

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 14, 2023 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1 (via Zoom)

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – 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.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/acapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions:

- **Auditor Report:** LTAC(Lodging Tax) funds being considered for visitor information centers.
- Discussion of Opioid Settlement Agreements; utilizing abatement council and allocation of drug store settlement monies – 2 different agreements.
- April 30th deadline for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund report.
- Auditor preparing for changing computer systems (UNIS), going live 1-2024.
- Review of Public Health District process for reporting payments to BOCC.
- **Public Works:**
- Vouchers completed for the Green Waste Day thru the Conservation District,
- Removing some roas restrictions.
- Admin support position a little closer – OCOG insurance approved.
- Request from Okanogan School Maintenance regarding use of county road during school construction project – More information is needed, will meet with BOCC for decision.
- Adjourned at 12:00.

9:00

Meeting Opens. Flag salute.

BOCC reviewing proceedings from March 6th, 7th, and 8th.

9:15

No Public Comment

AH brings up how his LTAC group has set aside \$25,000 for Visitors Information Centers to request. CB would like to schedule this discussion for next week as this is the first he has heard of that. He's not this is a good way to go with this. AH requests that LJ send the LTAC group the policies and

procedures in the meantime. LJ is not sure if the policies and procedures document is complete.

9:34

Esther Milner (EM), Civil Deputy in to discuss Opioid Settlement agreements. First there is a participation allocation agreement with stores (settlements); Walgreens, Allergen, WalMart, CVS, and Tivas. BOCC could either sign this in person or use Docu Sign. CB states that BOCC does not use docu sign. He has used this in other groups he is associated with. This needs discussion and approval by BOCC with the signature of 1 Board member.

The second is an Interlocal agreement with 3 counties. EM is still working on this. AH would like to include agreements with the cities so the agreement doesn't need to be re-written.

EM is unable predict the amount the county will be getting. Deadline to return is April 18th.

9:42

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the participation allocation with the Washington State Attorney General's office. Chair to sign.

CB had an e-mail from Kurt Sternhauer with the April 30th deadline for reporting ARPA -allocated funds. AH states between the allocated funds and the budget should show how much ARPA have been spent.

9:58

AH leaves meeting to meet with labor attorney.

10:09

CB and JN discuss the fact that it is costly to ship logs by rail.

10:29

Cari Hall (CH), Auditor and Jamie (?), Chief Deputy Auditor in to give Auditors office update. CH states that she has no planned update for the BOCC and is just here in case anyone has any questions. CH goes on to say that she has been researching what we do (processes) since we are changing to the new computer system. She came upon something that she has been wondering about... why the BOCC is always signing off on the Public Health District (vouchers?) This is different than how the other 'Districts' are treated. CH states that we need to moving Public Health to their own district status. CB considered how the BOCC adjourns as BOCC when paying EMS district vouchers and then reconvenes as the BOCC. CH recommends to possibly do a resolution for Laurie Jones (Director) to direct budget and the Health Board can sign off monthly. CH explains that now is the time to change processes due to the new computer system.

CB states that we have established processes that we have been doing because it has always been done that way. CH explains that she found an MOU from 2004 between Auditor, BOCC, and Public Health for current process. CH has Civil Deputy look this up. EM, Civil Deputy recommends that we re-do and MOU. Changing this process could free up the BOCC and also the Auditor would not have to store all the documents.

CB states that we really should take action to change this.

CH offers that she is more than willing to answer any questions anyone has regarding this.

10:40

CH also reports that she has signed off on the new computer system (UNIS) with changes. We'll be going from a linear-driven system to a table-drive system. The Auditor has been needing to clean up the general ledger accounts and this new system is much more user friendly. CH will be bringing more

information to the Finance Committee.

The payroll side of this new system should be completed within 30 to 60 days. We'll be going live January 2024 and CH states that we are ahead of scheduled.

CH also reports that some of the new security items have been received – locking file cabinets. It's been great to have this money available to make these upgrades. She again asks for questions or comments. She brings this information to the BOCC so we can all be on the same page.

Also, CH reports that she, personally, is taking care of all the ARPA funding. AH relays there are some capital expenditures that are coming up – Public Works' new windows and other projects that will need a budget supplemental.

CB thanks CH for report even though she didn't have anything to update. (*chuckle*)

10:56

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer to report on Public Works – Solid Waste. Ken Kovalchenko is in Whitefish, Montana to pick up new truck.

JT reports that they have met and worked things out with the Conservation District (CD) on their Green waste day and there will be a voucher from CD and they will be able to do 15 vouchers per day.

