

**< Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 16th, 2021, 1:30 PM**

"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."

Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Karen Beatty (KB), Central Services
Kayla Wells (KW), WSU Extension
Lael Duncan (LD), Community Action (on Zoom)
Pest Board member (PB)

Time stamps refer to Zoom recording on this website (missing first 30' and last 15').

Summary of important discussions: *Cyber security to be beefed up following hack of county system and plans to train all staff to detect suspicious content; Funding granted for WSU Extension to conduct a survey measuring satisfaction of County residents as well as education opportunities, other studies to follow; Community Action redirects unused Food Bank and Health money to Subsistence Payments and the salaries of case workers to administer them; Funding for EMS districts approved; Water Conservancy Board accepts Clay Gebber's resignation and drafts letter appointing Mike Fort to replace John Hubbard'.*

Cyber Security - KB briefs the commissioners on possible solutions following last month's attack on the county's system which destroyed some back-up archives. She was told hackers often try to attack again within a year. A three-year protection contract with Microsoft had recently been signed. The "bad actors" may have taken advantage of employees logging into remote devices to gain access. New safeguards could run anywhere from \$7,000 to \$34,000 annually. "Sonic Wall" which sends a pin number to a cell phone offers the best protection, says KW. Also envisioned is county-wide training to identify suspicious content in emails and devices.

13:49 - CB and LJ discuss the calendar.

19:38 - CB talks with KW about problems logging into Zoom and Webex— he always appears as Okanogan County even when he logs on from a personal device.

28:49 - WSU Extension/Capstone Project - KW : since county's request for needs assessment in late 2019, a project in collaboration with a WSU class was approved for funding. A survey has been drawn up by WSU students to analyze three categories: Housing and satisfaction with living in the county, education, and the perception of the cannabis industry. KW presented the survey but recommended that the third category not be included as questions might either infer that the county is pursuing this, may stereotype the users or negatively influence home values. CB would like to know

about the Cannabis economy: “What are the ways that money turns over in the community, and what are the possible adverse effects?” but admits that survey answers would be too subjective. (50:00) KW hopes the data will help the County in decision-making, and plans to enable commissioners to understand their districts better through a study of the identities of smaller communities within the county. CB would like to know the ratio of tribal members to whites living on the reservation. Commissioners will consider additional questions for the survey and inform KW.

1:08:00 - LD asks permission for Community Action to redirect already appropriated budget funds from the Food Bank budget (\$5,000) and the Health budget (\$25,000) to Subsistence Payments since the Food Bank has received a lot of donations, and funds were extended for quarantine housing but no one is in need right now. The \$202,000 budget will go for subsistence payments (56%) and case management staff salary.

1:15:00 - Reconvening as EMS district, board approved funding for Emergency Services in Tonasket (\$63,203), Oroville (\$9,804) and the Methow (\$58,867).

Water Conservancy Board - LJ forwarded the email from Clay Gebbers’ saying he is resigning because he lacks the necessary experience. Two alternate positions will be vacant. Motion approved to draft letter appointing Mike Fort to Chair position previously held by John Hubbard.

Minutes from Feb. 1st and 2nd approved but not those of Feb. 8th, 9th, and 10th. Revised letter of need drafted to follow up on grant request for Chief Communications Deputy, prioritizing needs since not all of the \$800,000 requested is needed in first funding cycle. Meeting adjourned. AH: “I’m going out to try and get a suntan.”