

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday April 19, 2022, AM

Present:

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

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:

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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: Draft of zoning codes update by Planning Director, also matrix on Shoreline management review, update from Emergency Services Manager on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; community meetings to begin in May, Twisp water project for possible ARPA funds, along with Nespelem water system. (*BOCC still prioritizing*) BOCC Clerk and Chair to (pre) meet with Michael Beaman, Architect – a 20 year plan, Authorized CBCG funds, CB adding items to list for Legislative Steering Committee to consider, discussed cost of ADT security for 2 doors; Superior Court and BOCC hearing room – no decision yet. This will be close to \$40,000 together. County Treasurer gives brief update – \$2.2 million in current expense reserve. Discussions regarding fairgrounds upcoming projects, fire marshal and/or County Administrator position to handle grants. Public Hearing on NOA Net Utility Franchise, Sheriff's office suggests upgrading Administrative Assistant to Operation Support Specialist and at Pay:04 Band 18. BOCC approves office to write up a resolution, along with HR to present to BOCC – this is 100% grant funded position.

9:00

LJ gives recap of upcoming agenda items. 2 CBCG grants that are not on the consent agenda. Vouchers to approve. LJ rec'd information from Dept of Commerce re; returning mis-allocated money. Fire District 10 results of feasibility study.

9:04

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director

Provides draft of RFQ for Zoning Codes update and matrix on the Shoreline Management review. Who to evaluate? 1st Planning Dept, then to BOCC.

9:09

Maurice Goodall(MG), Emergency Services Manager reports he will be going to fire training regarding

drought. Water is running short in reservoirs. AH mentions that water equivalency in snow is low this year.

MG went to Fire Advisory Board mtg 2 weeks ago. The Board, along with the BOCC will determine the Burn Barn. MG also reported on the Multi-Hazard Mitigation plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Will be having community meetings beginning in May.

9:15

AH e-mailed draft of RFP for Auction Services – not time sensitive. AH also put bond information in there.

Also, discussed e-mail from Twisp Mayor regarding water project for ARPA funding. CB wants to determine how the timing fits in criteria. Looking for shovel ready projects. City of Twisp has already invested \$3 Million in the project already. Needs a new source connection \$75,000 needed. Pre-design, designing, piping, electrical costs, and permitting.

CB also brings up the Nespalem water system project. CB will check on the progress. CB wants to check on some other infrastructure projects to utilize the ARPA funding.

AH reports that he and LJ will be meeting with Michael Beaman, Architect consultant today and main meeting to happen @3:00 on Thursday on Zoom.

9:30

MG comes back to the meeting with questions of where his office will be. AH suggested that he let the architect know his needs about office space. Superior Court won't be fully moved in for 3 years. Overall, this is a 20-year plan.

(It was reported that Laurie Caswell has been running Zoom meetings and suggests changing the speakers – This seems to have made a significant difference on Zoom)

9:34

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve \$1,273,185 Vouchers

Also, Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve \$55, 376 vouchers for Public Health Payroll & vouchers.

9:36

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve CBCG funds 9 & 15 authorizing the chairman to sign.

CB reports on legislative steering committee (also wants to put Oroville EMS on next week's schedule) CB has suggested a couple of ideas for the list for County concerns:

1. Dilapidated buildings that we counties need to deal with, maybe giving the counties more latitude and funding for Counties and Cities.
2. Would like an effort to clarify appointment statutes that lack clarity.

LJ reports on security issues with door readers; quote for install on Superior Court door \$18,869, and reports what county would be responsible for. And the VG building door - \$17,450.

JD mutters 'pretty expensive'. AH would like to have meeting with Planning regarding this. It will be somewhere around \$40,000 just for the 2 doors. BOCC to make decision on this next week.

9:55

Lisa Schreckengast, Deputy Auditor, and Leah McCormack (LM), County Treasurer gave handouts on

finance update to the BOCC. LM states Revenues are good. Interest rates currently are .35%. There is \$2.2 million in current expense reserve. LJ explains to LM that she has received instructions from Dept of Commerce regarding the overpayment and return of funds.

CB states there are no shortage of things coming up to spend it on. AH remarks that labor costs have really gone up.

CB to AH – Re: ARPA funding, awaiting the federal infrastructure dollars to determine best use of ARPA funds.

AH states 'we put \$2 million in the Broadband CB is talking with someone in Island County to compare with. Prioritizing

Salmon Recovery Board will have BOCC hearing room tomorrow.

10:14

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

10:15

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve step increase of Admin Secretary/Tech in the Building Dept. Resolution 50-2022.

A lot of discussion, at this time, regarding capital improvement projects at the fairground, and budgeting discussion. AH states they are doing projects that have been needed for a long time.

10:34

AH and CB discussing possibility of paying for a grant writer/administrator for Fire Districts, using ARPA funds. CB states that will take some thought. AH also considering whether to have a fire marshal employed by the BOCC. Possibly for 5 years, at maybe ½ time to see how that goes.

CB- If I had my choice, I would like to hire a County Administrator for grant writing, and administering the grants.

AH has been comparing city budgets. Surprised at Omak's budget.

Lots of talk about annexing into fire districts, and tossing around the possibilities of new staff.

11:00 Public Hearing NOA Net Utility Franchise, 02-22 with Public Works Spokesperson, JoAnn Stansbury. This is a renewal for maintaining and operating fiber optic line, No public comment.

11:02 Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 054-2022. This includes underground and above ground.

CB suggests that maybe they get someone from the Fire Marshall Association to come and they can ask questions of. Knowledge is powerful. Having a good discussion is important. AH has heard complaints about fire marshals in other areas. ARPA funds can be used to develop & maintain regional fire authorities.

11:17

Undersheriff proposes to BOCC increasing a part time position to full time and would like to re-classify due to expanded role. This is not just an administrative assistant – does financial side of task force, access to grant \$\$, and controls distribution of \$\$ as operation needs. Increased responsibility. Files paperwork with prosecuting attorney office. Requesting change of title to Operations Support Specialist and change pay band to 18. This is more in line with duties of other positions in this

paygrade. Also, higher security and confidentiality. This position is 100% grant funded.

11:25 BOCC Moves, Seconds and Carries to authorize Sheriff's office to work with HR to create a resolution proposing this upgrade of pay and change of job description.

11:26

Meeting Adjourned.