

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday March 8, 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](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.

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**Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions:** Fairgrounds Update: office broken into twice in the last week, Fairground Manager asks for another part time position, Civil Deputy Dave Gecas resigned, Planning: Director updates on letters going out to cannabis growers to check compliance with zoning/regulations, updates on advisory committees for Comp Plan, & tally of survey on zoning priorities. HR/Risk Manager: Draft resolution to consider vacation holidays in light of State & Federal Holiday/Juneteenth. All open vacancies have been advertised for; March 14, Monday BOCC meeting to work into lunch as the 2 Clerks of the Board will be leaving for Conference, no meeting on Tuesday, March 15; Expect to be working on ARPA funding tomorrow/Wed March 9; Continued public hearing on Utility Franchise with City of Brewster to the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of April; Public Works: road maintenance, upcoming projects, beginning of summer hours, legislative update – tracking transportation package should complete by end of week. Replacing windows in Public Works building, concern of County Shop equipment being targeted by thieves, 2 federal funded projects.

9:03

Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds manager reports office has been broken into with money taken. 2 times in the last week.

\*\*\*Executive Sessions to evaluate complaint of an employee, BOCC to review \*\*\*\*\*

Inviting Tanya Everett, (TE) – HR/Risk Manager. RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

*When they came out of session, AH stated there would be no disciplinary action and would like to figure out another time to meet with NP – she would like to see the complaint/ e-mail. CB asked NP to bring her job description with her.*

9:22

NP looking forward to opportunity to speak with BOCC in public meeting.

NP also reports on pedestal project at RV park, Fair Advisory Committee(FAC) next week. Should she attend? Not necessary.

9:26

Public Works and Emerald Downs have recommended mixing topsoil with sand in the arena. NP is completely overwhelmed and needs a part time person to help in the office now with paperwork. Recent Public Records request for the last 2 years will take a lot of time.

9:30\*\* Executive Session with Pete Palmer (PP), Rocky, and Dave Gecas, Civil Deputy\*\*\*\*\*under RCW 4230.110 i\*\*\*\*\*

9:56

*Dave Gecas, Civil Deputy has turned in a resignation(??) AH saying it had been good working with him.*

PP, Planning Director reports she has 2 letters that need to be signed by the BOCC chairman going to 2 different cannabis LLC's There is a checklist of items needed by the State. AH asks if PP is checking zoning too? PP, yes, zoning, valid address, if it meets buffer zone, and is existing operation compliant.

PP – next thing working on delinquent statements for late fee for special assessments. Has been working with Leah McCormack, Treasurer. County puts lien on property if unpaid.

10:02

PP – also I have information on Advisory Committees – going through code in the Comp plan. We need to advertise position for Unit D. Making new boundaries. There is only 1, MCPA, no other sub unit had been created. School District is the line.

10:05

PP also reports on survey results for zoning priorities. There were 56 participants. AH asked about the nightly rentals. PP – we have added up 1200 nightly rentals in the Methow Valley with only 200 permitted. Once we find them, they will need to be informed that they are out of compliance with zoning laws. This falls to the Prosecutor to enforce.

Lastly, Staffing – lost 1 Senior Staff Planner. In recent hiring, PP

Offered the position to a way over-qualified individual and has been working with TE to write up job description and pay scale correctly.

This person has a background in Environmental law. *AH is concerned.* AH wants to make sure the Planning Department goes the direction that BOCC wants. AH states that we are not here to stymie development. Someone with that background could be coming in with an agenda. But AH does state that he knows people who have viewpoints of my own, but they work for Conservation NW. JD knows someone who is an attorney, when questioned about where he stands on something, he just states that he is an attorney.

CB states that peoples' views are private.

PP states that this candidate should be a good fit. The first person they offered the job to declined. AH wants to be sure that everyone in planning gets training and if PP needs, to go beyond budget, come back to BOCC with request for more funding. He feels this is very important. AH also suggests a communications class. PP is encouraging planners to go back to training. We're trying to utilize free trainings offered through Worksource.

CB state he encourages professional development.

10:18

TE, HR/Risk Manager – has a draft resolution to look at County holidays in light of the State & Federal government now having Juneteenth as a holiday.

TE – MOU added to consent agenda due to an error on pay scale.

There are 2 positions in LOA (*leave of absence?*) Will be getting this information in to BOCC next week. Albert Lin, newly appointed Prosecutor Attorney not expected to start until March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup>. He is currently in the middle of a trial and cannot leave current post.

There are people filling in to help David Gecas with records requests

TE state that all vacant positions are advertised for. She states that Civil Deputy is a tough position, since land use issues expertise will be needed.

AH since we have a lot of vacant attorney positions, we should do a budget amendment for outside counsel. TE suggests waiting until all changes are in place.

10:28

LJ reports that she and Crystal (Deputy Clerk) will be gone next Monday afternoon through Tuesday for a Clerk's conference. Tuesday will need to be cancelled, and maybe we can work through lunch on Monday as we need time in the afternoon to travel.

*There is some talk of working on ARPA funds tomorrow/Wednesday. \*\*\*\*\**

LJ has voucher for the HVAC unit installed in Central Services for \$23,324.25. LJ wants to know where in the budget to pay out of. Considerable discussion about whether from Maintenance or Capital improvement fund. LJ also has bills from Beaman Architect Services.

LJ has 3 vouchers for EMS Districts to be approved.

LJ also has a letter of support from MVCC, Elizabeth Walker, applying for a grant for Air Quality Monitoring. They are wanting to identify high areas of air problems, where new air quality sensors are needed. Grant is for purchase of sensors and to collect data. AH is concerned with their overall goal. Would like more information before signing letter of support. Would like the person to come in and present to BOCC.

11:00 Public Hearing for Utility Franchise with the City of Brewster. Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer and JoAnn Stansbury, Public Works Staff member. City of Brewster has not provided all needed information. Will continue hearing until the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in April @11.

11:05

Report by JT regarding road conditions, lifting some weight restrictions. Staff changed to summer hours. JT is tracking the transportation in the Wa State Legislature. WASAC and AWC are opposing this. Should be completed by the end of the week.

11:10

JT updates on upcoming bridge projects, building & material costs. AH explains some budgeting to JT; due to getting ready to bond 9.9 Million, \$150,000 has been moved out of Public Works budget until through with budgeting process, and then will be returned.

JT states there are 37 more windows to replace @ Public Works. Expects this to be just under \$40,000. Asphalt and soil stabilizer contracts awarded – on the Consent Agenda – awaiting signatures. JT expects the Chiliwist chip seal to cost \$230,000

AH reminds that there are \$249,000 to go to roads from ARPA funds.

LJ to send e-mail to treasurer and auditor regarding this process.

AH would like to suggest some employees taking vehicles home as they are becoming a target for thieves, as is the fairgrounds.

JD brings up that he is getting feedback on Rodeo Trail Road needing to be an all season road. May need to be put on the 5-year plan.

JT had talked with the City of Omak/Okanogan about joint projects such as the ballfields. Nothing is firm yet.

The 2 public hearings scheduled next Tuesday will be continued to Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00

11:41 Meeting adjourned. BOCC to reconvene at the Public Health Meeting this afternoon.