

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 12th, 2022, 3:30 p.m.

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Present:

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

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions: *BOCC approves pay scale increases and budget supplementals allocating state money to the county fair and moving already-approved funds to Affordable Housing for Oroville's Senior home; Letter approved requesting improvement in cell-phone signals; Hover and Branch discuss "absurd" meeting protocol related to EMS districts; Branch frustrated with Fair committee, trying to get Fair auction services handled by a non-profit.*

3:30 - Budget supplemental resolution on pay scale benefits approved. These increases affects wages through collective bargaining agreements as well as those of non-bargaining employees.

3:38 - JD moves to approve a letter to lawmakers Maria Cantwell, Cathy Murray and Dan Newhouse about the lack of cellular signals. Motion approved.

Laura Hernandez is re-appointed to the Okanogan County Housing Authority. Brendan Smith is appointed to complete the un-expired term of Yvonne Bustler White.

3:40 - Public Hearing to appropriate revenue from the State Department of Agriculture into County Fair fund 112. Public Hearing for budget supplemental for \$100,000 in community development services which were approved in 2021 but not budgeted, to be appropriated to the Affordable Housing fund 141. This will serve the Meadowlark Senior Housing Project in Oroville. Both supplemental appropriations approved.

3:45 - AH (*after the habitual routine of adjourning as Board of Commissioners and re-convening as each of the three EMS (Emergency Medical Services) districts in order to approve vouchers*): LJ, is there something within the bylaws that states that the chairman of an EMS district is automatically the Commissioner of that district? LJ: I do not think there are any bylaws. ...When the Commissioners took those EMS districts back under their purview from the advisory committees it was decided then that the commissioner of each district would be the chairperson of that district. AH: I don't think that makes any sense. It would be way easier if the Chairman of the Board was also the chairman of the EMS

districts. Then you wouldn't have the back and forth. LJ: It would be easier to keep track. CB: It's all very absurd anyway. ...In fact I will go back and make a big effort to look and see what the Commissioners' role is and if we're still in the County Commissioners role—I think Laney (LJ) said the State Auditor actually looks at that. I'm interested in talking to the Auditor... I can see it in court: "They made a decision and they didn't change their hats." The County used to remind us that there's a law that says if something doesn't make any sense to do, you can actually not do it. AH: Then talk to the state auditor.

3:50 - LJ: I received an email from the publishing company (*of the Methow Valley News/Oroville Gazette-Tribune*) with the agreement to begin the legal review. It was the first step the board requested in that process (for the publishing of legal announcements). It's \$4,500. That's just the legal review part. Agreement approved.

AH: I need to add a closed session to discuss a union issue. It's not on the agenda. And I need to clarify: LJ and I are going to meet with (architect) Michael Beeman. We're going to try to get the contract going for phase 1 of the Justice Building. I want to make sure you're both okay to go forward with that process. CB and JD: No problem. *They go into closed session for 10 minutes.*

4:04 - CB (*who apparently had attended a meeting of the Fair Advisory Committee (FAC)*): I recommended for the FAC to have a retreat. (*He reports on the meeting. It's mostly inaudible.*) ...a presentation by Mike, another by the Fair Youth Foundation. I asked, "How did this all come about? Is there a competitive process going on here? Never did see the minutes to their last meeting. I thought they had made the decision to go forward but apparently they hadn't. I don't agree with the process because there is no process. It's like the newspaper. (*Context: a business having proposed to contribute children's auction fees, the BOCC seeks an entity to manage the auction because dealing with donations could present a possible conflict of interest.*) AH talks about getting a proposal from a non-profit to run the auction services in time for the May 6th meeting. CB asks if it could accept donations. AH says he'll help prepare the request and have it published in Monday's Methow Valley News. AH: I'll do some brainstorming.

4:15 - *Meeting adjourned.*