

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
July 27, 2020
Via Zoom

Present:

Jim De Tro: (JD) BOCC District 3
Chris Branch: (CB) BOCC District 1
Andy Hover: (AH) BOCC District 2
Cari Hall: (CH): County Auditor
(a Public Health official)
(a representative for the County Fair)

Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker.

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Summary - 7/21/2020, AM: Report on S. Pine, Greenhouse, Aeneas, Pogue Flat and Twisp fires; Covid-19 affecting younger people, fewer hospitalizations but rise in Brewster cases; Suspected vandalism in pierced water pipe; County Fair use of software for showing, judging and auction; Auditor's office planning to purchase an operating system to facilitate reporting, checking, payment by credit card; In-district voting in Ferry Co.

(AH was absent for the 1st part while attending another meeting.)

27:00 - **(Public Health?)** is working on a budget for use of money allocated for Covid-19. Funds will come through once a plan is in place.

Fires - Two teams sent to fight difficult 240-acre fire on S. Pine Creek Rd. (Tonasket), now under control; the Greenhouse fire SW of Nespelem has burned 5,000 acres and is now under control. Helicopters called to this fire and to a 30-acre fire in the Aeneas; a fire on Pogue Flat, possibly started by power tool electrical cords; in Twisp, a fire started by a truck transferring waste from dump to landfill.

39:00 - **Covid** - 5 deaths so far in the county, "hospitalization rate fairly low". Health official announces 405 cases in Brewster and 80 in Omak. 31 cases in the last 14 days. Out of 592 cases there were 320 men compared to 272 women. 121 cases in ages 0-19, 250 in ages 20-39, "almost as many" in group 40-59 yrs. And only 30 who are 80 yrs. and older. (CB: They're being careful, not going out.)

43:20 - On a construction site it was discovered that a hole had been drilled in a pipe. It was

Found after a pressure test was done on an irrigation system. Vandalism?

49:00 - **JD**: (on Covid) The court rules that Gov. Inslee cannot enforce his emergency proclamations. **CB**: Federal (registers?) are upholding his orders issued the previous Thursday.

(After a brief recess, beginning of discussion not recorded.)

County Fair - A news release should be sent to encourage participation. (More later.)

25:17 - **AH** (who has now joined the meeting): The Greenhouse fire forced an evacuation of the jail. He hopes to turn (the management of the fire) back over to the tribe.

County Fair - (a representative of the fair advisory board): There will be a virtual auction to sell animals. They need a list of items and will check on registration. "Fun and Feathers" canceled but youth may do fitting and showing. Using the application Show Works which has served in previous years, those showing can pay 80 cents a person to submit 30-second videos, judges can load and view videos, bidders can sign up, similar to e-bay. AH recommends adding rules and instructions to the (County Fair) web page. The representative promises to "initiate the website" right away and "send the URL to Naomi." Leaves meeting. CARES fund (for Covid) could only cover the cost of the Show Works application if this goes above the normal fair cost.

Report from Auditor Cari Hall (CH):

49:31 - **Elections** - (something about licensing, inaudible.) Ballots slowly rolling in. Voters' Pamphlet on line, printed pamphlets as well will be sent out for the General Election.

Purchase of a "reporting module" for the Auditor's office - The app "Self Service" costs \$29,000 and will take 4-6 weeks to install. This will enable payment by credit card, facilitate treatment of out-of-state documents, and allow customers to consult documents without having to come in. "Everything we talked about" (subject to question since audibility was difficult during her report), including IT upgrade for clerks (\$1,300) and maintenance ((\$5,500) comes to \$43,000. **JD** would like to see a unified module to facilitate credit card payments for Public Health and Public Works.

In-district voting (Each district only voting for its own commissioner.) - **CB** says Ferry Co. is asking for this, which implies a fairer representation. **CH** sees his point, says it would require asking the legislature to change the law to create an "at large" position. **JD**: Just because you're from a district doesn't mean that your decisions don't affect other districts. **CB**: It has to do with minorities, such as farmworkers, who would be in favor.

Covid - **JD**: the virus has an acidic PH so you should eat more alkaline--avacados, watercress...to go above the (alkaline) level of the virus. "Kind of crazy how we're finding out about basic diet formulas for our immune system."

(End of morning session.)