

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners

Tuesday, July 19th, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Larry Hudson (LH), Planning Director

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. An AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date is available at:

https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions: *Resolutions reclassifying positions for the Prosecutor's office and granting a retention bonus for county employees; resolution for subdivision moratorium in upper Tunk, lower Tunk and Tamarack basins; quotes for the Coroner's Office and Sheriff's storage buildings; sales agreement for courthouse door locks and repair; BOCC's contrasting takes on role of lobbyists; Noxious Weeds manager reports full staff, areas treated this year: Patterson and Spectacle lakes, Bridgeport and Alta Lake state parks, the Similkameen corridor and bottom of Whistler Mt., Lake Osoyoos milfoil treatment coming up; CB explains lobbyists, need for setting their own legislative agenda and how "the game" works, AH concerned with cost and results, JD satisfied with lobbyists' achievements; budget supplemental for renovation of bleachers at the Fairgrounds. Meeting adjourned at 2:44.*

1:42 - *Resolutions passed reclassifying positions for the Prosecutor's office and granting a retention bonus for county employees, \$4,000 going toward Law Enforcement employees. Beginning of discussion on lobbyists - JD: Mike Carr wants to do an RFQ (request for quotes) for state lobbies... We have 18 counties in Eastern Washington belonging to the Eastern WA Council of Governance. He talks about the WDFW Game Commission meeting. AH: did you see the make-up of the commission? JD: It's ridiculous. There are people in there that just have a specific agenda. CB jokes that they could do like one game commission, have it composed only of county commissioners.*

1:48 - *Resolution passed approving subdivision moratorium in the upper and lower Tunk and Tamarack basins. They discuss a follow-up proposal for courtroom doors, and two quotes, one for \$39,538 and the other for more than \$200,000, for the Coroner's Office and Sheriff's storage buildings. Something about a budget request for the Sales Tax Oversight committee. AH asks if it should come from the \$60,000 or so from Therapeutic Court, LJ asks if he means the Public Defense portion. He goes out and comes back to report that Shelly will come up with the sum. In the meantime LH has arrived and JD asks what to do*

with all the weeds that grew at his place while he was away for two weeks. LH says mow and wait 'til spring to treat. Motion passed to approve \$8,104 sales agreement with ADT for courthouse door locks and repair.

1:56 - CB and AH have an issue with the lobbyists regarding lack of action on indigenous defense. JD says says Jim (Potts) is leaving and Zak (Kennedy) might not be experienced enough; CB says RFQ is to see if there is someone more qualified after their contracts run out at the end of the year. JD: I've always been satisfied with their spearheading. AH: But we do pay a lot of money both for federal and state lobbyists. What do we want (out of it)? I'd like a list of goals... CB: They don't just testify. They go to legislators, talk to them. Often they're at WSAC (*Washington State Association of Counties*) meetings... The issues we're talking about are major issues of WSAC. When we go there during legislative sessions, we bring (the lobbyists) to us. CB suggests taking an hour to review all the issues; AH wants to see the results on each one.

2:04 - Noxious Weeds report - LH: Spectacle and Patterson lakes treated in June for milfoil; Osoyoos to be treated this week. CB: Is treatment selective? LH: ProcellaCOR, used at Patterson just attacks milfoil. At Osoyoos half will be treated with this product and half with another to compare. There will be another treatment in the fall. AH: The residual life? LH: With ProcellaCOR (*the "silver bullet" for milfoil*) there's no swimming restriction, just a recommendation not to use irrigation water on lawns within 24 hours after treatment. Applicators contact irrigation districts so they can shut down service. *Weed spraying conducted with Ferry and Lincoln counties, State Weed Board and DNR over one month period to treat flowering rush sites. Small amount of that weed found in Okanogan part. Also treated : Leafy Spurs, down the Similkameen corridor, Whisler Canyon (bottom, parking area), selected sites on Palmer Mt., and Bridgeport and Alta Lake state parks. Inspections running smoothly now that they're fully staffed. A total of \$300,000 received in grants this year including Conservation District, \$50,000; Dept. of Ecology, \$24,500; WDFW, \$2,000; BLM, \$4,500; Colville Tribes, 7,500 and Title 2 funds, \$25,000. JD asks if Weeds Across Borders is still active. LH says aside from some emails, not since before COVID. CB asks about differences in amount of milfoil between east and west of Lake Osoyoos. LH replies difference is between shorelines and deeper areas where milfoil is more present and requires heavier treatment. LH: We run pipes down the water column, pump through pipes under the boat.*

