

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 1:30 p.m.**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer. 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:**

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk

*An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:  
[https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live\\_streaming\\_of\\_meetings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php)*

***Summary of Important Discussions:*** *Tonasket Emergency Services audited by state for budget imbalance, AH and CB differ on stance to take; JD handles phone-in public comment insisting BOCC can control judges; brief mention of premium pay, allusion to Fire District funding; CB relays Rep. Newhouse's proposals to fund projects benefiting "simple Washingtonians"*.

*Tonasket EMS - CB talks about the situation with the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) district. LJ says it's Tonasket's, not Oroville's, and that she is going to do some research into the spending. AH says the state auditor has done an audit because "the cash is going down faster than expenses are going out." LJ: The problem is the contract changed in October 2020 from \$21,800 to \$16,200. AH: Our costs were lower than what the levy was. LJ: They were auditing for a two-year contract, 2019 and 2020. I don't think they read that contract, just that \$21,800 number and didn't realize it had been reduced. AH: Maybe we should send a letter to the state auditor saying we already know about the problem and fixed it. CB: Our negotiations with Lifeline had included some options to look at it. AH: I think things are going okay. CB: Brad Scott for Oroville contacted me and they're starting to talk about "what are we doing"? It might be time to go talk to them. I'd rather talk to Lifeline first, looking at the budget and what all the arrangements are. LJ (She reads aloud from the terms of the contract) Sounds like an issue we had in the last audit. They didn't really bother to follow (inaudible).*

*AH says the Maintenance Dept. should be directed to put new shelves in coroner's office (which is scheduled for a full remodel). A citizen calls JD on the phone to talk about judges, and the BOCC's authority. JD talks on the phone at the same time LJ is announcing the agenda. JD: Elected officials (inaudible) the county commissioners that when they tell the Superior Court judge "you will do this" they can tell us to take a hike... he hangs up.) I'm surprised they didn't call on Zoom. The guy said we (BOCC) have jurisdiction over the disciplinary action of judges. (Inaudible.) Some statute that the commissioners run the judges. CB: That would be a different kind of world.*

*A motion was passed to reply to a letter from the state Liquor and Cannabis Board approving the application of Buddha Buds for a pot-growing license. Another letter from Liquor and Cannabis Board claimed that Sativa LLC, Greenacres Rd, had an invalid address. The board*

*will confirm that the address is indeed valid. AH: There's also an email thanking CB for getting things done (regarding the posting of agendas for Wednesday?) .*

**Funding - CB:** We have to get to the contracts and agreements for ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. **AH:** *(mentions a Fire Distric):* We'll have to pay for all that stuff. We don't have premium pay in the budget. We do have some latitude in the amounts of money we allocate. You can pay them up to \$13 more an hour, only if they're hourly workers you'd pay overtime to. **CB:** The rationale is that you're paying them for how many hours it takes to do the job... That's one that we could chat around with WSAC *(state commissioners' group)*. **CB:** *(U.S. Representative Dan) Newhouse is currently accepting eligible community project funding requests that would improve the lives of simple Washingtonians. Someone mentions a bad car accident near Twisp Airport Road. CB (gets back to the funding discussion) :* Another listing of selected project funding is due April 12<sup>th</sup>. It's for community projects.

*They say there will be no Wednesday Meeting but a special meeting is planned for this Thursday at 6 p.m. LJ will be there.*

*Meeting Adjourned.*