

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, June 1st, 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
Cari Hall, Auditor
Kathleen Johnson, Tonasket Ranger District
Larry Gilman, Assessor

*Time stamps refer to **clock on the wall**, AV Capture recording.*

***Summary of Important Discussions:** Housing Coalition recommends that the county Homeless Housing fund aid families threatened by eviction and ineligible for other aid because of their revenue; Burn ban declared for June 1st, AH pursues his research into the Mazama Water Quality Fund and how it might be spent; power outage generates expensive repair, county parcel requires spraying, would be good to sell it; Tonasket Ranger district needs announced, including new truck, a culvert repair, fire crew and botanists; rise in assessment of most residential properties throughout the county but 25% reduction on lots affected by subdivision moratorium.*

1:35 p.m. - LJ: Community Action Council is requesting \$40,000 from the county to assist families being evicted due to non-payment of rent. They are ineligible for other grant funds because of income level. To get landlords paid, Housing Coalition met and recommended the County pay through its Homeless Housing Fund. *AH says its a good use for part of the \$8 million they expect to receive in aid but to consider it "an interim source"; he'd prefer, as CB suggests, spending on "bricks and mortar. AH: I'd like a written request outlining what it would be spent on. CB will ask a colleague if they have to apply for the \$8 million.*

1:49 - Burn ban - *Decision to imitate other counties setting it for June 1st-September 30th.* CB: We were moving a shed, didn't even want to drive up to it. AH: It's so windy. JD: Dust up to the snow line. AH: Like the dust Bowl...

1:50 p.m. - *AH is researching Mazama Water Quality Fund: Commissioners at the time put a tax assessment on sub unit A from Winthrop to Mazama...to create a sewage district, but people got mad about it and the board started refunding money to them...I would really like to see the money put to use on the CRM Process (Coordinated Resource Management--used for water testing) to get some answers.*

1:57 p.m. - *LJ asks how to deal with a \$8,890 bill from Cruze Electric for repair of their UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) system. Debate with AH whether to do a budget supplemental for Maintenance or Professional Services for Central Services. (2:16 p.m.) Auditor arrives. CH: Go through Central Services IT. Power went out a week ago Sunday, damaging internal transfer switch. Cruze contacted Eaton (company for UPS repair) who said we required new batteries*

costing \$15,000, and a subscription would be \$3,400. Maybe next year? Just asked for estimate on broken switch. AH: Pay the bill, figure out what the switch is going to cost.

2:29 - CB and AH talk about replacing their chairs which LJ says were already there in 2005. CB opens public hearing to “authorize American Rescue Fund of \$190,000 to accept budget for revenue, necessary to receive funds.” No one being present to comment, hearing closed.

2:43 p.m. - LJ raises the issue of how to budgeting the spraying of weeds on county properties since maintenance budgets are attached to their respective departments. CB remarks that the lot concerned, in Malott, is “a stray”, granted to the county by a citizen; spraying could go through Assessor’s office. AH: It would be good to surplus. Could offer to adjacent land owners.

3:07 - Tonasket Ranger District report - KJ says among top priorities are: a new truck, Black Pine Creek culvert replacement, filling potholes created by snowmobiles and making Crawfish Lake a fee campground with a host to be there all summer. CB calls list “quite an array” and KJ says she’ll e-mail all the projects. KJ: Since we came to the Colville Forest they’ve had a resource team that can go to work on anything anyone has: dumped garbage, emergency maintenance. We’re looking to using them for derelict cars people are leaving all over Tonasket, anything not normally funded...(JD talks about a Model T dump truck Boyd Hill wrote a poem about in ’71.) KJ: Next week got all the (ranger) temps on. Hired four temp botanists, then two got another job. AH asks about Travel Management plan, KJ says they may end up getting under Colville’s Forest Plan first, then “other things can fall in.” On fires: Hand crew left without their head person. Looking for a summer employee. 1,000 acres of prescribed burn this year, up from last year. Won’t be surprised if they say no cooking except inside a trailer. This year no rain at all. CB: At Hood River they won’t even sell firewood. (3:29 p.m.) Timber sales - KJ: Three sales have been signed, the third, on Mt. Hull, to be completed end of 2021. All logging completed around Crawfish. CB: And on DNR land? KJ: Thought (the deal) was all done but Olympia and Portland didn’t like it and shut it down. Now has to go through private land...DNR has tidbits of land all over. Firewood on DNR land is free but need to get permit, map and regulation. Open April through November. KJ has praise for new Methow ranger, Elio, who “really gets out,” does a lot with Titi from Colville Reservation. KJ criticized how Forest Service contracts out for road maintenance, costing 3-4 times what it would otherwise, and says Colville has more proactive engineers. Asks CB for answers to their requests in time for their June 14th meeting.

3:54 p.m. - LJ says they should ask the person who wanted the county parcel sprayed to identify the weed and tell the assessor next time instead of sending the bill. CB: That’s the program. “You do it or we’ll do it for you.”

3:55 p.m. - Assessor’s office - LG:...We mailed the statements today for the rest of the county. It’s the first time the entire county has got their value changed. CB: They haven’t gone down? LG: No. (Laughter.) On Methow (parcels) we’re physically inspecting this year. CB: How do you look at the improvements when they’re mid-subdivision? (Says he’s wondering about the five exceptions to Ecology’s moratorium on properties subdivided since 2002.) LG: We don’t value until they’re reported. We’ll evaluate a house under construction. Gives example of a \$20,000 lot divided into four \$20,000 lots with \$60,000 worth of construction. The difference between the new and old value is the construction. AH: ...We have subdivisions that we have a moratorium on. LG: Moratorium parcels are lowered by 25%. When we re-assess we look at sales and see if the 25% model is good or not. If someone builds, we remove the 25%. (On the 1-year building moratorium on subdivisions): I’m working on next year so I’m hoping you guys are going to resolve it so I don’t have to. Next August we’re going to look at it being not there until you guys do something else again.

4:00 p.m. - Meeting adjourned