2:16 - Discussion on lobbyists resumes - AH asks CB to clarify the work of WSAC lobbyists compared to the ones the county hires. AH: Lot of problems "over there" that we don't see as much. When we're lobbying on forest actions they're not, but still trying to lobby for forest health in general. JD: The other thing is, Ferry and Pend Oreille (*counties*) are so budget-restricted that they just don't vote, both lean pretty heavily on (Mike) Carr. It's unfortunate because I don't know that they get—they kind of follow.

2:19 - CB: That's correct. One point to be made if we have our own lobbyist. We don't set legislative agenda for us, and we should, then we could (*present it to WSAC*). ...Lobbyists know the lines, what's going on, what people want. You've got former commissioners (*like Paul*) Jewell. He does it well. He's very articulate, constantly working with our Planning and Public Works in some ways... It's relatively easy to know who controls legislature. The steering committee is part of the game. All the issues we bring up are on the agenda. On Cannabis returns they made a gain, knew if they brought it up a second time they would not. Our stories are important to them. When they see people on the ledge they bring them to us. We pay in several areas, like the legal fund so can be sure things are constitutional... There are things WSAC doesn't address that our lobbyist should prepare... Certain things exclusive

to North Central Washington. Like my conversation with Sutton, Straub (Douglas Co. Commissioners) and Keith (Huffaker, Wenatchee City Council) about the regional jail system. Sutton says “Looks like we’re in the same boat for jails.” I said “No, we have a jail” and he said, “Do we?” The point being, where are we going? I’ll meet with them (*soon*). If we’re talking to lobbyists, I firmly recommend that we decide what our own legislative agenda is.

2:28 ...There’s a lot of games played as to their replies to us, an issue with “you have your own tools”. We have to go to voters and ask them to do that instead of getting a revenue-sharing agreement. I encourage you to go for a walk with one of the legislators... They’re in a whole different world. **AH:** That’s the thing—understand their world. Is it simply that they don’t want to take money away from that cash cow? Once you understand the issues you can better find a way to bridge that gap. ...What is the revenue used for? Is it earmarked for a particular agency? (2:31) **CB:** All the information is out there. You can see the distribution very well. **AH:** But... they’re not distributing 100% of the revenue. **CB:** Every time a fiscal bill goes through (they ask) “What does this create as far as income? What’s the cost?” Their districts are neighborhoods, not cities. They have different economics. I guy I know from Tacoma (is concerned with) veterans’ programs, tram stops in different areas. *He dares JD to go there some day and ride the buses.* It’s why transportation costs so much. They’re moving around a lot of people.

2:35 - (continued from an earlier meeting) Budget supplemental for renovation of bleachers at the Fairgrounds approved, to come from Current Expenses (AH would have liked to find another revenue source to avoid transfers, be more efficient, but “it would take too long.”) **AH:** People are going to complain they’re hot because (*the bleachers aren’t*) covered. **JD:** They’re lucky to have seats to sit on. **AH:** They should bring big umbrellas or lawn chairs. **CB:** It’s an opportunity for a vendor to come up with something. **LJ:** They have cooling blankets for your bed, why not seats? **AH:** Ice-filled cushions. *He announces he will be absent the following Monday and Tuesday.* **CB** says he thinks they have the same opinions on the current issues. **AH:** Is that everything for the good of the order? **All:** Yes. **JD:** I’m going to see if my new phone came. (*His old had fallen out of his pocket as he was hooking up a trailer, got forgotten on the bumper and run over by a car.*)

2:44 - Meeting adjourned