

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday July 13, 2021, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2
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 or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. Those 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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%20Minutespage.html>

Time stamps are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live.streamingofmeetings.php> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Working together for upcoming Okanogan County Fair given budget shortfall and staffing issues, recommendations for reclassifications and duties of fairgrounds staff, HR reports new upcoming mandatory deductions from County Employees for LTC, resolution delegating authority to use tear gas when needed to the County Sheriff contrary to recent legislation at the State level, Bids received and accepted for Bridge work, Public Works update with upgrades in certain water/septic systems managed by the County.

9:00 Staff Meeting: Discussion of maintenance budget supplements and Superior Court having unbudgeted monies. AH, CB & LJ looking at the revenue section of budget for Superior Court

9:06 – Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator (*standing at podium and it was difficult to hear her report*) attended Advisory meeting last night. Waiting for some bids, also, someone requesting use of Agriplex with limited funds. (*apparently, Naomie Peasley is staying on as event coordinator, rather than resigning as was reported last week*) NP discussing the new electric pedestals for the RV park. Significant discussion of whether to the electrical before fair time. CB would like to see an overall plan with an aerial map for clearer understanding.

9:25 – Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor – handed papers to the BOCC regarding budget with overtime and maintenance needs. He feels his report is self-explanatory. LJ and AH wanting to check on the budget for the fairgrounds as it overspent. *Apparently, we are unable to get trustees from the jail to help with the fair.* - although Joe Poulin states we get trustees for 2 weeks. Considerable discussion on utilizing day workers or contracting for the garbage clean-up/collection during the fair, porta potties.

9:43 – AH states that “We are the fair” we need to work together to get this done and communication

needs to improve between maintenance and event coordinator (Naomie, Joe, and Kyle). All need to be working toward the same goal. AH states there are a lot of moving parts regarding the fair just as there is in government.

9:49 – AH wants fair to succeed.

CB to JP – Do you see the problems being better with fairground and general maintenance being separate? JP states the advantage is being able to move staff around for coverage where needed.

JP expressed that he doesn't like to be left out of discussions and blind-sided when things are needed ASAP, with little preparation time.

CB – We gave NP charge for making the fair pay and she has done that well.

Considerable discussion in the breakdown of communication

JD – Joe, are you aware that the Soroptimists are coming to help set up and tear down the fair?

10:06 – Tanya Everett (TE) (HR, Risk Manager) and Shelley (HR assistant) provided some recommendations to the board for consideration;

1. Maintenance employees should be supervised by the Events Coordinator
2. Reclassifying event coordinator as exempt position making an \$8,705 difference this year
3. Changing Kyle's job description by re-classifying \$1348 for reclassification cost.

It is important to be able to retain these employees.

AH would like to take a look at all maintenance staff.

Shelley (HR) – pulled some stats from a status report regarding revenues and expenditures for the fairgrounds and maintenance. It makes more sense for the fairgrounds to be by itself.

Tanya states the HR, Risk management is more than willing to help resolve issues.

10:22 – CB wants everyone to be successful.

AH – Before we do anything with Maintenance, we need to take a look at everything.

JD – It shouldn't be just who does the squeaking.

TE – on another topic; new mandate effective 1/1/2022, will be taking 5.8% deduction out of County Employees checks to pay for LTC, unless employee already has LTC insurance coverage. This is mandated by the State. HR would like permission to give employees other options that may be more cost effective over-all.

10:33 – BOCC moved, seconded, and carried to allow HR to education employees to their options.

10:34 – Resolution effective 7/25 delegating executive authority to BOCC regarding use of tear gas by law enforcement, per recent HB

JD states what a way to muck up the system.

Ok Co has not had a hx of issues with this, and BOCC, along with other counties are delegating their authority to the County Sheriff.

10:40

Resolution 83-2021 Moved, seconded, and carried delegating authority to County Sheriff.

10:43 – more discussion on budget for maintenance and fairgrounds

10:55 – Staff member from Public Works and Josh Thompson, County Engineer at the table to discuss bids they have received for repair of bridge.

1. Egefferson of Spokane \$1,549,468.50

2. Combined Construction of Mukilteo - \$1, 626,400

First bid is accepted. Egefferson (SP?)

11:08 – Josh Thomson, County Engineer reports on maintenance and road conditions; Mazama Fire – possible need to evacuate if fire jumps road when expected wind comes up.

Also, discussing the Nespelem Fire – Jumped Hwy 155 and has taken out over 100 guardrail posts.

Also, the Palmers are looking for their horses and cows d/t fire conditons.

Discussion of Foster Bridge project, also Mazama Water Qualify and Sewer System, also, the other 2 systems that are the County responsibility. Conconully and Edelweiss.

Mazama homeowners are asking for a waiver of assessment fees for one year

CB wants to look at Public Works projects through the lens of equity AH states they are charged with also protecting the environment.

More discussion of this, along with consideration of ARPA funding.

JT has 3 different grant applications he is interested in.

Also, one item on the Consent Agenda; Loup Loup Canyon project

11:53 – CB talks with JT about Similkameen Trail, where the county owns a small parcel of property.

May need to consider quit claiming to the City of Oroville for their improvements.

11:55 – Meeting adjourned