

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**June 14, 2022 AM**

Accepting the HE's findings, conditions, approval of Long Platte near Brewster. Char

**Attending Officials:**

Andy Hover (AH) - Chair, BOCC, District 2  
Chris Branch (CB) - Vice Chair, BOCC, District 1  
Jim DeTro - (JD) BOCC, District 3  
Josh Thomson - (JT) County Engineer  
Char Schumacher - Okanogan County Planning Dept.

*These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.countywatch.org/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, Click [here](#).*

**AM Session - Note :** *County Watch was able to take detailed notes on only the 10:42 - 11:45 Sessions for this morning. For 9:00 AM (Review BOCC Meeting Minutes) 9:15 AM (Public Comment Period) or 10:00 AM Presentation North Central Washington Library see Full video coverage of AM sessions is available at [Okanogan County, WA](#)*

**AM & PM Summary:** *Preliminary Approval of Park Place Long Plat near Brewster; Public Works updates: Solid waste project in Bridgeport; Road report including minor flooding near Carlton, substantial flooding on Bonaparte Ck some flooding in Sinlahekin; Chip sealing on Newby Ck, Chewuch to come next ; rising fuel prices & possible strategies for Public Works. CB emphasizes that weather/financial predictions at this point are difficult. Discussion as to how to leverage and track grants. Conconully sewer; new positions of 1) Transportation Planner and Recreation Trails and 2) Capital Projects Manager or Assistant County Engineer (Resolution #84-2022 discussed.) Tanya Everett's last day as Director of Human Resources and Risk Management. **Adjourned at 3:45.***

**AM notes:**

**10:42 - Preliminary Approval of Park Place Long Plat # 2021-2 and acceptance of recommendation of the Hearings Examiner. (Not on agenda.)**

**Char Schumacher:** 1/2 mile from Brewster on Chinook Way. Fred Tradup is the proponent. Long Plat - process for processing a long plat. When receive application, it starts 30-day

comment period, SEPA comment. Once closed, hearing before HE - once he renders decision, she transmits to the Board. Your decision is the preliminary approval. Once they complete the conditions, a closed record hearing before BOCC. This project is down by Brewster. Brewster flat domestic has enough water, but not the delivery. When they get that approval, they will transfer over from exempt well to that delivery system.

AH - When they gave this proposal, was there a timeline?

CS - No, just that once it became available, they would transfer over to the other delivery system. This is not a condition of approval, but was on the Plat and the notice to the public.

CB - The SEPA document is usually a disclosure document. The approval and decision is quasi-judicial, something that as they changed the Regulatory Reform Act, they didn't make that change in the subdivision process. Emphasizing that if someone comes to talk with you about the proposal, you should not talk to them. There is still a final decision to make on the final plat. Don't get "cozy" with the proponent.

AH - Wants to know more about the plan for switching over from Group B to connections. Wants to know about connection fees. If not spelled out here, but proposed that way, where the regulatory side of that is. Would like to have that spelled out.

CS - You can add language that the source would be transferred over from Group B. I can draft some language.

AH - Will they decommission the well?

CS - will get the info.

CB - checks to be sure language from Ecology is there.

AH - Drilling a well in Group B system there is not a bad thing. Just wants to know how the transfer will go.

CB - I hadn't gotten through this, but not knowing what changing over means.

AH - There is a well that is existing, got it for this project. There will be a Group B system off this well. They will get off the well, and will join the Group A system.

More details were discussed. Permission to discharge off-site

CB - Either way, there is a legal pathway to water on either way, so to us it shouldn't matter.

AH - I'm just concerned about the transfer over language. If they proposed this, where is the language that says they will do this, or the infrastructure runs out....would they just continue on Group A?

CB - If they do that, is there a problem?

AH - No, but problem lies in that there is a proposal to do something. Maybe the people there will expect maintenance, etc. on that system. When stated in a proposal and everyone looks at it, and there is no hook to do that proposal - bothers me.

CB - Why did they do it this way? Could have just continued with Group B system?

CS - Will follow through and ask more question.

AH - Maybe they absorbed the well? And would de-commission? Or is it integrated within the system?

CB - With all that, it's a good question - not concerned about the answer, but I may be when I get it.

AH - No questions about adequacy of water, but the transition language needs to be checked. Would be best to be connected to a water line.

Established that there was no letter from Public Health.

CS - Will check more into the process.

AH - If we know, maybe they are just waiting to see....maybe if all lots are on market and sell right away, they would need the Group B system.

CB- I look at it as having a Group B system, and do not rely upon the Group A system to make a decision.

AH - No, in notice of public hearing and application does not have anything about the Group A system. Other questions?

CB - Moves to accept recommendation of HE and give preliminary approval to Park Place Long Plat 2021-2.

**10:45 AM** - Support letter discussed (apparently discussed with Dennis Rabidou early this AM (to Dr. Walker, supporting a research proposal regarding substance use, editing of letter by AH.)

Branch's problems with e-mail discussed.

### **11:01 - Josh Thomson - Public Works update**

**Solid waste** - budget adjustment for design costs and Bridgeport transportation drain improvement. Para metrics contracts on design elements - 10 separate contracts and load limits for Transfer stations in re cubic yards, etc. Load limits discussed, more next week.

**Maintenance, roads.** - minor flooding near Carlton, Bonaparte a problem. Water is back out fo creek and across the road, quite a ways above the road. Issues between neighbors, so no equip along the way. Fish bearing stream, a source of sediment. Sinlahekin, north of Blue Lake - flowing above. Keeps happening for years after a fire. No water over road, so ok for now.

**Chip seal** - Newby creek by Thursday. Wide shoulders on Chewuch near Bear Ck next. Bridge B-4 should be open tomorrow.

