

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, August 17th, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

*"These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>."*

**Present:**

Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3  
Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1 (*absent first half on elections business*)  
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Karen Beatty (KB), Central Services  
Lisa True (LT), Omak Mt. Road resident  
Zach Kennedy (ZK), lobbyist for county  
Naomi Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Coordinator  
Dennis Rabidou (DR), Superior Court Administrator  
Mary Horner, Bailiff  
Maurice Goodhall (MG), Emergency Management

*Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. See AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at [https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live\\_streaming\\_of\\_meetings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php).*

***Summary of Important Discussions:*** *Central Services - New power back-up operational, purchase of main power switch to include new configuration, 90 computers need replacing, departments sharing costly cyber security system; Omak Mountain Rd resident up in arms about the state of her road and the county's lack of response to her calls; TOI trail project in Oroville gets support; Fire camp coming to fairgrounds but everything should be cleared for the fair; Prosecutor's office needs the Fairgrounds Agriplex in a few weeks, may also use Commissioners meeting hall; Conconully Mayor writes letter asking to lift fire restrictions within city limits, overriding recommendations of Emergency Manager and Fire teams.*

1:55 p.m. - Central Services update. KB: We're finally out of the mess we were in in January. Central Service's UPS system (*data center backup power*) is up and running. Cruse Electric came, now it's powering just the server and the main switch, with an hour and a half of time. *Says she receives an e-mail if back-up activated but may get dispatch to call her. Off line back up system being set up, server is in place to take files off-line once copied. Receiving estimates for new main switch, a big project requiring new configuration. Computers over five years-old too slow, 90 of them in line for replacement. Should she get prices for "Know Before", an Employee training to reduce risk of hacking? Yes. KB has joined ASIS, a group of IT workers and is looking into multi-factor identification. Systems Administrator Steve Rowe retiring in January. AH: Our web page on mobile phones and especially on Emergency Management is not--(running well. She's talked to Maurice about it.) ...The last power outage that we had, Emergency Management's phones were screwy. KB assures him that with new UPS system that will not happen. AH says computer room will have new cooling system. They discuss billing individual departments for the acquisition of new hardware and software, and each one's share of the new \$16,000 cyber security contract.*

2:21 - LJ: I got a call from Lisa True, very upset I had directed her to another public comment

period, saying nobody gives (*a hoot*) about public roads around here, and was going to come right down but she had a family emergency...she was mad because when she called there were two minutes left of the comment period. AH: In that case you could try to see if we can fit someone in. LJ: She hung up on me before I could give her all the options...She was mad that you didn't make a decision this morning. (*She arrives.*)

LT: My name is Lisa True. I live on Omak Mt. Road. The property I live on has been in the family since 1969, by my ancestors since it was an allotment...We have called...gone round and round. Don't know how Kastner got in there and put a rock quarry up. I am fighting that... We had a low water table. The county road, because it's on the reservation and because I'm native, I feel like I'm being discriminated because we're the only road that rarely gets taken care of. AH: I apologize but that's not the only road that gets complaints. *JD says he knows of Kastner's quarry on the other side, on Grant's Rd.* LT: He's trespassing...I was threatened by Kastner, argued with trucks to slow down. There's no speed limit. AH: It's 35 mph. LT: I don't know when and if it will get taken care of better. When the county packed it down it stayed good quite a while but now...I even recorded (*the noise it makes*). AH: ... We grade it once a year. LT: (*Describes damage to car from the road.*) We even filled out a form to get it done quicker because of medical needs. The material used on it is so cheap. Maybe 8-10 families live up there. Unless you're the squeaky wheel, no one's going to care. AH: I think a lot of times we just don't know. Three roads in my district that people complain about all the time. We talk with the engineers: What are our plans for this? *Explains that issue wasn't addressed that a.m. by engineer because he wanted to hear her story; they will consider the emergency, the number of users. She continues to talk about speeding cars. He proposes to put up a speed limit sign. She cites a report saying Tribes can't do any more roads. Says no response from County, points to lack of sidewalks in East Omak, says school district has never been equitable. Nobody cares.* AH: Our budget for roads is not enough. We have 1,600 miles of road, half is dirt. But we'll bring it up with the engineers. *Asks her to leave her number, promises to raise the issue with public works. Recommends she call sheriff to complain about speeding cars. JD says to contact Omak Police Chief. She says speeding and slowing down responsible for the present damage, complains about no response in 30 years to her calls. AH says he has never seen her in five years, that public comment period is for people who have not received satisfaction. Proposes she make a petition for vacation of a road. She is upset, begins swearing and exits, proclaiming "I'm just an Indian."*

2:51 - (*CB arrives.*) Letter of support approved for The Oroville Initiative (TOI), for the trailhead of the "Peace Ford Trail" and transferring ownership to the city of Oroville of any portion of the Similkameen Trail situated within the city limits.

