

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, March 7, 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/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary:

HR Summary: Planning for walk through & interview with potential contractors of Juvenile Justice Building tomorrow Wednesday 3/8/2023. Clarifying Chairman signature for the “across the river” project for Coroners Office. Metal Detection system to be installed in the courthouse – preliminary safety measures especially for election security, and movement of the Licensing office to a different room(102)- funding is available. Security guards working well, 277 Employees completed Sexual Harrassment training in person – the rest to do online. HR advertising for Public Records Coordinator – onboarding process/session for public records platform next week. HR provided certification waiver for one employee based on proficiency, HR considering having Narcan available at courthouse – working with Health Dept. HR/Risk Manager completed all certifications, 2 bids received for Spokane Grade Overlay project.

Solid Waste update: upcoming legislation requiring recycle/compost. Manager suggests proactive approach. Landfill working with Conservation District for a “green” day, reduction of organics by 2030. Also reported: April 18th, WalMart will not be providing shopping bags. Explains reduce vs recycle. Maintenance and Road conditions, Contractors beginning on Tonasket Shop. Need to be looking for property to make another pit. Current Public Works projects. Adjourn 11:59

9:00

Opened Meeting. Flag salute.

Looking over the proceedings for February 27th & 28th. Making adjustments to the Agenda – Shelley Keitman, HR @ 10:00. Working on Agenda for Wednesday walkthrough of Justice Building with Cortner Contracting & MJ Neal Contracting. This will be completed by JN and AH. CB won't be available.

Public Comment:

Ruth Hall asks about the Wednesday Agenda as will be a quorum. 10:00 walkthrough with Cortner Contracting - with interview in Commissioners Room around 11:00 AM. 1:30 PM walkthrough with MJ Neal Contracting - interview at 2:30. This will all be available to the Public in person for walkthroughs, and AV Capture for interviews. LJ to get out the new agenda for Wednesday.

9:10

AH discusses wanting to get as much infrastructure done as possible initially (at the Juvenile Center.) even if it costs more up front. CB agrees with this. Initially, 200 feet of trench and pipe need to be dug and laid.

CB also discusses the 'across the river' application is submitted and is hoping this working for the Coroner's Office. Permits through City, Shorelines and to the Tribe for comments.

9:11

This brings up topic for AH regarding whether CB (Chair) should be the signatory for the entire process as he feels it needs to be clarified that this is only for permits and application – not beyond that. Moved, Seconded, and carried to amend Resolution 2823-2023 to reflect this.

9:27

Ed Thiele (in person), President of the Veterans Association Board would like to resign from that position but stay on the Board. He cites family issues. He would like to suggest Eric Fritts be the President. Mr Thiele has been on this board for 7 years.

9:31

Cari Hall (CH) County Auditor, Dennis Rabidou (DR) Court/Juvenile Administrator, and Tim (?), Building Dept in to discuss courthouse/elections security. CH discusses how she would like to use the Elections Security Grant and change of Vehicle licensing room. The grant offers \$80,000 per year for 2 years, beginning 2023 (this needs to be spent by June 30th this year) for cyber security and election security. She has already ordered a locking station and vault. Also, a complete back-up to election system in case current system goes down.

CH has met with DR and Tim about security 2 courthouse entrances, especially during election times. Election staff are open after hours. They have 1 quote – that came back higher than expected, so CH asked for more money and was approved for this. There will be a metal/weapon detection system on 2 entrances. DR states that this is not the most ideal fix as a single point entrance would be best, but is a good start. They are battery operated which requires more staff attention. AH asks if other counties, etc are using these. DR states yes, schools, and other courthouses. Tim discusses the width of the doors as the detectors are 19 1/2 X12 ft.

9:41

CH states that her goal was to bring this information to the BOCC – hopefully 3 quotes. She has spoken with other Department heads and they are all on board. She has \$135,000 of State pass through funds that are available to use for this which should give us the 2 detector systems/doors. The check needs to be written by June 30th.

DR states that they will work on getting the required 3 quotes. CB states that if you have 2, you have made the effort.

CH asks what about manning them? I appreciate the BOCC being open to this, but I don't know about the staffing.

DR states that, ideally, they need to be manned. It won't really deter anything but give an alert. Observation is the most powerful skill.

CH thanks the BOCC for the Security guards. Staff feels safe having them in the building. It has made a huge difference for staff.

JN asks CH if there will be more people around during the elections.

CH states yes. She has found the funding and DR and Tim have been most helpful to her.

9:49

CH – next subject; rearranging offices. Moving licensing down the hall into room 102 – thanks to the Court. AH and Tim, and CH has looked at the new room. CH states there is \$125,000 in Capital Improvement funds for election security and flow of people.

CH has made to possible plans for the new room/ Licensing office.

AH states there is only 1 door in, but ground level windows, which could be used for fire escape.

CH wonders if an architect is needed. What we ultimately do will need to be approved by the 'State'.

