

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday June 21, 2022 AM**

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

Jim DeTro (JD) – District 3 (not in attendance)

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/offices/commissioners/commissioners\\_proceedings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php)

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click 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: Commissioners approve the 20 year plan, option 2 recommended by Architect – biggest costs are building construction, ie the Courts, Discussion of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan with Emergency Management – process with SEPA & NEPA – July 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> to have a public hearing on, Burn restriction in place, met with Finance Committee to discuss process and procedures when creating new positions, New position in Public Works to work with Recreational Conservation Office (RCO) on trail system term maintenance and also regional transportation planning, Several County Employee salaries have been changed, going into arbitration with the Sheriff's Office staff, some discussion about lake management districts and opting out, Update from Public Works; road maintenance and solid waste – provided transfer station load limit resolution. Chiliwist road chip seal to be completed today. Salary increase for Prosecuting Attorney in the District Court – Step 5, Meeting adjourned around 11:30

9:00

*Commissioners Hover and Branch in attendance. Commissioner DeTro absent.*

AH and CB moved around some of this afternoon's agenda items. AH asked LJ to send an e-mail to Auditors office regarding only the Commissioner's Office to do invoices for a specific fund (ARPA, I believe)

9:15

Public Comment period – No one comments. Ruth asks questions regarding new time.

9:20

LJ has an item to be decided by the Board. 2 options given for the 20-year plan from Architect, Michael Beaman. He suggests Option 2 with the most cost being building construction- a needed building for Courts. This will also deal with long term difficulty of courthouse security.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve Option 2 as recommended by the Architect.

9:30

Maurice Goodall (MG) Emergency Manager in to discuss how to implement the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. This has been approved by the Department of Ecology. They are just waiting for us (The County) to adopt the plan, officially. MG questions when SEPA is needed. AH states that SEPA or NEPA are needed with only a few exceptions. SEPA satisfies the State & Federal environmental process. Discussed whether to have public hearing or not. It was decided this was the best, whether an actual requirement or not. July 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> given as possible dates for the hearing. This plan will need to be continually updated.

BOCC will discuss this further with Planning Director this afternoon @3:00.

MG reports the burn restriction is in place, expecting some drying out this week, and watching the river levels for flooding.

9:55

Treasurer, Leah McCormack (LM), Auditor Cari Hall (CH), and Deputy Auditor Lisa Schreckengast (LS) arrive for the finance meeting.

10:00

Finance meeting begins with LM reporting cash on hand and wanting to discuss resolutions and setting salaries for next year.

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer also in attendance to discuss creating the new position to maintain trails and work with RCO. This position will be housed and supervised in Public Works. JT has been able to figure out how this position can cover the Trails and Regional Transportation Planning. This position will be 50% Current expense fund, 25% RCO, and 25% roads. There are many county owned trails and infrastructure to be maintained, BOCC needs to create a new resolution to create a new position, such as this. CH adds that this new position needs to be included in the 2023 Budget for Public Works, which is due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

AH states that the BOCC has done several changes to salaries this year. CH wants to be sure the process has been followed. She also states that ARPA funds are being audited this year. CH asks BOCC to write a letter to all departments requesting budgets get in by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

LM brings up a case of an unhappy ratepayer that is required to pay a annual charge for lake maintenance and doesn't understand the process. This is to kill the weeds along the lake. Their property is set for foreclosure due to lack of payment. People can opt out of this if they want to. This person needs to contact BOCC to get questions answered.

11:00

Bid opening for Public Works Building. Only 1 pre-bid Howell Builders. Public Works will come back with their recommendation. It appears to be costing in the nature of \$4,357,000.

11:03

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste manager presents paperwork for transfer station load limit resolution. They have been busy and most equipment is up and running.

He is wanting to make temporary positions permanent. Contract for Environmental Consultant – Parametrix on the consent agenda today.

JT updates on road & maintenance; Chiliwist Road chip seal to be completed today. Other bridge work completed. Public Works uses 230,000 gallons of fuel per year. 3.6 gallons of fuel per hour. Also, there

is a \$1.50 per gallon cost increase. There is also the Gravel crushing contract with Duke Construction on the Consent Agenda.

11:23

Albert Lin (AL), Prosecuting Attorney requesting approval for salary increase to Step 5 for attorney for the District Court due to skills and experience. Moved, seconded, and approved Resolution 91-2022 making this increase in pay.

*Zoom & AV Capture both froze, but LJ reported that the meeting was adjourned somewhere around 11:30.*