2:57 - *Naomi Peasley reports that a Land Use Agreement has been signed for Fairgrounds buildings to be used by the fire camp, including the RV park and the Agriplex. She said this morning was "rather hectic." She has prepared forms to fill out for people arriving. Two people are helping. The grounds will be vacated before the fair.*

3:04 - *County Lobbyist ZK wants to limit the issues he reports to legislators to one or two because the next session will probably be on line and audiences more difficult to arrange. Discourages raising the law enforcement issue: Sheriff's taking a lot of heat, being public about it...already a public forum. AH: When the water banking bill passed, did out-of-basin transfers come up? ZK: ...It's an unintended consequence of the legislation, something we need to address. AH: As a farmer, it could alleviate issues since no matter what the efficiencies I do, I can still only irrigate the acres that my water rights (*allow*) but if I transfer to the water bank, somebody else can spread that water. ZK: ...I can host the meetings, probably one-on-one, not public, letting them know. AH: If you hear something from another county that might affect us, forward it. ZK: Other counties say exactly the same thing! CB: Resources for fires? ZK: They're patting us on the back*

for our response. CB They do a great job with what they have. AH: They have to fall back on roads away from the fire line. ZK: Bigger presence of airplanes. CB: Still gotta have guys on the ground. They're not padding it when they tell us what they need. The Reservation really lacked resources. ZK: When JD talked about grazing to reduce fuel, I'm not sure they understood. Need to talk about logging a little more. CB: the biggest challenge is getting through the environmental hurdles so that treatment including logging, grazing and thinning can take place before things burn up. Everybody realizes that the fuels and lack of forest management is a major cause. The kind of things we can do to get these treatments accepted by all is really important. We have to go through an arduous process, just to get challenged in the end, so you might find yourself doing the work over again. ZK: ...All mitigation treatments are revenue generators. CB: Unfortunately it's the same on the firefighting side (*but*) we don't want to make our money like that. *They agree to meet in November. The commissioners agreed to write a prioritized list, and asked that the meeting include ZK's other clients, that they "join forces"*.

3:30 - County Attorney DR announces that they will need the Agriplex on August 31st for the jury selection in a murder trial that will last for 4-5 weeks, meaning many potential jurors will be eliminated for "hardship". It may take two days, to narrow down from a pool of 170. This is a first for DR. Trial will be held at the Courthouse, where security is adequate. . AH says the Agriplex will be used for high school sports practice if it's too smoky to be outside, but the court still has stuff in there. CB is concerned that activities at the the youth facility (softball field?) may also have to move indoors. AH: Do you see getting back to the Court House? DR says they are using it more, but the Forest Service building which the county is considering buying, would be ideal. He sees that they will be needing the commissioners' meeting room more often. AH asks him to see with the under sheriff about accommodating the commissioners meetings upstairs if necessary.

4:00 - MG: The Mayor of Conconully wants to have the evacuation notice lifted...The wind is blowing. One of the concerns is keeping traffic low. I said I wouldn't lift restrictions for outside of town but I would state that he wanted restrictions lifted. It's against what the fire guys recommend... I think it's a bad idea. CB: ...Don't we work as a collective under an agreement? MG: We do but they have control of their entity. AH: I want to talk about to talk about liability. If someone gets hurt by fire equipment--MG: Or a tree. They're still cutting down trees... CB: I suggest that we revisit the agreement we have. There has to be something that says the Emergency Manager's discretion is an important part of this process. AH: Can't have someone who could direct a change from the county or fire department and not have personal liability. MG: Ill have another phone call with him, ask him to give it to me in writing so I can understand if he's going against my recommendations. *Important thing for MG is restricting flow in and out, which levels 1 and 2 both do, says state parks are closed, guards turn away people who don't live up there. 200 people have evacuated two campgrounds.* The sheriff is on board with me. Level 2: leave the guys there. If he tells me he doesn't want a restriction, I won't put one. Let 'em do their thing. AH mentions liability again. CB: And if we don't agree? MG: If we could have no restrictions on county property and the mayor could say "I'm going to evacuate," he's in control. JD: You tell him "There's liability on you if you go against (*the recommendations*)". MG...They want tourism. JD- *There's pressure to open the restaurants, but they can be open, CB - They're closed for lack of business.* AH- *They take liability of reducing the level, all the roads out to level 3 closed to people who aren't local. Asks MG how fire measure levels are decided. In Methow, especially, it's fire chief and fie team.* "Here we're gonna go 'boom, level 1 to 2 to 3.' Where can we break this? Where could a fire be stopped? Where is the population at?"

4:13 - Meeting adjourned.