**Fuel prices** - County uses 230,000 gallons of fuel per year. Trying to figure out how to deal with increase in petroleum prices. \$6.50 per hour more now to operate fleet. Thinking of raising rates. No solutions.

*Extraneous Discussion:*

“Regime change is the problem” (DeTro.) Thomson agrees - “Who turned off gas from Russia?) CB questions the blame and who is making the projections. Where do our projections in the county come from?) If it’s based on politics, there also will be wilder projections.)

JT - Last time this happened, construction etc. was stopped but it hurt the county and we are still paying. Advise that we proceed as normal.

AH. Agrees - Proceed with chip seal for now. If it goes up extremely high, reconsider.

CB - Many aspects of all this are very hard to predict.

JT - And chip sealing is preventive. Leaning toward increasing rates on July 1. Conconully sewer....goes Ito details. Built in 1991. Dept of Health can’t tile us that our system is a problem, but they are telling the Liars Cove it is the problem of the property owner. Thomson says county has responsibility for 2 tanks, to dig them up and put in concrete. Probably put into a different location. \$50,000- \$75,000 to repair a system that was functioning. They could also start treating the water. We might need to do something. Are ARPA funds available?

**11:15 - Public Hearing, Utility Franchise 03-22** - Well Orchard in Loomis. Bighorn and Sinlahekin Franchise. Stansbury does history of issue. No public comment. Resolution #86-2022 passed.

**JT: Continued Public Works discussion.**

**Conconully sewer:** JT asking for BOCC input.

AH - When the system was put in, it went through procedures. Whose well is it? (Liars Cove) Liars Cove was there when the system was put in. Request original application for the sewer. Site analysis, etc. so we can understand what went on.

JT - OK. Plans went on for all of it.

More discussion of the details of the system, raising of level of the upper lake possibility.

AH will take up with Brushwood and Fisher to ask about possibilities of this and the dam.

JD - They should replace the dam. Gives reasons, talks about finances of the past.

CB - Is there any conceptual map, etc?

AH - Brad would have.

JD - Petition in Conconully last year demanding water be left in the lake for recreation. I told him irrigation was set in stone 50 years ago. They can put a creek in if they want to. Told these people to get behind the move to put the dam further downstream.

JT - Talks about other factors.

AH - Asks for schematic as to what is where.

JT - Yes, but not very good. AH asks him to get it.

### **11:25 Transportation Planner and Recreation Trails positions**

AH - Asks about agenda for June 21 and finance meeting - Need to talk about "this position" here. (*Transportation Planner?*) It's an important finance meeting next week.

LJ - We have an hour set aside.

**11:27 - JD - the "other position"** (Capital Projected Manager/Assistant County Engineer?) went to Tanya, has job description attached. Transportation Planner and Recreation Trails position.

More discussion about why this is important & coordination of both positions.

**CB** - Asks Josh to be present for finance committee meeting.

**AH** - He doesn't really need to be here. He can send the financial papers.

**CB** - But the conversation at the meeting could go either way.

**AH** agrees. Josh will attend financial meeting on June 21.

Obscure discussion about “the other” position. Not a union position.

**Resolution #84-2022 - Capital Projects Manager or Assistant County Engineer.**

**85-2022** - Approving new Public Works (system?)

**Old Shop** - Ownership needs to be researched 2 big parcels, string of small parcels. Nothing says it was purchased by road fund for road shops, but no one is sure. Not sure to find this info that far back.

**LJ** - Sent Mike a whole lot of information on that. 1950’s and 1070’s. She will send to Josh.

**JT** - Ownership should be clear.

**LJ** - Discussion re Donner Mill property. They were asking about the price. Columbia Valley Millworks site. Discussion about a transfer agreement regarding property exchange, etc etc.

**AH** - Questions whether Assessor would have info.

**LJ** - Mike approached Assessor’s office, but that could only mean Tax Sifter.

**AH** - Need to find out from Commissioners’ Proceedings as to expenditures.

**LJ** - No conveyance documents.

No one knows if they exchanged properties, etc. etc. More details about names, dates, records 1949, 1971, 1932, etc.

**LJ** - Pub works kept records too - I referred Mike to Pub Wks.

*More lengthy detailed discussion over what information may or may not be available, and where it might be found.*

**11:45 - JT leaves.** Discussions about lawnmowers, bleachers, track, tractor - appears to be for fairgrounds? Extended conversation about expenses for a tractor, necessity of 3 quotes - Necessary? Purchase of John Deer tractor for \$18,991.68 approved.

New topic (on fairgrounds?) - very difficult to tell what they are talking about.

**AH** - lists costs. From “all over the place.”

CB -Say, “ I don’t care if you think we are trying to boggle your mind, this is what we are trying to do, OK? And you have the same responsibility as we do. And if you get the concept, you might....”

AH - Ok on this bleacher one, she put it in but without the shipping. Can you??? And then this one??? - so this is

CB - Galvanized key amount, was.

AH - Could you take with her about that?

CB - I just don’t want confusion about who the boss if If that’s. Not well-established it gets a little weird. Don’t want her to tell me something and she says the boss told me.....

AH - she wants black chain link fences, etc. etc.

Difficult to follow. Much talk about “her” and “she.”

AH leaves at 11: 55

LJ Asks CB to adjourn, since AH has left. **Recessed until 3:30 .**

**(1:30 - 2:26 - See Board of Health meeting, 6/14/2022)**

**PM BOCC Session**

(Hover not in attendance)

3:30 - 5 minute update with Human Resources. Last day for Tanya Everett.

3:35 - Routine business.

**3:45 - Adjourned**