

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 19, 2022 AM

Present:

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

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC 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. These notes are published at <https://countywatch.org> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For the officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock 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: Judge Crowell not on the Primary Ballot because it is non-partisan position and he is unopposed, Prosecuting attorney's office making changes/recommendations for recruitment and retention of staff, currently understaffed and prioritizing which cases to prosecute – violent crimes are the priority, Planning Director and BOCC strategize and create draft ordinance for Tunk Well Moratorium going forward with zoning recommendations, Public Works update; road maintenance, speed limits, new radios, and hard hat policy changes. Some discussion of paying out ARPA funds, 11:31AM recessed until 1:30 PM

9:13

Discussion of one bid received for Domestic Violence Services for this afternoon's bid opening. Will re-schedule. Also, AH clarifies advertisements for budget supplementals.

9:30

Discussion of Recruitment/Retention challenges, comparing with other counties. AH questions what is the basis of money for different levels of experience?

9:33

JD questions why Judge Crowell not on the Primary Ballot.

CB and AH discuss sales and use tax revenue

9:43

Albert Lin (AL), Prosecuting Attorney – Looking at his office budget and how to utilize Step 5 in hiring depending on qualifications. Problems with recruiting and retention of attorneys in the Prosecuting Attorney's office. AL states that he will use everything I've got to recruit staff to come to work for the County. AL states that costs are going up in everything. AH states that Public Safety is high on people's radar. AL claims his office still must make decisions about which cases to prosecute.

Right now, focused on violent crimes. Court rules are strict on property crimes only unless there is a history of committing other violent crimes.

Some discussion of revenue for the Prosecution side of things. AH asks if there are other funding sources for capital facilities? If not, service may not be there (funding wise)

CB states that public safety is priority.

AL states that he has a greater responsibility to the people of Okanogan County. This is different focus than when I was the Chief Civil Attorney. We have an unprecedented situation here where we are not able to get younger attorneys. Because of this, we are not coping well with workload. The only way that I can think of to get them is paying them what they are worth.

AH comments that if you are focused on own job, it is difficult to see the big picture.

AL wants the flexibility in hiring with 3 tiers to make in line with other counties.

AH states, I know what you need, and I know what we need (*referring to budgeting*)

BOCC directs Prosecuting Attorney to work with HR in drafting 3-tiered hiring.

CB states that BOCC can go through revenue sources to help with funding.

AL thanks the Board for their help/consideration.

JD states that PA office cannot just snap fingers and have people come.

10:05

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director in to work on the Draft Ordinance on the Tunk Moratorium addressing water adequacies and stream flow restoration. Moratorium has expired after 2 years. BOCC determining whether water has been over-allocated. BOCC is recommending some zoning density/use changes. A need for creating a resolution for the Tunk Valley Basin- upper and lower basins.

10:46

BOCC obtained information regarding water availability within the lower & upper tunk basins and supports zoning of rural lands. BOCC recommending zoning density & use changes. Also comparing Methow Valley Rural Development MRD 5's and 20's.

(Lengthy discussion mostly between CB and AH regarding this ordinance)

10:54

PP to go and write these changes up and bring back to the board later today.

10:58

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer in to report on Public Works. Maintenance and road doing typical summer stuff; chip seal, bridge projects, asphalt supplier has trucks down. Not sure if this is just today or ongoing.

JD looking at 6-year list. Also, talking about speed limit study on Twisp River Road.

11:09

JT on the budget side; do we need to budget the new radios for next year?

JT discusses county hard hat policy being more restrictive than the state. Would like to revise this and make current – more in line with state policy.

Items on the Consent Agenda for Solid waste; Bridgeport and Ellesforde Transfer stations until 11:20

Some discussion among BOCC regarding paying out of ARPA funds.

11:27

PP back with completed Ordinance Re: Tunk Moratorium #2022-7.)Hearing will be set up for 21 days in order to get it advertised.

11:31

Recessed until 1:30