JT has met with the Town of Twisp regarding the easement from the County. This was split into 2 discussions – the community trail and housing project. He doesn't expect the fencing project to go forward anytime soon. He relayed the County's concerns to the Town.

On the maintenance and road side, they are brooming roads in the lower elevations and still have road restrictions on otherwise because it is pretty wet and soft. Public Works is working with individuals that need to use roads because it hasn't been freezing at night.

Regarding Buzzard Lake complaint, that has been resolved. The landowners were parked in the County turnaround and, therefore, the plow was not able to plow their road.

Upcoming issue with WA DOT regarding the Hwy 97 Railroad crossing south of Oroville. The Hwy will be closed for 17 working days and will be using a County Road for detour. They have an agreement for DOT to repair anything as a result of this.

JT has gone to OCOG (Organization of County/City Governments) meeting, and the insurance has been approved for the Admin Support Position that we have been working on for a year now. He will need to include Pete Palmer, Planning in the loop re: budgeting as a percentage of this position with be under Planning. There will need to be an MOU with OCOG, and working with the union, and creating resolution for this new position.

Other projects;

Twisp River Road Project – need to be concerned about harming endangered species due to road runoff – federally funded. This would make more sense on I-5 per JT. AH asks him to be proactive with landowners in case we'll need to acquire an easement.

Methow trails/Liberty Woodlands; 1 identified crossing. Need agreement with DOT

AH asks what are we looking at for the Foster Bridge? JT states nothing yet – more liability.

11:12

AH question the 4 shipping containers on the Consent Agenda. JT states they will be looking at other equipment through auctions.

Next week there will be a bid opening for the Twisp Transfer Station.

JT reports that he will be flying straight to Taiwan, China with his son's class. They are leaving tomorrow. Will be gone a week.

11:14

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve minutes for March 6th, 7th, and 8th.

AH notes that we are getting funding requests from Community Action Council (CAC), but we're not getting the invoices. CB will talk with CAC,

11:19

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the consent agenda minus the #2 item from CAC.

Consent Agenda:

1. Appointment letter – Alta Vista Irrigation – Dennis O'Connor
2. ARPA request #3 Food Crisis – CAC, (REMOVED)
3. CDBG Public Services Grant Request #8 – CAC
4. CDBG CV-1 Grant Request #26 – CAC
5. Bid Award – Twisp River Road Spokane Grade Overlay – Central Asphalt, Inc.
6. Contract 2023 Soil Stabilizer – GMCO Corporation
7. Contract 2023 County Wide Guardrail Safety Project – M-2 Industrial
8. Agreement – Cameron Lake Road survey – Erlandsen & Associates
9. Cattleguard Franchise renewals
10. Purchase approval – 4-40 shipping containers – Richie Brothers Auction
11. Certification - Digital Submitted CRAB reports – Public Works
12. Interlocal Agreement PSAP Consortium #1, Second Addendum – Shared 911 equipment
13. Employment Agreement - Registered Nurse Care Manager
14. Special Occasions Liquor License – John Doran Ranch 4/22/2023 – Sara Lightner
15. Resolution 39-2023 Project Plans spec, etc -Twisp River Road Bridge Deck Repair

11:23

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 37-2023 transferring Sheriff's Office Property to General Fund. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to amend the MOU with the Sheriff's Office by approving 40-2023

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve vouchers in the amount of \$676,702.00

11:29

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve vouchers for Public Health in the amount of \$14,978.00 BOCC to talk about changing policy while in the Board of Health meeting this PM.

JN brought up that he had had a good conversation with Wayne Walker from Lifeline Ambulance regarding the cost of bringing Oroville up to 24/7 Ambulance coverage. In the ballpark of \$480,000 - \$500,000 which is over the levy amount. Tonasket already does 24/7

CB is still interested in how it would look if we combined districts. JN briefly discussed this at a meeting in Oroville.

11:39

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to go into Executive Session under 42.30 110 1(g) evaluation of an employee for 10 minutes*****

11:47

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to go into closed session for 10 minutes*****

LJ reports getting request from Okanogan School Maintenance to use County road behind the school as they have a construction project starting and would need that road to transport materials and also, the paved road for a staging area. BOCC has lots of questions regarding this and would like them to come to a BOCC meeting to talk about this.

CB states that he doesn't really know the road capacity. I'm also concerned about the hillside. AH to LJ – ask them to come to talk with us. LJ states they used the area last year for a smaller project.

More information is needed:

BOCC to meet tomorrow/ Wednesday 3/15;

9:00 to 1:00 Special Meeting with Public Health

1:30 walk through Juvenile Center with DOH – Contractor

2:30 Interview

12:00

Adjourn until tomorrow at 1:30