AH states that he would not like to cut corners - would like to make it pleasing with nice & bright lights and other improvements.

9:58

CH states that she can't use any of her grants for the Licensing room, I can buy brand new countertops and utilize old ones for the room. AH states that he has been working to get quotes for Plexiglass/bulletproof glass. It will roughly be \$50,000 but would like to get another estimate. CH – Ok, I have \$90,000 allocated for this project. This is a rough estimate. Let me know what I need to move forward.

AH – Does state have to ok it? CH – Yes, but there shouldn't be any problem.

AH to Tim – Do you think that Maintenance can handle this? Tim states yes but may need an electrician. Tim has already been thinking of the type of flooring. CH and her staff have offered to buy the paint and/or paint the room, because they are very excited about this improvement. CH states that grants will be paying for a lot of these improvements.

10:08

Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR and Risk Manager reports that the courthouse security officers are in place. Next week is the courthouse security meeting. I will get back to you after that. AH asks if the officers are local. SK says yes.

SK also reports that 277 employees completed the in person Sexual Harassment training, the rest of the employees will do it online. She is hoping that 100% of employees will have taken this. It cost \$3600 for this training, and it was all covered by the risk pool.

Also, SK reports that she is working with other departments such as the Sheriff's Office, LJ, Planning Dept, and others to come up with a Public Records platform next week in an onboarding session. SK states we are advertising for a Public Records Request Coordinator.

Other business: The MOA that was signed last week for teamster employees to take advantage of the Bilingual pay for employees who went through certification process, has missed 1 employee in the Treasurer's Office that has been getting bilingual pay since hired in May 2022.

Brenda Aparicio has been doing the job proficiently already and has not gone through the certification. SK brings Resolution 38-2023 waiving the certification requirement for this employee. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve this. SK will put something in place so this doesn't happen again.

10:17

SK is thinking of have Narcan available at the Courthouse. She has reached out to Laurie Jones through the Health Department and will go through them.

CB commented that he has even seen vending machines with Narcan. SK well it is what it is.

10:18

SK reports that she has completed all her certifications through the Risk pool and would like to get a raise. She has done some comparisons with other counties that do both HR and Risk Management and she is 78% of their wage. She would like an increase of \$500 per month.

AH we should like to discuss this further. Can you give us the comps and we'll set this on the agenda for next Monday for an executive session.

10:22

BOCC work on the proceedings from February 27th and 28th.

10:50

AH would like to add a bid opening @11:00 to today's agenda.

11:00

Bid Opening for the Spokane Grade Overlay with Public Works Staff

Granite Construction \$777,242 and CW Asphalt \$640,000

11:06

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports he has a bunch of paperwork on the recycle program. He also reports that WalMart will not be providing shopping bags effective April 18th.

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer, states there shouldn't be a carbon tax on asphalt but he expects there to be.

11:10

KK is working with the Conservation District on a landfill voucher program for green waste. He will be meeting with them at 1:00 today. Nothing has been planned but there will be more information later. There has been the waste/ldf this session but will be back next year. KK states that County can opt out. But recommends that we develop a plan by next year. It will really fall on the wood. KK had many questions of the legislature including how do we get reimbursed for this? For recycling? UTC would come in and give a rate, then wonders how long before we'd be paid for that.

KK brings up the HB 1799 which will reduce organics by 2030. DOE called KK to apply for a grant. KK states there is also the National Ambient Air Standards ruling. We need to ban organics and work on air standards. KK suggest that we get together with Tribe and Cities for a compost facility.

AH questions just what exactly is 'green waste'. AH asks if there is something that could be developed with some of the waste? KK states that wood waste could be pelletized. Of course, that would be more expensive than compost. It needs to be commercial – not residential. KK discusses reduce vs recycle concept.

CB states the Tribe is already convening meeting about the Okanogan River Air Shed.

CB ask KK what he suggests. KK just wanted to make sure this is the direction BOCC would like to go.

11:39

JT would like to move forward to pick up 2019 Ford F-250 pickup for \$43,294. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve this purchase.

Maintenance & road conditions: JT states we still have some weight restriction on roads due to continued weather conditions.

Public Works staff went to 4 10's this week.

Some discussion regarding old shop property to be utilized by Sheriff's Office. Not finalized. JT reports that contractors are moving in to build the Tonasket Shop. Other projects; guard rail project, Salmon Creek, Crushing contractor to begin with Central Pit, Gaven Pit, and then Wauconda. Public Works needs to be actively looking for property for another Pit. DNR would be willing to work with County for a new pit. JN also suggest that County may want to do another Transfer Station.

AH asks where Gavin pit is – off McNeil Road. JN is concerned about the highway access. Pit is north of Ellisforde transfer station.

JT states the SEPA has not been approved for the Bridge Rehab project.

JT will be taking vacation.

11:59

Meeting Adjourned