

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, February 15, 2022, AM**

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Crystal Hawley (CH) – 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: Planning director responding to cannabis and liquor control board/ coordinating addresses of marijuana grows, hearing scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 for extension of the Moratorium on Cannabis grows. Update by Maintenance Supervisor re: upcoming HVAC project on certain county buildings, also discussion of parking lot lights, issues brought forward by the Emergency Services Manager regarding safety protocol for County offices, and purchase of vehicle as a mobile unit, also evacuation routes discussed. Finance Committee Meeting regarding budgets and bonding for building purchase (also utilizing ARPA funds), upgrades, and other County financial considerations, property tax statements ready to go out, in current audit through the State, Road maintenance update; discussion of cattleguard franchise through Forest Service on Toroda Creek Road, Road crew changing to summer hours on March 7<sup>th</sup>, some discussion about 2 year process WDFW before paving 1/2 mile more on the Chiliwist Road – Maybe this can be fast tracked. Public Health lease agreement with Public Works**

9:03

Pete Palmer (PP) – Planning Director reports notice from Cannabis & Liquor Control Board regarding correct addresses for marijuana grows. Coordination and response needed. PP states that licenses are hard to change once approved and in place. Concern about more than 1 grow per piece of property. PP reports public hearing is scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 regarding extending the moratorium on cannabis grows.

9:13

Joe Poulin (JP) – Maintenance Supervisor brings quotes for upcoming project on numerous County buildings. Replacing the HVAC systems, along with other projects. Some discussion with AH and CB regarding inclusion in Capital Facilities plan. Moved, seconded, and carried to go forward with \$20,000

for planning level estimate of building project.

9:33 AH and CB concerned about break ins/theft. Lights may be a deterrent.

JP also reports on the Boiler Tank/Hot Water estimates given. Unable to get other bids.

9:38 – Maurice Goodall (MG), Emergency Services Manager completed a budget supplemental for vehicles. Attempting to purchase a mobile unit for emergency incidents. Has some ARPA funds for this AH questions, how can we get it now? Let's put some money down on it and order as supplies are very backordered.

MG also brings up security issues for the County offices and staff. Keylock system is being worked on. But would like to see staff training and procedure to follow regarding incidents such as active shooter. CB people need to know what the procedure is. MG discusses cameras that take pictures.

9:54 community people have given suggestions for safety protocol and also has been contacted by a Methow Valley resident regarding evacuation routes, especially at Black Canyon. MG people need to be aware. It would take a lot of signage for every backroad.

10:03 – Finance Committee Meeting: Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH) Auditor, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS) Finance Manager in the Auditors Office. Long discussion regarding what Contingency Reserve looks like, when to do supplemental to pay certain items. Also discussing the need to meet with the State Auditor Representative (Jim Nelson) regarding bonding. Some figures: \$1.5 million – building for Sheriff's office, \$1 million for new building – hoping to use \$500,000 in ARPA funds.

LM states the bond rate at this juncture is 9.9% AH & CB want the lowest interest rate. AH states there are some quick hitters with a 3 year deal.

10:20 LM talks about the debt ceiling. \$9.9 million is needed.

10:23 LM states that revenues are coming in. When tax statements go out, people usually pay right away. CB asked if statements have already posted to the Assessor site? LM – to both the Assessors & Treasurers site.

10:25 CH reports that the payroll is extremely tight this month. Only 1 day & ½ to go (this is a short month)

BOCC is reminded of the 11:00 AM tomorrow meeting and 2:00 Friday meeting for working on annual reports.

10:30 CH reports that State Auditor is still working on audit from last year. LM states this makes it difficult to get work done.

LM also states that we are financially sound, right now. All accounts are fine.

10:33 – Budget supplemental to be completed in the next couple of days – apparently for Emergency Services.

10:58 Executive session with Dave Gecas, County Attorney, Pete Palmer, Rocky and BOCC under 43-110 Li until 11:07\*\*\*\*\*

11:12 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer – reports on road maintenance and issue with Toroda Creek Road & Forest Service regarding cattleguard franchise.

Road crew will start on summer schedule March 7<sup>th</sup>. JT talks about looking into Title II grants for other road work. - some culvert work near Chesaw.

JT and AH discuss the Chiliwist Road chipseal to be put off due to 2 year process with WDFW on the first corner of the road. AH will see if it can be expedited.

11:26 Public Works and Public Health lease agreement approval Moved, seconded, & carried  
11:33 Meeting adjourned.