

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 10, 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. 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://okanogancounty.org/Commissioners/Minutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.html>

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a click on the AV Capture video screen at https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Interlocal agreement between City of Conconully & Okanogan County revised, some fire updates, Maintenance updates/HVAC system @ Public Works, and fairground updates, discussion of water issues at fairgrounds; irrigation vs domestic use wells, 30 days until County Fair, Livestock auction slated to be in person and on-line. Finance/budget/American Recovery Act monies/ updates with Treasurer and Auditor, BOCC to meet online with the Okanogan Transportation Board tomorrow (Wednesday) @8:30 AM, Approved Consent Agenda, B&O Road maintenance situation decision, hearings for Chesaw water users & 6 year transportation plan approved, Public Works update on road maintenance, paid vouchers from Emergency Management Districts, extended the moratorium on building permits for another 6 months, Extended the emergency declaration due to wildfires.

9:05 Pete Palmer (PP) – County Planning Director updates;

interlocal agreement between the County and City of Conconully revised. City wants to do site analysis but wants county to do building inspections.

PP also looking for direction on the continued moratorium on building permits. She will have it ready for BOCC to sign by the end of the day.

9:10 – Fire updates; JD has spoken with some people working on the fires, change of direction on the Chickadee fire, Walker fire nearly contained, Bonaparte fire is moving north, threatening Lost Lake, but away from Bonaparte.

9:11 – Joe Poulin (JP), Maintenance Supervisor, wanting to get the HVAC system replaced at Public Works – has more bids. May be able to wait until the springtime, though.

JD questions who does the maintenance on HVAC systems? Maintained by the contractor – Divco changes filters 4X per year. Will be asking for more bids. Everyone is so busy right now.

AH wants to hold off until spring, possibly.

Some discussion of fairgrounds work by JP but will let Event Coordinator do FG update.

9:20 Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – Discussion of water situation, putting new filter in well, problems with current screen. John Hubbard, well driller, has taken a look at the situation. NP will attempt to get John Hubbard and person from Omak Machine to the BOCC to discuss the options. Not much can happen before fair time. The water system has usually given 80 gallons per minute, and is now down to 20. May need to drill another well or just get the two existing wells cleaned out. Discussion between the domestic water use and irrigation – possible change of water right to include surface water, therefore allowing pumping from the river.

JD – also need to look at how low the river is.

CB asks NP to check with Dept of Ecology.

9:42 – 10/4 vendor to do a radar detection and mapping for new overlay of electrical and water lines. NP reports that the bathroom behind Country Buns will need to be closed during fair. Problems with busted pipes. This is taking a lot of Kyle's time. BOCC would like to have Kyle report on this. For now, will need to close the bathroom and then determine what to do in the future.

9:50 – NP reports that Superior Courts needs the Agriplex the week before the fair for a murder trial. Makes planning difficult

9:52 – 30 days until the fair.

Working with the Fair Advisory Board on shavings for the fair. AH offered to find out about straw for the fair. He knows someone who might be able to deliver.

9:56 – Discussion of fair auction being both in person and on-line, Tucker to be doing the auction.

10:00 was slated for update from the Treasurer's Office, but did not arrive until 10:30

Discussions between BOCC regarding Watershed Council Meeting. How to determine where the ARPA funds could go and the need for a proposal by October for smaller counties.

Wednesday August 11th, Tomorrow @8:30 will be an online meeting with Okanogan Transportation – All BOCC to attend.

10:22 – Cari Hall (CH) County Auditor and staff member, Lisa Schreckengast (LS) reports:

1. Current status of State Auditor Audit
2. Primary election pamphlet went out and have gotten good comments
3. Voter registration position open – has received 1 application only. Open until next week

LS has list of departments whom they have not received preliminary budgets. Timeline is in RCW.

AH by law, we must have a draft budget out to the public timely so the public can comment on it.

10:38 Leah McCormack (LM), County Treasurer discusses upcoming finance committee meeting and needing to talk about the America Recovery Act funding (ARPA). AH states there are 3 different categories of spending. There are still a lot of questions. Can we use to offset expenditures?

General Fund is doing well here in the county due to sales taxes being up

Need to determine COVID impacts to the county to determine where to utilize the 8.2 million dollars being allocated to this county. LM questions whether some needs to go to the Cities or do they have their own allocations?

11:00 - Hearing on the U03-2021 Chesaw water users – Moved, seconded, and carried to approve franchise to water user association. No Public Comments. Staff report from JoAnn Stansbury, Public Works

11:03 Josh Thomsen, County Engineer and Tanya Everett (TE) HR/Risk Manager requesting BOCC to authorize use of more donated leave above the 60 hour cap due to severity of County Employee's medical condition/ Resolution was created for this – 101-2021
Moved, Seconded, and carried to authorize over 60 hours of donated leave when needed.

11:11 – Josh Thomsen, (JT) County Engineer – Some discussion of fires and how road maintenance has been affected. Cedar Creek Fire is mostly wilderness with really steep ground per AH.
JT – firefighters have done a good job on the Chickadee and Bocken (sp?) fires – nearly contained. There is still the Walker and Spur fires up by Bonaparte.

11:15 – 6 year transportation plan approved 100-2021 Moved, seconded, and carried

11:20 – JT states chip seal is now in Nespelem area, Columbia River Road is now closed

11:22 – Commissioners have made a decision on the B&O West road maintenance/snow plowing. AH and JT went to see the road, along with adjacent landowner. Looking at map from 1953 and road log of 1955, then 1979 road map, giving B&O road 0.75 miles which would have gone to a gate. Road ends at the Y. AH states there is a turnaround there which is sufficient. AH states that it is not in the best interest for the section of road to be graded/plowed, and states that there doesn't need to be any more action. Just continue to do road maintenance as have been doing recently.

11:32 – Discussion of Mazama-Lost River Road and parcel of land owned by the County. It has been declared for use for firefighting. AH – this year showed the huge need to water access.

JT states that he will have 2 preliminary budgets in by the end of the day.

11:39

Discussion of material from old mill on Crown Zellerbach land. JD states several log yards around have sold some of their old material. AH could be used is the manufacture of Bio-Char.

Discussion of log piles and difficulty getting firewood from these piles.

11:47 – Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve minutes

11:48 – Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve consent agenda as presented.

11:49 Approval of EMS Districts' vouchers for \$9,680, \$16, 200, and \$58,867.75

Moved, Seconded, and Carried

11:50 – Moved, Seconded, and Carried to extend moratorium on building permits for another 6 months. We are still figuring out things with DOE.

CB has a new draft for extending the Emergency Proclamation (102-2021 in regards to current fires. Moved, Seconded, and Carried, due to ongoing fire conditions.

12:15 Adjourned.

