

**< Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, February 9th, 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:

Lauri Jones, Director of Public Health
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Mike Worden (MW), Sheriff's Dept., Communications
Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director

(Time stamps refer to two Zoom recordings posted on this website.)

Summary of important discussions: *(Health Board Meeting) Lauri Jones asking to decrease requirement of two health checks a day for isolated ag workers; new House bill 1152 for the creation of comprehensive health districts opposed by Jones; vaccination process deemed efficient. (BOCC meeting) Hazard mitigation - contract in the works with Adcom for radio engineering and consultation services, asking for initial grant of \$260,000, hoping for more; Letter to Ecology - working on draft of response to A.G. opinion which "creates even more questions", requesting \$500,000 towards planning process; Million dollar CDBG CVI grant agreement for Commerce and Community Action to go forward; Meadowlark Senior Center project in Omak - gap-funding approved; Shoreline management - building permit refused; Revised moratorium on subdivisions - planning director to present two versions of interim controls at Feb. 10th meeting, one speaking only to building permits and one tying these into subdivisions, CB says "needs a little thought before making a point"; In-person participation at BOCC meetings prohibited, says LJ, though CB expects 25 or more in person on Wednesday to discuss WRIA 48/interim controls.*

Health Board Meeting *(recording 1, first 10 minutes not covered)* - Lauri Jones: Current regulations requiring agricultural workers in isolation to be tested twice a day have saved lives and reduced trips to ER but she will ask (State Health Officer) Dr. Lindquist to decrease this requirement. Health Dept. reimburses for referrals when necessary but "It's hard to get health workers to go out so often." Employers are required to pay for the health checks.

Ms. Jones is concerned about House bill 1152 to create comprehensive health districts regrouping smaller counties; remote regions of county may not get service, and the thought of working with a large board is "unimaginable."

While Grant, Chelan and Douglas counties have experienced some vaccine shortages, here "we're fortunate, efficient." Jones calls the involvement of EMS manager Maurice Goodhall "awesome."

3:25 *(recording 2)* **BOCC Meeting - Hazard Mitigation** - MW working out a contract with Adcom Engineering LLC for radio engineering and consultation services to present following week. County has requested aid for hazard mitigation, \$260,000 needed initially. In view of competing interests

and likelihood of not receiving the entire \$800,000 requested, AH asks MW to write letter identifying priorities.

14:45 Letter to Ecology - AH brings up Methow Valley Citizens Council's funding request.

Commissioners work on response to Ecology Dept. opinion: "Dept. of Ecology's office of Asst. Attorney General has issued an opinion that creates even more questions. To address these issues Okanogan Co. and several representatives of organizations engaged in (the process) are making a budget request of \$500,000..."

Community Development Block Grant Covid 1 (CDBG CV1) - LJ: Agreement (for \$1,836,570, to be shared with Community Action) was delayed so Commerce Dept. could get appropriate training to administer the grant. Motion to go forward approved, along with \$117,576 in Health Dept. vouchers on payroll.

Meadowlark Senior Center building project in Omak will receive Affordable Housing money to fill spending gap. More funds expected from state taxes allotted to County (bill 1406). Resolution approved to pay out \$135,000.

Shoreline management - Request to change rules in order to build a boathouse refused; project must conform to high water mark signaling the flood plain area.

39:29 Revised moratorium on subdivisions - PP presented two different drafts for next day's meeting to discuss interim controls as the process continues to determine how to address legal challenges on subdivisions approved since 2002: a "stand alone" policy, dealing exclusively with building permits and one linking permits to subdivisions, echoing language used in opinion from Ecology and Commissioners' resolution 2021-1 in response. CB: We should consider them both because of the implications. Planner Angela Hubbard getting parcel numbers and dates, handling calls. CB asks about appeal process for permits. PP: Tied in to LUPA (Land Use Petition Act.) AH favors presenting draft dealing with building permits only. CB: "This kind of decision needs a little thought before we can make a point," suggests improving language to prevent confusion.

46:45 In-person participation - Though decision had been made to include 25 or more in-person participants in Wednesday Feb. 10th 1:30 meeting (Public Hearing will be held March 22nd). LJ points out that current phase-1 Covid regulations prohibit this, allow only live presence when absolutely necessary such as for mandatory DUI classes. CB worries about possible criticism of closed meetings: "very hard for the public, with our present system, to tell what we're doing." LJ: For those of you on the phone you'll have a way to attend. *(This note taker wasn't able to access meeting at 2:30, perhaps already over.)*

1:09:13 Meeting adjourned.