

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 20th, 2021, 1:30 PM

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Larry Hudson, Noxious Weeds Dept.
Keith and Carrie Sullivan, Oroville residents
Denise and John Dane, Oroville residents
Tony Hawley, Okanogan Co. Sheriff
Laura Wright, Sheriff's Office

Time stamps refer AV Capture recording.

Summary of Important Discussions: *AH amends minutes of April 12th BOCC meeting; confusion over tax imposed on out-of-town customers by Spectrum; Weed Control report highlights continued search to fill vacant positions and funding received to fight weeds in burn areas, Okanogan river banks and Lake Osoyoos; Auction of surplus a success; Public Hearing on proposed Dog Control Zone around Lake Osoyoos with testimony from woman who suffered injuries from an attack by unattached dogs and had no legal recourse for lack of an ordinance, decision by commissioners to adopt proposed ordinance for Oroville, and raise penalties on infractions in all Dog Control Zones (the only existing Dog Control Zone being the one in the Methow).*

2.15.58 - AH changes wording in April 12th meeting to read: "Andy Hover believes in very sound data and will give a report to the Methow Watershed council. He said WRIA 48 uses the highest water consumption rate at 710 gallons/day in July."

2.26.42 - CB addresses issue raised by Jim Brannon in a letter to newspaper saying Spectrum is noting a utility tax that appears to be imposed on the customer by the local government on customers outside the city limits. It appears that the city is applying a utility tax on Spectrum to operate within the city and passing the effect of the tax to its customers. CB: "...Billing is misleading, indicating that local government has taxed the customer directly. Spectrum said city charged the tax to Spectrum. I'd like to follow up on it because the city doesn't have a utility tax. We'll look into it."

2.43.57 - Noxious Weed Coordinator LH has filled two field technician positions but needs to hire a lead field technician and two seasonal workers to be able to handle the busy season ahead. Landowners will be reimbursed for 50% of cost to treat Hoary Alyssum. Forest Service is providing \$5,000 to hire applicators to treat forest weeds. A Title 2 application for \$17,000 is in the works to fund three BLM projects: purple loosestrife and riparian weeds in the Okanogan, a patch near Enloe Dam and weed control in areas affected by the Palmer Fire. "We have tribal contracts to do treatment on the reservation: \$70,000 this year and \$20,000 next year." The State

Parks Dept. is funding treatment of Alta Lake and Bridgeport State Park areas. LH is pleased to be receiving “quite a few” contracts from landowners hiring commercial applicators through the county.

2:54:58 - In meeting with Lake Osoyoos Management Dist. LH discussed areas to treat for milfoil using a new product which he supports as being “selective, with fewer restrictions.” He brought up objections to the pest control tax by landowners who own several small parcels and would therefore prefer the tax be per landowner rather than per parcel. AH countered, saying appeals are easily dealt with in an annual public hearing, fairness is insured and no need to change taxing policy.

3:05:06 - AH moves to approve minutes from 4/12 and 4/13, consent agenda and vouchers for county and Public Health payrolls. LJ has received a check for \$151,444 from the county surplus auction. AH mentions revenues from car sales will go into a specific fund for vehicles.

3:43:04 - Public Hearing, Dog Control Zone. Okanogan Co. code provides for Dog Control Zones to be established. It received a petition of over 30 residents of Westlake Osoyoos area proposing such a zone, following repeated incidents, at least one involving serious injury as testified by DD (3:51:27) who was knocked unconscious and whose ulnar nerve was damaged when she was attacked by two free-running German Shepherds while on a daily walk with her husband. Since two doctors felt stitches would expose her to infection the wound was not sutured and thus the Sheriff’s Office could not take action in the absence of a dog ordinance, in spite of incidents involving these dogs numbering “in the double digits” according to Dane’s husband. The zone proposed in the petition included the northern limits of Oroville west of Highway 97 up to the border and from the east shore south to the city limits and back to Hwy 97. A motion was passed to draft an ordinance as described in the petition received last July, to update the pound fees and fines listed in the county code, and to have the Prosecutor’s Office review it before official approval by the BOCC.

4:22:53 - Meeting adjourned