

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 23, 2021 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

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

Jim Detro (JD) – 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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%Minutespage.html>

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

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Planning Director update on last night's (3/22) hearing on Comprehensive Plan alternatives – process to update sub-area plans & to include upper Methow Watershed. Possibility of purchasing truck for fairgrounds, other fairground projects upgrade, theft of generator from courthouse, HR update; hiring and open positions, Public hearings on Supplemental Appropriation for Communications upgrades and Cattle guard franchise, Solid Waste and Public Works updates.

9:02 – Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management. Considering new vehicle \$44,000. Also grant application that needs all three signatures of Commissioners. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve signatures for this grant application E21-193.

9:06 – Pete Palmer, Planning Director – Updates BOCC on last night's Comprehensive Plan hearing on Alternatives. Good discussion – lasted until 9:30. Considering combining a couple of alternatives. Dept will be coming forward with recommendations to BOCC. Not planning on making any changes to the document. Draft EIS done, but hasn't been finalized.

9:09 – Joe Paulsen, Maintenance Supervisor – Retiring one vehicle and in process of purchasing 1989 truck (used for firefighting in the past) \$25,500. JD & CB to take a look at this possible purchase next week.

JD – We need to give preliminary approval to this purchase.

This was moved, seconded, and carried for the preliminary approval.

AH – will need to do a budget supplemental.

Arts & Crafts bldg almost finished painting. Electrical still needs bids.
Also, Roofing project. Arts & Crafts Bldg only needs to be re-screwed and ridge cap. Will use the Small Works roster.
BOCC approves this project

9:32 Joe Paulsen requests another FT position
AH states that he would say no right now. There are other projects that are needing done.

Some discussion regarding the inability of using jail trustees due to Covid concerns. This may change with the Phas 3 guidelines, possibly. There is a lot of work to get ready for the fair this year.

9:37 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – wondering whether the BOCC had contacted Mike Burgess (lobbyist for Fair Association) regarding a bill in the legislature which concerns grants for all County Fairs.

NP – would like to utilize Brewster High School Shop class to build Rodeo Office. This is approved by the BOCC.

Discussion about the problem relating to Superior Court needing the Agriplex until September 1st. There are 11 other scheduled events that will either need to move or be cancelled. NP – We are losing \$10,000 on Saturdays. Court pays \$75 per day - government rate.
Will discuss this some more with Department heads at this afternoon's 2:00 meeting.

9:53 Joe Paulsen (JP) – brings in map of proposed water irrigation system for the fairgrounds. Currently need to irrigate 35 of the 50 acres.

10:00 Tanya Craig (TC), HR/ Risk Manager – just been informed that a generator was stolen from outside the courthouse. This will need to come out of Emergency Services Budget.

10:01 – TC – update of current hiring; 3 jail vacancies – will be doing testing, upcoming position in Patrol, 2 in the Prosecuting Attorney's office – 1 was just filled. Building Inspector should be filled within timeframe. - certification needed. FT position at the fairgrounds, and Clerk in Veterans Services

All openings are advertised through Worksource.

New County Website training Wednesday and Thursday.

Per TC – website is mobile friendly, easier to navigate.

CB Workforce Development group has a position for union/labor & apprenticeship. Would TC check to see if a Shop Steward to could be utilized?

10:15 -AH & CB discuss ratifying Economic Alliance again, every 2 years this is needed. Resolution already completed

10:30 Public Hearing Supplemental Appropriation Communication Fund 161
Mike Worden, Communications officer – This is to pay for radio network consultation, contract and improvements. \$270,000 for Consultant, \$110,000 for actual short term improvements.\

This totals \$380,00 They had been in hope of grant funding which did not happen. Therefore, need to pull from reserve.

No public comment.

10:34 – Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve.

Hearing closed

10:44 – CB discussed updates for Forest Collaboration Board regarding firefighting – forwarding to other Commissioners.

11:00 – Public Hearing regarding new cattle guard franchise, OCR 9309 by Ken Kramer. Anna Randall from Public Works explain the location and need. Cameron Lake Road MP 18,09, relinquishing previous cattleguard.

No public testimony

Approved by BOCC

11:02 - Ken Kovalchenko (KK) – Solid Waste Manager -

Waiver of tipping fees for fire victims ends 3/31/2021. BOCC agrees to extend another 30 days.

Twisp has an upcoming green waste event, in part with grant from DOE. To help with air quality. Another option to burning.

KK reports that he got his van approved. Also discussing clean up of illegal dumping.

There is an updated new card system with an annual cost of \$1000, but there will be savings also.

11:19 – Josh Thomsen, County Engineer - Updates on road conditions. Offices are now open – closure signs being removed.

Still problems with the bid on Hwy 97. DOT has denied the main bid winner and is in the appeal process. They meet the federal requirement but not the state requirement.

The new County shops are still in the works, but building materials have doubled. Market indications may make us wait on this new construction.

Discussion of history regarding parks and recreation being under the Planning Dept vs Public Works.

JT – Public Works is also looking at the river levels. It is actually lower than usual.

Adjourn at 11:40. Public comment period @1:30 pm