Moved, seconded and carried to approve terms of engagement for the Superior Court.

9:30 MSC to go into executive session for 30 minutes with Dave Gecas, Pete Palmer, Planning, Rocky,

and other attorneys.

10:00 Back from Executive Session. *JD is now in attendance*

10:06 Some discussion of Commissioners Redistricting map.

10:14 10 minute executive session needed with DG, Moved, Seconded, and Carried \*\*\*\*\*

10:35 Executive session ended

Mike Worden (MW) – Dispatch Center Mgr reports there are 2 open positions

AH brings up a side issue – he has been talking with someone regarding making agreements with landlords/landowners for housing for County Employees.

MW states housing doesn't seem to be the issue in their hiring challenges.

10:38

MW working on 2 hazard mitigation grants one is for Jackass Butte Site

10:39

MW working on purchasing a secure mobile unit that could be used for field command, incident events, fires, criminal events, etc. Altogether the cost could probably be around \$350,000 This could be a good use of ARPA funds.

CB and AH discuss the need to list all the possible projects earmarked for ARPA funds and go over them all. CB states we need to look at the best things for the County. Next Monday (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>), there is time in the afternoon for this. But there is an 11:15 discussion with Lael Duncan of Community Action re: ARPA funds. This would be a good time for this discussion.

CB is counting on the purchase of the Forest Service Building being eligible for ARPA funds.

10:46 BOCC approves Resolutions 17-2022 and 18-2022 designating MW for Grant Application.

MW is meeting with Fire Districts participating with the National Fire incident Reporting (requirement of Grant).

AH discussing with MW that Alan Fahnstock has been e-mailing regarding a high-speed pump into a well in Mazama. They are raising money for this. Approximately \$100,000 needed – already raised 10%.

CB has sent info regarding tearing down Sheriff's shop and re-building to the City Planner (OKANOGAN)

MW reports that the new radio system will be completely paid for. No cost to the county and will be working as hosts with Skagit County

11:00

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports assistance grant approved last week and a letter grant is in process.

Also, working with the folks on the Maggot Survey sent out. KK wants to be involved as expects this to impact Solid Waste. AH states he has heard from people that there are a lot of issues with the data from this survey.

KK states there are 38 positive findings, mostly in the North County. There will need to be some exemptions. If the entire county is quarantined then, there would not be such an impact on growers and

the County. Apple Maggots live in Hawthorne trees/bushes, especially along the river.

CB wondered whether this was a chance to partner with Weed Control. Apple Maggots are worse May through August.

11:09

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer reports on maintenance and road conditions. It doesn't appear that the County will be able to do the Chiliwist Road chip seal project this year due to needing to work with Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife and the first curve past the current pavement.

JT also brings up 2 House Bills that are worrisome regarding emissions. HB 1918 regarding 0 emissions from outdoor power equipment of 25 HP & less, with a 6.50 % tax in 2025. Required changes by 2025, with the exception of emergency responders. AH states that he has a battery operated chainsaw that lasts over 4 hours.

CB sounds like a lot of batteries going to landfill.

Quite a lot of discussion regarding how county vehicles are currently purchased and sold after 2 years old. This works, and gives County buying powers and reclaims money in sale.

JT states there are the snowmobile advisory letters on the consent agenda and STP 2022 funding for county wide chip seal.

11:39 Meeting adjourned until public comment period at 1:30