

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, May 18, 2021, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2
Jim Detro (JD) – BOCC (*by Zoom later, absent until 11:00*)
Cari Hall (CH) – County Auditor
Leah McCormack (LM) – County Treasurer
Maurice Goodall (MG) – Emergency Services Manager
Naomie Peasley (NP) – Fairgrounds Event Coordinator
Joe Paulsen (JP) – Maintenance Supervisor
Josh Thomson (JT) – County Engineer, Public Works

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 <https://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.html>.

Time Stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture videom screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Burn ban protocol/collaborating with all agencies for clearer communication, continuing to determine advisory groups/units in the Methow, Maintenance at Fairgrounds/North Gate/ RV park, considering purchase and renovating of Forest Service building for use by the Superior Court/ how to fund with bonds (voted vs non-voted) , Treasurers Report, Public Works Update.

9:00 - *I just hit the tail end of the discussion that started at 8:15 with the Superior Court Judges and Dennis Ravidou regarding the feasibility of purchase and renovvation of the Forest Service building for Superior Court.*

9:04 – MG, Emergency Services; river is rising, Discussion of coordination of burn bans, between the County,, DNR, and Forest Service.

AH – Does County Burn bad supercede others? We need this clarified.

MG – will be meeting with DNR, Fire Chiefs, and possibly Forest Service.

MG still doing COVID things at the fairgrounds.

9:20 – Pete Palmer, County Planning Director – Met with Mazama Advisory Group. They still want to be part of the Upper unit. They are very well organized.

AH – Did you broach subject of extension of boundaries? PP – not yet.

AH – It appears that the 3 different parts is the best; Lower Valley, Middle Valley, and Upper Valley

CB – just go with the feedback that you get (*to PP*)

PP – Yesterday, one of the servers went down. Waiting for direction on how to handle this. Working with Central Services.

PP, We need to get info to LJ for the Critical Areas hearing. Working on establishing that.

9:26 – Joe Paulson, Maintenance Supervisor – Need to get the North Gate fixed, is hazardous.

AH & JP discussing what is needed and whether the chain link fence is actually needed also. AH asks JP to find prices for repairing gates.

AH – NP is doing spreadsheet for lost revenue d/t covid.

NP, Fairgrounds event coordinator – states yes.

Also, discussion about when Commercial building should be torn down, whether it has any historical significance, and need for bids. Also, discussion of the irrigation system repair and need for bids.

CB would like to look at a site plan to get a good over-all capacity.

9:42 – NP – RV Park needs help, all sites are being used for upcoming even with HS finals being held at the fairgrounds 5/22 (I think). No time to fix for this event, but need to do some future planning.

NP – would like like an agenda item for other things that are coming up, Too much for a short report. NP has been talking with Public Works regarding a grant for \$103,000 with a 50% match.

9:50 – CH, Auditor and other staffmember,

CB stated someone complained to him about no masks available at the Treasurers Office. Also, was hard to hear Dennis Rabidou through his mask this morning.

More conversation around Waterbank – new law.

CB has been perusing through Annual Report of Treasurer

CH – glad the BOCC is willing to review. This does not happen in other counties. CB happy for the narrative to help understand the numbers.

9:57 – LM, Treasurer, first half of taxes finished. Looks good for year as far as people paying. Usually send 500 letters out re: 2nd half of taxes, but only 192 this year.

All revenue and expenditures at 36% mark.

There are really no major changes in the numbers, with the exception of the \$7.3 million on county roads.

CH – Planning Dept is different.

LM – put an X where questionable change on the report.

CB – Clearly, there are other people that have been affected more than local government by the Pandemic.

AH – we had discussion this morning re: purchasing of Forest Service Bldg. vs what they can do elsewhere. They would like to do court at the FS Building. Will need to talk with city re; conditional

use permit. This will be a \$50 million project in its entirety. Juvenile will utilize 50%, This is for safety, room, and other issues. We need to do some planning – probably in phases.

LM – if you are going to bond, why do it in phases? If not going to voters for extra revenue, you can do bond documents based on \$\$ generated by property tax, sales tax, and infrastructure.

AH – Plz explain Bonds.

LM describes difference between non-voted bonds vs voted bonds.

AH does not want to increase taxes.

LM – We have enough revenue in assessed value taxed to use in bond calculation.

We will need to go through the steps of getting a bond rating. These people are easy to work with.

LM – some counties have found revenue by doing an audit of the tax monies collected by cities that should have come to the counties. Something to consider.

The county is expected to receive \$265,000 from Governor's Budget, but there are quite a few unknowns.

AH – I think broadband (capacity) is at the bottom of the list. (*possibly meaning the top*)

11:00 - Jim Detro comes onto Zoom.

11:02 – JT – County Engineer, Public Works, Solid Waste

Solid Waste is up by 18% over last year. A lot of waste from the mill site. No free dumping.

Maintenance and road conditions.

Currentling working on Miller Pit.

Making list of Covid impacts for BOCC.

Discussion with AH & JT about upcoming building of shops vs trying to get by to save \$\$ right now.

Items on the Consent Agenda: Loomis-Oroville Drainage, B-4 Bridge – Nicholls Kovich Engineering, Old 97 project

JD – had conversation with Doug Ralston regarding B&O/ B&O Road West grading. He had made agreements with previous Public Works staff and has been told that it is not a County Road now.

He has nothing in writing regarding this agreement.

JT had researched this and found it not to be part of the County Road System – not on 1955 Road list.

JT has been talking with the landowner, Doug Ralston. - thinks he understands but does not like it. JT will continue to research.

11:23-LJ has some items that need to be signed and considered; 2021-6 ordinance regarding dog control in Oroville, Moved, seconded, and carried.

11:30 – discussion on how to access Maps on the website – possibly making it more easily accessible.

11:42 – MOA between the County & TV District 1 - \$50,000 R & R for repairs on Omak Mountain. (in process)

Discussion of training; diversity, equity, and inclusion

LJ – Does BOCC want to meet with Russell Potter (Architect) re; FS building? Yes

BOCC to discuss adding other staff to help LJ streamline her office. CB won't be at meeting on the 25th between 10:00 & 11:00. AH – Vice Chair will take over.

11:51 meeting adjourned until Public Comment period @ 1:30C

