

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, April 27th, 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
Owen Quinn (OQ), mechanic, owner of mining claims in the Similkameen and in Skamania Co.
Isabelle Spohn (via Zoom), Methow Valley, County Watch website coordinator

Time stamps refer AV Capture recording.

Summary of Important Discussions: *In Public Comment session, Planning Commission criticized for circumstances preventing public participation at recent meetings but progress in forming advisory groups and opening up the planning process to the public is appreciated; commissioners asked to support a citizen's quest to receive reparations from the federal government compensating what he called a theft of iridium gold mined after WWII in Okanogan and six other counties— says if the county asks for reparations his mining claims would entitle him to recover gold which he would then process into superconductors, commissioners skeptical; budget supplements approved for Central Services and District Court; waiving of disposal fees for fire victims extended, public hearing for Capital Facilities plan set for May 10th at 3pm; concern over fairgrounds water system and possible need for broader testing.*

2:49:38 - Public Comment Period - Isabelle Spohn (commenting on the Planning Commission): I'm impressed that (director) Pete Palmer is heading quickly toward establishing a committee a revision of the advisory group on one sub-area plan and another more completely planned area in the Methow. That needs to be done as soon as possible because things are rapidly changing in the Methow Valley, as you can see from the meeting with the Larry Gilman this morning, (*with*) the water situation, and because our only complete plan is many decades old, and the southern boundary has been up for discussion. At the Planning Commission meeting (*name?*) spoke of some hiccups finding members for the advisory group...I suggest advertising specifically what positions are being sought. On open government: It's probably an embarrassment to have the public listening to recent P.C. meetings. However law requires that the agenda for these regular meetings be made public on the web 24 hours in advance...I alerted the P.C. that it wasn't on Commissioners' website this week and they said it was a miscommunication with Central Services, and that the agenda and Webex (streaming) info were published on the P.C. site but not 24 hours in advance. I was unable to get any information at all...People make mistakes but it's starting to seem like a pattern. I learned, for example, that a special meeting was called and important decisions were made. If the county doesn't want people listening in they just have to send the information after the newspaper's deadline is over...People didn't listen in this time. Not even the radios station knew...This kind of action gives the impression you follow the letter of the law. A possible solution: awareness of newspaper deadlines, or delaying the meeting...There have been some improvements made.

3:00:07 - (Extracts from presentation of Quinn Owen) QO: I had a lease on the Similkameen, mined the lease above the dam...Four years ago made a mine claim down south in the Cascades. After WWII we employed military industrial complex Nazi engineers, mining people, sequestered them, paid them not to go to Russia...They were 20-30 years ahead of us in technology. We (the CIA) took 1,600 of them –

AH: ...We need to understand what we can do so we can understand the context of what you're telling us.

QO: All you would have to do is accept a deposit into the County's account...

AH: From who?

QO: From the federal government for reparations...give an account number, sign your names to accept and agree that I'm manager of the funds, but you control it.

AH: No. In government we don't do things like that.

QO: Let's say I'm entitled to the amount it would take to do the mining and refining of the values but am not entitled, because I didn't have the claim, to all the reparations. That goes to the people...It doesn't belong to me. Legally, because I have the claim I can lay legal claim to it; morally and ethically damage was done to the citizens that live here and it was stolen from them and sent to Germany and funded all of the Nazi bankers.

AH: So reparation for which claims? *(Back and forth with QO about it mattering or not where the claims are.)*

CB: I feel there's an argument on what exactly you're looking for reparations for. That would be important for the board to read the information *(you sent us)* and then decide.

QO: *(Talks about needing to approach six counties but Okanogan having a gold deposit that "marries up" to another claim and being "a unique place for values to be stored and utilized.)* ...The last *(under the table)* offer was \$500 billion to buy out my claim. That was White House and CIA.

CB: Who extracted it?

QO: The Bureau of Mines, run by the Paperclip Nazis.

CB: Who were the Paperclip Nazis?

QO: The ones that were employed to come over her and put in ...all phases of government...had permission to mine a sample and deposit it in the Treasury but instead they mined the whole thing, shipped between 3,600 and 5,000 tons of gold to Europe...I'm going to do the filing with the Federal Government. I wanted you guys to come on board and support it because if you don't make a claim for it they're just going to deal with me.

CB:...They *(the first National Bank)* are the plaintiff, you're the defendant.

