

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**

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**Present:**

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3 (via Zoom)  
Chrystal Hawley, Deputy County Clerk  
Pat Leigh, Methow Valley Fire District 6 firehouse project  
Alain Fahnstock, Project Manager, Methow well project  
Tanya Everett, Human Resources  
Pete Palmer, Planning Director  
Aaron Culp, Undersheriff

*An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:  
[https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live\\_streaming\\_of\\_meetings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php)*

***Summary of Important Discussions:*** *In Public Comment Period PL reports Fire District 6 Fire Hall under construction, costs up \$200,000 due to Covid-caused delays, asks county for funds, AF says private contributions needed to fill out budget for 700 gallon/minute fire hydrant project; Court Deputies accorded raises in « stop-the-bleeding resolution ; In staff shuffle, Sheriff's department creates a Court Security Officer post ; Search to start for Methow advisory groups, AH prones preliminary public meeting to get input from northern, central and southern sub-units before fixing boundaries, PP first wants to hear Citizen's Council's history and vision.*

1:30 - Public Comment Period - PL: Construction of the District 6 Fire Hall is underway but impacted dramatically by Covid 19... State law provides contractors a second opportunity for an estimate if the permit is delayed which in our case it was, and the change in orders is costing \$200,000. We're having to slash features like furniture and road improvements which were to allow for heavy vehicles. I hope the BOCC will give the district \$300,000 to spend according to its own discretion; it knows where it needs funds. *AF reports on the fire hydrant/well project: \$100,000 is not quite going to do it. Power has gone up, and Fire Chief Cody also wanted a more elaborate way of managing the 700 gallon/minute well (to prevent its blowing up under pressure). I'm confident we may be able to (pay for) the well and power through private contributions. We hope to get a mobile generator, might have to wait. I hope you're willing to allocate discretionary funds. CB: I'll be asking AH questions; it's his district. AH: ARPA (American Rescue Plan) money is restricted. There are 200 pages of rules. CB: ...Hope they're not giving us just enough rope to hang ourselves."* AH: Water related-infrastructure was listed. We're pretty confident for the well project. It would be helpful to have the details for the fire hall project. *He replies to PL's question that these funds are indeed for Covid mitigation. She says their cost overruns and supply chain problems should qualify. AH mentions grant requests for broadband that continue to be rejected because the cheapest installation still costs \$11,000 per household. He says one project*

*ranked by the (State?) Infrastructure Committee is updating the waterline on the Winthrop Bridge at Mazama. He thanks PL and AF for their comments.*

2:01 - Human Resources report - TE: We're keeping the integrity of the salary charts that the BOCC just fixed but the Chief Criminal and Civil Court Deputies would get raises. *When JD asks if that could make the difference in their staffing problems AH says this way employees tempted to leave for higher salaries may change their minds and stay. (But): As "Budget Guru" you're not going to get full approval from me. ...If we do a good job of "commissioning", people will want to move here. JD: I visit with people, get my ear to the ground. People are tired of what's going on in big cities. AH: Public safety—we have to keep it up. ... (As for) the number of police deputies, if we hired two new ones, it would take almost all our increase in revenues. People don't like having services cut. They pass Resolution 030-2022 re-qualifying positions within the Prosecutor's office. CB calls it the "stop-the-bleeding resolution".*

2:16 - *They move to hold an executive session to discuss Prosecutor's office questions with TE.*

2:30 - *(Parts are inaudible due to sound cutting in and out.) AC: We're creating a new classification, a security officer with three levels. It could be a former corrections employee with experience in interpersonal and de-escalation techniques... This helps put a dedicated employee in that position, 8 to 5, Monday through Friday in court proceedings like contested custody trials and jury trials, coordinating with court staff. JD asks if he's heard of the new 12 gauge projectile, "air spray" that can disable at 30 yards. AC says he knows something similar, a pepper gun ten times stronger than OC spray, with no vapors. Gets back to the reclassification issue: Entry level would get a little less than a corrections officer. It would take the place of an existing position. The levels 2 and 3 would be in case we don't have one with the requisite experience. It could be a security guard. We're targeting people with a past history in corrections. CB and JD think it's a good idea. AH agrees to look it over before discussing it with the union.*

2:58 - *(Sound problems) CH talks about Cannabis permit applications. This could have something to do with the hearing on the moratorium set for February 28<sup>th</sup>.*

3:00 - PP: I have a map of sensitive areas, four units in the Methow. AH questions a north-south line, says it doesn't go down far enough in former sub-area D. PP will get it extended. PP: I don't know if you want those three units or— AH: There's three districts. Sub-unit A north of Winthrop, the second is central, Winthrop and Twisp to Carlton, and the third goes from Carlton to the end of the valley. ...*(Concerning advisory groups)* we could have folks from the whole planning unit, a mix... We're going to have to do a better job. Going to have to have a group of people. CB: Have people tell us the general parameters *(inaudible)*. PP: It would take a lot of pressure off of the staff here. I'm requesting applications (for the advisory group), asking why they're interested, their experience, if they're committed to regular meetings. CB: Also, how they feel about collaboration. AH: before you get the verbiage right, kick it around with the folks up there. The More Completely Planned Area is the the whole thing. Do we want to change the boundaries. PP: Have to look at the Comp Plan. It says the boundaries are determined by the BOCC. AH: I'd say have a public meeting. CB: ...Show what we have existing before you talk about boundaries, before you make any changes. AH: Next meeting let's get the fine points, fix a time when people can make it. PP: On our agenda or the BOCC? CB: The meeting should be in the Methow... There's also a bill about having meetings outside the county seat. PP: Prior to coming back I would like to talk to Lorah *(Super, Methow Valley Citizens Council)*, get their history and vision. CB: That's groundwork. I'd encourage it.

3:27 - *A difficult-to-follow discussion refers to a banquet, a funeral, the ball being in someone else's*

*court so the BOCC doesn't need to decide, AH will put it on Monday's agenda. JD talks about a cabin that burned down, was surprised the owner didn't "raise hell". The owner said "I'm 77 and we all need to get along. CB - "Pick the dragons you want to slay."*

*3:30 - Executive session with TE and attorney David Gecas to discuss a litigation.*

*4:00 - Meeting adjourned.*