

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 1:30 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 (via Zoom)
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Roni Holder-Diefenbah (RH), Director, Economic Alliance

No AV Capture video was published for this meeting. Times are approximate.

Summary of Important Discussions: *Closed session to discuss litigation ; BOCC hears Economic Alliance director and Cortner architect's Fire District #10 (Loomis) fire hall project presentation, three sites under consideration, must finance through grants, building not likely to start until next year.*

1:35 - Public Comment period (*not reported on*)

2:00 - Executive session in the Commissioners Room to discuss what CB described as an ongoing litigation

3:00 - Feasibility Study with the Cortner Architectural Company. One of their representatives came with RH to present three options for a new firehouse. The models described by the architect correspond to different pieces of land being considered for the project which includes a fire hall to fit four fire engines as well as a community meeting hall. They discussed land being donated which they could use for their satellite office. This land has no utilities but there is an orchard nearby which would facilitate the hook-up. The estimated budget for the project is approximately \$2M. RH added that this does not include the purchase of the property.

Different financing options were discussed. What the architect described as "low-hanging fruit" is a Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG). This could provide up to \$1M. The land must be purchased before funding is granted. The county would be the recipient and the fire district the sub-recipient. The district will apply in the next twelve months. The problem with grants, according to RD, is that, unlike big city administrations, they don't have staff to carry out the application process. AH raised the possibility of doing the project in phases and, while the architect felt this would raise the total price tag, he admitted this may be necessary. They also discussed building a large facility which could be sublet to the Department of Natural Resources. AH mentioned that the county is considering hiring a part time employee to administer American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds and suggested that this person might also write grants for county projects including the fire hall.

3:45 - Meeting Adjourned