

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday March 29th, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC 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/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/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Discussion with Court Staff regarding security of new Court Annex, WDFW already having problems with theft, transfer of vehicle from Sheriff's Office, and staffing changes wage increase, going forward with legal review of county codes , group concerned about the animal ordinance, maintenance supervisor to bring quotes for replacement of compressor for cooling system, Planning Director: Planning Commission Meeting: zone code updates, shoreline management updates, software changes, and another copy of bylaws & procedures; hoping to work better with cannabis growers; difficulty with public records requests or drafts in progress; discussion of work space changes in planning due to sending records to retention; discussion on County's responsibility for trail maintenance at public facilities; possible part or full time position – will need to find funding. Person could look for grants. Public Works: Road maintenance, and study of speed limits on certain county roads, working on interlocal agreement between counties.

Right from the beginning today, the audio was very poor on Zoom. It required listening to AVCapture later to hear what was being said.

8:15 Met with Dennis Rabidou (DR), Court Administrator, and Chris Culp, Superior Court Judge. DR reports that in the new court annex, WDFW having problems with theft and vandalism.

AH asks DR what he would like to do. DR would like to purchase a security system with motion camera, fire alarm, surveillance. DR states these thieves are getting bold. CC states that it is just a matter of time before they break into the building.

8:30 CC asks if BOCC is giving DR permission to get 2 or 3 quotes for a security system. DR to bring back quotes. DR also reports transfer of vehicle between Courts and Sheriff's Office. LJ will have Resolution available later today. AH asks DR to make sure all vehicle titles are here with BOCC. Some discussion regarding need to titles to be with BOCC. AH asks DR to talk with Auditor about this.

8:39 DR requests that there be a pay grade increase for Judicial Assistant positions. CC compares their duties to a Paralegal position. DR would like to increase to Step 4. AH is more comfortable with Step 3 increase and then the automatic Step 4 a year after anniversary date. Maybe can back date to January 2022. DR will talk with Tanya (HR) about this. These positions are also based on performance evaluations. This increase will help with recruitment and retention. Current Judicial Assistants are at the ending of their careers.

JD states they (BOCC and HR) have been working hard to get everyone on an even plan with their salaries. CC complimented them on this. AH states that labor costs have gone through the roof, which is worrisome for services provided, but also variable revenues such as sales taxes are also up.

BOCC bids goodbye to Judge Chris Culp. His last day of work.

DR asks about any updates on Phase I of the Court Annex construction. Phase I has an April 7th date. Construction will not be for another 2 & ½ years.

LJ notified by Chris Moore, re: historic courthouse grant program. He seems to be okay with progress. Steps are phase I, then there is coding, and windows of the tower.

9:02 LJ brings up the need for a review of the county codes, some need to be amended .

Some discussion about whether the Health District can assess penalties or is it only the BOCC that can do that? It was moved, seconded, and carried to go forward with the legal review of county codes.

CB received call regarding animal ordinance. A group of people is concerned about the dog control officer.

9:19 AH discusses animal control area, open range vs stock restriction. It is okay to run animals across the road.

9:23 Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor - reports problems with pump, a squirrel got in the line – in the conduit.

9:25 DIVCO gave quote for replacement of compressor. JP reports getting more quotes for replacing the unit. AH states we need to start phasing old equipment out, but not prudent to replace everything now especially with bonding coming up.

9:32 Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director: Last night PP met with the Planning Commission. Albert Roberts elected Chairman, George Thornton Vice Chair.

9:33 PP gave planning commission quick update on things; zone code update, shoreline management changes, moratorium updates, software changed. PP also gave members another copy of the bylaws for them to revisit and for help coming up with policies.

CB asks if Planning Commission is averse to PP putting things on agenda? PP not sure. I don't have authority over the Board. By Laws and procedures are theirs.

PP explained moving forward with public hearing process with the Commission. AH states that he has things he wants adjusted. PP states she would like comments from all sides.

CB asks PP how do you see our approach to zoning. Our role is to identify priorities.

PP we have survey results & suggestions from Yakama Nation. Working with the state liquor control board for how to work better with the cannabis growers.

Last week, PP shared information on advisory committees. Things are in draft form and has 2 Public Record Requests. Draft documents get complicated.

PP reports Planning Office is working on the Retention Boxes and changing around office space for improved efficiency. Quite a discussion of this with BOCC.

9:55 Some discussion about the trail work needing done around public facilities. Funding provided by RCO. AH states he thinks we can formulate a plan. Possible position that could also search for grants.

10:02*****Executive Session 42.30.110L(i) with Civil Deputy, Esther and PP until
10:36*****

Another Executive Session to review performance of an employee. 42.30.110L (?)*****

10:55 Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer brings a list to the BOCC.

11:02 Road maintenance. Some restrictions lifted.

JT discussed some changes in speed limit between Tonasket and Havillah. Public Works is doing a study of County Roads and speed limits. Looking at numerous roads.

JD reports that people have been calling him regarding the speed on Greenacres Road near the pot farms. It seems there is a lot of speeding at lunch time. (*the workers*)

JT reports there have been no bids for replacing the windows in the Public Works building. He would like to get this done before winter.

More discussion regarding position to do the trails maintenance, could be funded by transportations funds. Public Works doesn't want to take this on. It would be good to have someone who knows the RCO requirements. JT states that person could also assist with road issues.

JT reports working on the Mazama Water Project, the Nespelem Bridge, getting designs for the Area 3 & Area 5 shops – septic systems.

11:37 JT reports an offer to fill their GIS position. On Consent Agenda; Cattleguard franchise renewals, JT also reports he is working on an interlocal agreement between counties for road work.

11:41 As no more business, meeting adjourned until afternoon session.