

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday July 26, 2022, AM

Present:

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

Jim DeTro (JD) – BOCC, District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

(Andy Hover, District 2 BOCC Chair on personal leave this week)

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 officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see :

https://okaogancounty.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: Update from Communications Manager, along with Human Resources Manager; dispatch staffing lost 3 staff, considering use of temporary employees – staff that is leaving, checking Civil Service rules and Union. Requesting permission – working with HR for Resolution. Update from HR/Risk Manager regarding the 21% increase in liability insurance costs. Maximum claim, is \$3 Million right now, expected to go up to \$5 Million. Risk Manager working with Auditor on plan for getting current on deductibles; Public Works – focusing on chip seal, breakdowns. Reported break-ins to Public Health vehicles, Working on new position with Planning and Recreational trails, Fairgrounds update with quotes for fencing the perimeter of the fairgrounds, Looking to increase part time office staff to full time during fair time. Ok Co Homeless Coalition to meet with BOCC in August, approved agreement with noxious weed office to spray weeds on a piece of County property, request from OBHC to recover indirect costs relating to Therapeutic Court, adjourn until next week at 11:48 AM.

9:10 *Finally has quorum, meeting opens*

JD and CB discuss phone call from people on the north end of the county.

JD talks with Mike Worden (MW), Communications Director in the Sheriff's Dept regarding a person close to Canadian border not being able to access 911 as a signal comes from Canadian tower. MW explains ways to resolve that including, going through WiFi.

9:29

Shelley Keitzman (SK), HR, Risk Manager and MW in to discuss staffing concerns and remedy for Dispatch Center. They are losing 3 staff, but may be able to utilize them for a shift a week as a temporary hire, if that works. Both the CBA with the Union and Civil Service rules allow for temporary employees up to 120 days. Hiring experienced workers is difficult and takes time going through the

testing and vetting process. Dispatch will be down to 7 full time employees. Needs 8 full time staff to cover all shifts. JD shows support for use of the temporary employees to fill this gap.

SK and MW also discussed how local testing helps with recruitment.

10:00

SK back in the meeting to update BOCC on the increase in liability insurance for the County. On average, across the state, there is a 40% increase, but Ok County's increase is 21%. Both CB and SK attending a recent risk conference. Large judgments have been getting paid by risk pool. Currently, \$3million maximum, but expect that to increase to \$5 million. Total premium for the County last year was \$652,000. It is expected to be \$752,248 for the upcoming year. SK has spoken with Auditor for a plan to get current with deductibles paid.

10:10

CB, JD, and LJ working on getting the minutes approved for July 18th & 19th.

10:34

CB and JD decide there is no reason to meet on Wednesday. Neither want to meet without AH. No business to complete before next week.

10:45

Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve the July 18th & 19th Proceedings.

10:46

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Appt letter Methow Valley Communication District – Becky Studen
2. Reappointment letter Methow Valley Communications District – Mike Shirley
3. Agreement- Engineering – Foster Creek, Bonneville Power Administration
4. Agreement – professional services – Jail/HVAC review MW Engineers & Consulting.
5. CDBG Public Services Request #12, Contract no. 21-62210-011
6. CDBG Public Services, CV-1 Request #18, Contract No. 20-06221C-119

10:48

Approved County Vouchers, including Public Health for \$64,939.05. Moved, Seconded, and carried

10:55

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer, reporting on Public Works/Solid Waste.

Small brush fire near dump, put out quickly, no real damage.

Maintenance and Roadside; focusing on Chip Seal projects. Continuing to have breakdown with the Chip Seal Vehicle. Were able to fix it last night, and back in business today. Cost of new one is from \$380,000 to over \$400,000.

JT reports that Public Health vehicles have been broken into and drilling gas tanks. Trying to figure out better security plan for these vehicles. Public Health are the only ones still left in the parking lot. Other County vehicles are in secure areas. JT has been talking with Jail Administrator about new key readers for doors and vehicle trade.

JT states Public Works are trying new radios to help with traffic zones.

JT also states there are new L&I rules regarding heat and smoke. L&I requires employees being provided 1 quart of water per hour. They are working to meet these new requirements.

JT is still working on the Planning/ Recreational Trails position with HR.

CRAB Road certification is finally happening. JT also reports focusing on budget and repair of Toroda

Creek Road. Needs a mass overlay.

11:10

Naomie Peasley (NP), County Fairgrounds Manager brings 3 quotes for fencing project around perimeter of the fairgrounds: Quality Custom Fencing, Overland Fencing, and Duane Hall, LLC. After comparisons, BOCC to go with the low bidder; Quality Custom Fencing for \$43,553. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve this bid.

NP reports being very busy at the fairgrounds at the moment. They got the Venting system cleaned out, so there is better air now. NP has a part time staff person at the office and would like to increase to full time during fair season. NP working with HR on this. NP states (on a side note) that she has been looking at security cameras since the fairgrounds has been un-fenced and vulnerable. There was an attempted break-in to the Shop. Camp Host has been helping with ground security. NP also reports copy machine broke down. Kelley Connect to bring another printer as will be needed during fair time.

11:30

LJ brings up that the Homeless Coalition will be meeting with BOCC in August, regarding county homeless plan, what County needs to contribute, etc.

11:32

LJ brings contract with Noxious Weed Dept. There is a county piece of land off Cameron Lake Road that needs sprayed for Scotch Thistle. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve this contract.

LJ brings request from OBHC for indirect costs, relating to Therapeutic Court. LJ recommends not including these costs at this time.

11:39

LJ reports that architect, Mr Beaman is working with vendors for Forest Services building and Communication property.

11:48

Meeting adjourned until next week.