

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, March 1st, 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
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions: Public comment is made requesting that BOCC address Planning Commission issues as they have just done with similar Fairground issues. Bring the public back into the Planning Commission process through appropriate procedures, elections, and PC representatives' ability to address public testimony. Canine unit to be sold to its handler; new Fair Advisory Board member, Curt Rains, appointed; BOCC supports PUD's bid for \$14.4 M broadband grant and loan; Commissioners briefly discuss new property tax exemption proposal, will get financial officers' input.

- 1:30 - Public Comment: *Isabelle Spohn, Twisp resident urged the BOCC to address problems within the Planning Commission as they have the Fair Advisory Board, saying the chair and vice chair at the last meeting hadn't allowed nominations for their own position last year, over "strenuous" objections from three members - and elections are now due again. She questioned who was in fact running the Commission, referring to Planning Director Pete Palmer saying that she was being directed. She said Gina McCoy had been told at meetings last year that, because there wasn't enough time, she couldn't present public opinions on the Comprehensive Plan, and consequently resigned as District 2 representative. IS will send the BOCC links to the meetings so they can judge for themselves. IS:* There are three representatives per district including the "At Large" position. That brings up what (Planning Commission member) Dave Schulz said: Where is "We the People" in this? ...If the Planning Commission reps don't have time to address public comment, I'm concerned about the zoning ordinance revisions... The attorneys (who write the legal reviews) are not familiar with our county like our Planning representatives are.
- 2:00 – Executive session to receive the evaluation of complaints against a public employee.
- 2:30 – Executive session to discuss a litigation.
- 3:10 – Motion carried recognizing a canine unit as retired surplus and authorizing sale of the canine to its handler, Sgt. Tate Everett.

- Approval of appointment letter naming Curt Rains to Fair Advisory Board. He has children in the fair. **CB**: Something I've always enjoyed about Curt, he tells it like it is.

- BOCC signs letter in support of the Okanogan P.U.D.'s application for the Broadband Reconnect Grant and Loan Program. If approved the PUD would receive \$14.4M.

3:15 - **CB** mentions an email about a proposed personal property tax exemption which would raise the exemption level from \$15,00 to \$100,000. He says WSAC (state county association) is opposed. **CB**: I've sent it to the auditor, treasurer and assessor. Maybe they'll come up with some figures, what that would do to us. They discuss the tourism tax, how overnight rentals need the authorization of the state, how they tend to change neighborhoods and how some people manage to adapt. **CB**: Add 2% to the Tourism Tax for affordable housing.

3:16 – **LJ**: I reached out to Michael Beeman to get the contract started (*for Public Works Building 20-year master plan*).

3:20 – Meeting adjourned.