

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday May 24, 2022, AM

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2 (in Union activities to begin with)

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 and paraphrased. Note take 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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

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: Planning Director shares draft of work and timeline for zoning code revisions, RFQ's have been sent out. Reaching out to consultant firms. 139 State Cannabis Licenses have been issued in Okanogan County. Last night, Planning Director went over cannabis code revisions with the Planning Commission, Cannabis Moratorium ends August 28th. Director to meet with Dept of Ecology this afternoon regarding Veranda Beach. 58 permits gone through checklist for water adequacy in the Methow, all in the building permit stage. Dept a little behind in the Shoreline permits due to staff member illness, there has been an uptick of putting in pools in the Methow which has been a learning experience regarding water adequacy. Maintenance is gathering quotes for HVAC systems to buy and/or rent for both the Jail and Justice Center, BOCC decided to rent 25-ton unit for the Jail and do more research for future planning with an engineering service. Fairgrounds update: grandstand preparation nearly complete, will bring back bids for grandstand purchase, also meeting with tribal attorneys for memo of understanding (MOU). Some discussion regarding have a big-name performer at the fair, needing a festive permit or not. Presentation by Omak landowners, Kelly & Natalie Cariker regarding water drainage from Kermel Grade – County Road.. Public Works report on road maintenance, problems with Hubbard Road – north of Riverside fatal accident – private road, but may be a county road again. County shop construction going out for bids. Polypropylene material found for bridges.

9:05

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director shares a draft for work and timeline for zoning code revisions, RFQ's have been sent out and due 25th & 26th, Proposals due June 22nd. PP has received comments from Yakama Nation and have pulled out these code sections as a priority list for consultant. PP does not have a consultant lined up yet. CB suggests that to reach out to different consultant firms, which

she will do.

PP also reports there are 139 state issued cannabis licenses for Okanogan County. PP went over cannabis code revisions with the Planning Commission at their meeting last night. There will be a public hearing in July, and August 28th is the end of the cannabis moratorium.

PP reports having a meeting with Wendy Meek, Dept of Ecology today regarding Veranda Beach @ 1:00.

PP reports the Planning Dept has completed 58 permits that have gone through the checklist for water adequacy in the Methow. They are all at the Building Permit stage of the process. There has been an uptick in putting in pools which has created a bit of a learning curve for Planning Dept. Shoreline Permits are slowing down due to staff member out sick.

PP notes that the Planning Commission meeting did not have sound on the AV Capture last night.

9:15

Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor reports on HVAC needs for both the Justice Center and the Jail. Suggests renting a 25 ton unit for the jail (for 5 months) as a temporary fix until an engineering firm can assess the best way to go for permanent heating and cooling. Sun Belt is the only company that got back to JP. We have more options at the Justice Center – we can rent or purchase units.

AH states that we better get this done for the Jail. AH & CB agree not to wait any longer.,

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the rental of the 25-ton HVAC unit for the jail. JP states he will get right on it as it is taking so long to get things. BOCC considers renting unit for Justice Center with option of purchasing. JP will get back with more figures on that and try to get engineering company contacted for permanent fix. New purchase is between \$80,00 & \$100,000 estimated.

9:41

Naomie Peasley (NP) Fairgrounds Manager reports (via Zoom) that she is still working on the RV Pedestal project. Fairgrounds staff have completed spraying weed & feed across the grounds.

High School Rodeo finals this weekend.

Grandstand project is nearly complete. AH states we are going to need to order the grandstands.

Discussion of whether 2 or 3 sections will be needed. 2 sections can seat 525 people. That might be enough. AH asks NP if she can get a current quote for 2 sections? Then, after purchasing and installing them, will know better whether we need to purchase another one. They are \$33,000 per section. NP will get information back to BOCC by next Tuesday and find out delivery time.

NP states she is meeting with the Tribal attorney today for a new memo of Understanding (MOU)

BOCC talks among themselves regarding the Fair getting some big-name performer, like Mark Chestnut to play at the Fair, whether there is a need for a festival permit or not.

9:58

AH to LJ, does she have anything to bring before BOCC? She has a couple of resolutions from the Treasurer's Office

10:00

Public Hearing for Budget Supplemental for District Court (Therapeutic court) from AOC funds (new grant) for \$40,625 Resolution 70-2022 – Moved, seconded, and carried No public comment, no staff comment.

Nothing discernible from conversation between hearing and the 10:30 agenda item of Natalie & Kelly

Cariker's presentation

10:30

Natalie & Kelly Cariker, landowners in Omak brought a power point presentation regarding water drainage from the Kermel Grade road (county road) with a history of agreements, water rights, and boundary line adjustments from 1907 until the 90's. Josh Thomson (JT) county engineer in attendance. A very good presentation regarding the water drainage from springs and/or other drainages that go through their property, through the City of Omak storm drains and into the Pond of the Omak School District. Their concerns are where is the water coming from and where is water going as there is an extensive, unclear pipe system that does not seem to be working. They invite the BOCC to come and check it out in person. The remedy they seek is assistance with maintaining and clearing out of stream bed. It gets so hard, they need to use crow bars to break loose. They request a response from BOCC in 2 weeks.

CB states that BOCC will need to discuss, meet in Executive Session, along with County Attorneys.

JT states that when the Kermel Grade road was moved, the water diversion was unclear and inadequate for the volume of water there is that area.

This presentation went from 10:30 to 11:39

11:40

JT gives Road Maintenance report. Normal spring issues, grading for chip seal. He turned in the OT report. The 3 CDL candidates in training all passed their exam.

JT also reports fatal accident north of Riverside – Hubbard Road. This used to be a public road but is currently private – even though about 20 or so new homeowners would like to see it a County Road. JD states that if DOT uses it, they need to repair it. It is in dis-repair right now. JT states that the road would need to be upgraded to a reasonable condition to be looked at as a County Road.

CB brought up the fact that the land had been subdivided and no provision for the road. This is a land use issue that is problematic. Apparently, the Mule Deer Foundation is interested in putting in a deer fence in the area too per JD.

JT also reports the new shop is going out for bids. Public Works found some polypropylene material to use on bridges. Now, they have a solution.

11:57 Meeting is recessed for lunch and will resume at 1:30.