

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
June 1, 2020
Via Zoom

Present:

Jim Detro - Chair - JD; BOCC District 3
Chris Branch - CB; Vice Chair, BOCC District 1
Andy Hover - AH; BOCC, District 2
Lalena Johns - LJ, Clerk of the Board

9:10 - 23 participants on Zoom (later increases)

Agenda for week approved

Lanie - one change. Kathleen Johnson scheduled at 3:00 tomorrow. She will actually call in at 2:00.

JD - OK

CB - moves to approve agenda with correction.

AH - Please add discussion with public waste. Trying to get Kent here.

Lanie - tomorrow at public works with Josh.

JD - Does it involve exec session? Put on Josh's agenda.

Approved again .

CB - Consent agenda tomorrow?

AH - Don't see anything else.

LJ - Agreement with teamsters' trust. Not needed. Cross off #1

LJ - Lodging Tax with amended amounts.

AH - Dispatch services contracts?

AH -Kathleen at 2:00? Yes.

CB - How long?

LJ -Quarterly update.

JD - Special Board of Health meeting? For another variance?

AH -Full Phase 2.

CB - They changed the rules.

Pause.

Unscheduled Commissioners' Discussion of DeTro posting on his Facebook page which has caused a public uproar this past weekend:

CB - Will there be an icebreaker or something for the subject on most people's minds?

JD _ What do you want?

CB - Maybe just to start out with where you stand at this point.

JD - Just like I told Lanie, I've always said I'm not a politician, but I've been a trucker for over 40 years and I've posted pictures of this all the time. I guess I should have posted something to the effect that for those of you who are ignorant and haters, it's entirely possible for him to have missed the {protesters?} And the picture was of someone who had hit a large animal and posted his photo. I don't ...the people who are on the left and are haters and hypocrites are just waiting for something to jump on . All they do is wait for the opportunity to jump on something such as that. That Kathy Lee Griffin can threaten the life of the president on social media and the left is silent. Joe Biden can get heavy -handed with women and the left says nothing.

CB - I see it as a huge divide and my job as a community commissioner doesn't include all that. There are a lot of differences of opinions to there, and I see this huge division line being drawn in the sand and people are looking at things in a black and white way, and people are looking to drive this country to something I don't want to see. I avoid social media for the reason. For years I used to (??) with motorcycles. People call it their cage. The internet is also like thatpromoting ideas that are not reasonably challenged. It's contributing to

I think that we as BOCC should be positive. Most of us have no idea what is going on in the inner city. I saw once time racial rioting and I couldn't understand it. It gets to the point where people don't even look at each other as human beings. It's like war. We should n't promote that in any way. Obviously, you are one of us. It is an office constituted by law and system of gov't. For me, whether I like anyone or not...we should all do that.... It should be a standard of governance. People are demanding many thing of you.... I stay away from

I have a different view of leadership form you. The partisan part of this job shouldn't even be in this room. Shouldn't even be here. It's one reason I don't engage in E WA Council of Gov'ts - they are all of one mind. Driving people to one side or another. It's so bad that when I walked into office, the person who runs that group labeled me.....

JD - Do you think I'm a racist?

CB - Hard to tell, Jim.

Who sponsors ...(something about Eagles lodge with a black member.)

JD - I did sponsor it.

CB - I know a lot of people who know one black person and are still prejudiced. I don't have to buy into it and say this is what I should do. In this county, I don't want to be there. We would be so much better off if we did not have that division. Half of it doesn't make sense because it's.....

Be constructive. Especially in this, as an election year. I hear people saying it all the time - they are responding to you, Jim. If you say something has been posted on a website, you are asking them to. And it's going to get worse, especially in this election year. We should put this stuff aside.

It's not doing much justice to the Republicans in our county.

JD - You can call it whatever you want to call it. What I should have posted you can see if you have any common sense at all, that he hit a large animal. Entirely clear that he can drive through there and not see a protester.

CB - It is promoting a certain way of thinking. I tell people if you don't want to go...

JD - Did you see what happened in Snohomish Cty last night? The Antifa guy said they are coming. It says that I'm not going to let people come into our county. They didn't accomplish anything because people stood up.

CB - I sat there as a kid in Portland Oregon during racial riots. I heard people make comments about things they didn't know anything about. My stepfather had guns loaded against the door. It takes more backbone to >..... Those things than to fight it. Bottom line for me - when we see this kind of thing happening, we should say it's wrong. Not pick one side or the other. I say quite watching TV. Live here. Do we have that kind of rioting in the streets? The kinds who would do that here are refugees from LA. We set ourselves up for that. People that are very active come from the city. Why do they do that?

JD - I know people who have come here and moved specifically - I talked to a gal in my 2nd campaign who said she came here from Connecticut because "I want to make the Methow Valley as liberal as possible." I thought, gee whiz!