QO: I'm counterclaiming. There's precedent. That way they can't dismiss it.

CB: I suggest the board read and decide if we want to hear the rest of it.

QO: There's a lot involved. If it was handled appropriately we could be like a Switzerland here.

CB: We need to talk to the attorney.

QO: She won't talk to me.

3:20:21 - Public Hearing, supplemental for Central Services - LJ: Supplemental is for replenishing equipment reserve funds previously approved for computer services (\$12,999 for backup hardware) and security services for a total of \$73,786 to be taken from current expenses and equipment fund. *(Motion approved.)*

QO: I'm the last one alive with the information. I was an apprentice of the scientists...

3:26:33 - CB announces public hearing for additional supplemental appropriations of \$14,000 within current expenses of District Court to allocate Cares Act Revenue funds to Court expense budget. Motion approved.

3:27:33 - QO explains that the gold from Germany in the Federal Reserve is in fact iridium gold, requiring a process to be made into a superconductor. Tells AH he only wants the gold.

AH: People were not paid for the gold that came out of the mines?

QO: No, I'm saying they didn't put the gold in the treasury...stole it and shipped it...

I can ask for reparations because I have claims in both counties.

AH: Why are you involved?

QO: ...If I want the gold, I need to get reparations. They don't go to me, they go to the people it was stolen from...I have a claim on what it would take to do the mining, a huge amount still left down there. The refining is huge...

JD: What are you going to do with the gold?

QO: *(Make a)* superconductor.

CB: A preface would be helpful in identifying what your objectives are...If this were written up for us after an attorney looked at it ...Capturing your objectives in a page or two would be a much easier thing to get started on...Then it doesn't look like you got a scam...

JD: When you get something like this on your desk it does look like some kind of conspiracy theory.

CB: ...*(We need)* an objective view.

QO: I wouldn't do a very good job. I'm a mechanic.

CB: I have the same background as you.

QO: I just want to get the job done....Maybe I can do something on a mission statement...

CB: I'll get back to you.

QO: I'll tell the Department of Justice you only want money if no strings attached.

AH: We need a letter from them saying "This is how we propose to remedy the situation."

Before I would even consider accepting anything we would need that letter. (QO leaves.)

3:48:02 - JD: The information is fragmented. You've got to pick and choose.

CB: The character we're dealing with thinks a lot differently from the rest of us. They can be very very smart but communicating is a difficult thing.

LJ: Why is he the only one, when there's so much gold?

AH: Why would government –we cannot just say we could accept money from one person on the government's behalf.

CB: I cannot begin to think why I would do it. I don't know why yet. I did get an answer, though, about the Paperclip Nazis.

JD: I do know that after the war they gathered up all these scientists. That's how we invented the bomb first...A guy I know has every engineering degree known to man...If I talk to him he's going to say that superconductor technology is 30 years-old. It's not going anywhere.

AH: I still don't understand why the federal government would take gold out of the Federal Reserve and give it to someone who said they stole it.

JR: I know a hundred guys who have tried this...

AH: I don't like the word "reparations." It's a long, long time ago. We live in here and now...

4:00:52 - Other business: Work Force Development Board - singing of appointments of Zach

Williams and Sarah Thompson Tweedy to the board. Resolution extending waiving disposal fees with Economic Recover for victims of Cole Springs and Palmer fire victims. Vouchers of \$438,838 plus \$7,476 for Public Health approved.

(Referring to OQ's presentation) CB: A question someone was asked once is "If you were given new information, what do you do, stick to your own thinking or do you have the room to change your mind if you were given the right information?"

AH: I totally have the room to change your mind but question the validity of the information.

CB: I just changed my mind on whether I wanted to hear from him. (LJ says it sounds a lot like a chain letter she got promising money if you give your information.)

4:15:37 - AH has sent the final draft of Capital Facilities plan. LJ says Public Hearing set for May 10th at 3pm. CB is concerned about Fairgrounds water system and how it's handled, doesn't know when last complete testing was done, fears there are contaminants that haven't been tested for in 20 years which could cause liability problems. Suggests teaming with city to have samples transported to labs. AH says DOH checks all group A systems once a year. CB says it's more complicated than that, a different schedule for different contaminants, is reminded of problem in Flint, MI. "I would ask State Health."

Meeting Adjourned.