CB - What does it mean? Liberal? Conservative? It depends upon what you are concerned about. Liberal is the main topic, I guess....moral issues. Isn't the belief that the liberals condone....

AH - Not even sure why we are going from liberalism to conservatism. A guy was killed by a cop and shouldn't have been. He should face criminal charges.

If you look at how many people does that happen to that you don't hear about....

It's not even about liberalism and conservatism; it's about right and wrong. People should be able to protest that, just like people came out here to protest businesses shutting down. It's people's constitutional right to protest. There is a difference between protesters and rioters and looters.

CB - What is the conversation this morning about?

AH - Something that was put on social media. My opinion is that no matter what our personal opinions are, no matter what we hear you anything, what we do and say is a representation of the people who voted for us ...etc. We signed up for this job We keep signing up for it. It comes with the territory - the 42,000 people in this county pay our paychecks, no matter if they voted for us or not. We need to suppress our own hates or dislikes because we are representatives of these people. People probably feel pretty strongly about people hauling people out of their trucks, etc - they should be strung up. But that's what law is about. We took an oath to uphold the Constitution. Again, it's hard.... but you have to go above and beyond and represent everybody. It they are right, left, up, down. We have to represent them. We have to be

cognizant that our actions and words - a lot of people hear those. We have to do better than ...sometimes what we feel on our own.

JD - Like I said, I probably would have posted that...if you can't tell that his guy hit a large animal and made a wisecrack. I saw it and reposted....should have put a comment to clarify. A mistake. The ones that are just waiting to be hateful about everything are jumping on the bandwagon.

AH - We are a powder keg. We have been cooped up for 3 months. You have something that lights the fuse, and it's like there is a fan to spread it. Someone said the US will not be taken down by foreign forces, but from within. It used to be ok to be either a Democrat or a Republican. When I was 18, I felt more conservative, so I registered as a Republican.

Ronald Reagan started out as a Democrat and became a Republican. You don't see that anymore. Would be nice to get back to that. People can sit in the same room and not hate each other. Maybe you should think about that.

Silence.

JD - Well.....anyway.....

AH - We all have freedom of speech and freedom of action. We are held to a higher bar than most people. On the web we see....

CB - That's the part I'd like to avoid. National politics, we tend to bring it home. The way it's going on the national scene....people from our part of the country are acting pretty damn reasonable. I don't hear the Democrats and Republicans engaging in that divisive process in the election process. I think they are doing their job. Maybe on the side, amongst the parties they do that. But I don't have a party. What's odd to me in Okanogan County, if a Democrat has a good idea, they call me up. I don't get that from Republicans.

JD -Been a trucker for 46 years. I guess my trucker mentalityI didn't think....I see outside in these big cities, I don't understand it. I had no idea.....

CB - I don't know if you know that, Jim. Your website is pretty attractive to look at for that very reason. I like what Andy said about not engaging. It's tough. Tough for all of us.

JD - the Marijuana law - I had my own opinion about that but never voiced my opinion. Because it was a referendum ...

CB - Referendums are not always well-written. Something important to talk about. There is a time when people have to come across. There is a lot of divisiveness, even here in our own county gov't . Partisan stuff too. I don't like it.

AH - Mom said treat others like you want to be treated.

CB - My grandmother said one additional thing, stay out of politics.

(Chuckles)

JD - Being a log truck driver here, a lot of people hated me just because I drove a logging truck.

CB - Same here, but I was around a lot of drivers with different ideas. Some went with just popular ideas, some were thoughtful. One outfit had a preacher. I felt bad because people cussed around him. But there was respect, and he didn't push anything down people's throats. He was very respectful, even during the spotted owl thing. That interested me in doing research...then I was a bad guy because "he studies the environment." I still get that today, but not from people who know me. I don't think we should be boxed in by a party that we have to kow-tow to..

JD _ To you guys, I punched that button because I was a trucker. I didn't think about it. I don't want it to bring down any problems on you two. I have never been politically correct, so I get thatthere was no intention whatsoever.

AH - JD, I know that . We all make mistakes. And our mistakes have a spotlight.

CB - If you made a mistake, you have to own it too. It may require that you do things differently.

JD - I just don't follow P.C. I feel about being PC the same way you feel about Demos/Republicans.

CB - Sometimes the people we work for come up with some pretty radical stuff, and we need to balance.

AH -there are a lot of people in the middle, and we never hear from them.

CB - We need to show an intolerance for hate.

JD -I posted some thing about aviation...

CB - How could you post that?

JD - *(couldn't follow what he said he thought.)*

9:50 - Conversation ends for board of Health meeting. *(Commissioners must travel to another location.)* End of notes.