

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 2nd, 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
Michael Beaman (MB), Beaman Architecture
Laura Beaman (LB), Beaman Architecture
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Leah McCormack (LM), Treasurer
Cari Hall (CH), Auditor
Robert Grimm (RG), District Court
Josh Thomsen (JT), Public Works
Tony Hawley (TH), Sheriff
Charles Short (CS), District Court
Charlene Grooms (CG), Court Clerk

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: *Implementation of 20-year county building project plan, spurred by decision to move District and Superior Courts south of town, will require shake-up. Commissioners, Public Health and Human Resources to move to Courthouse, Planning and WSU Extention to the Administration building across 4th Ave. ; Auditor's and Treasurer's offices will be enlarged, Public Works to move to Grainger Building, new locale to be built there for Emergency Services and Dispatch ; District Court Judge Short disagrees with need to move courts, Architect Michael Beaman stresses need to move forward with plan, already approved by the BOCC ; CB in favor of further review in light of dept. head comments.*

1:30 - Discussion with Michael Beaman on 20-Year Master Plan, Option 2 chosen by the BOCC- *MB presents proposed future layouts of 1) the Grainger Administration Building, 2) the Courthouse and Administration Building next to Juvenile facility and 3) the Justice Complex which will utilize the current Public Health/Public Works building and the newly-acquired Forest Service building south of town.*

Grainger Building: *there will be a new Emergency Management Building behind the existing building to house Central Services and Dispatch. MB: It needs to be a 20th century building. Public Works will move to the first floor where the Commissioners are currently housed. JT is worried that the space (including former classrooms) will be less practical*

than his current locale. MB assures him that the opening up of rooms fits in with his vision of a flexible working space and will be worth the investment. The Sheriff's Dept. will stay on the second floor.

The administration building next to the Juvenile Facility: the Planning Dept. and WSU Extension. MB says they should try to buy up adjacent residential property to build a big parking lot, freeing up the existing parking area north of the Courthouse to be used as green space. He also will recommend that any available Presbyterian Church property be acquired to expand the jail.

The Courthouse - MB explains that as a historical monument it is impossible to add court space at this site. The Auditor's office will be opened up and take up the first level. Ceilings will be treated to lessen noise. Treasurer's office will occupy the entire second level. On the third level along with the Assessor's office will be Human Resources, Commissioners and Public Health. LG wonders how much interior remodeling will be allowed. AH: Renovation is full out. We can completely gut it.

Justice Complex configuration : Court Clerk and Superior Court in the Forest Service building, District Court in the Public Works building and a to-be-constructed adjacent wing, Juvenile Detention in a to-be-constructed addition south of Superior Court. The Clerk's office will be in a unified entrance area between the Court and the Juvenile facility.

The Justice Complex - MB: After talking with every department and having worked here for 25 years, (moving court activities elsewhere) makes sense for the county. (JD calls the process "musical offices".) AH: This plan is not perfect but it utilizes everything we own... Incrementally we can approve projects. TH points out that the image of the new Justice Complex shows only one way in and one way out. TH: We need security for transporting inmates. This is not acceptable. We're talking about people's lives. MB: The image doesn't show it but the whole roadway will go around. There will be a sally port (fortified entrance). LM : We've already been bonded. (The roadway ?) was listed on the bond.

2:09 - Discussion about the reason for buying the Forest Service building being to not overcharge the Agriplex with court activity. JD says it's harder for MB to adapt the existing spaces than it would have been to design a whole new structure. MB talks about progressively "biting off little chunks". CS joining via Zoom: You said there was a problem with the Courthouse not working for the courts. MB: (It's about) circulation patterns. Judges, staff, inmates, public, all have separate paths... It's what makes courts unique. CS: I wouldn't agree. (Yes as to) separate waiting areas... minor tweaks for entry into courtrooms. RG : People think Superior Court has more pressing needs. But District Courts try more cases than Superior Court. We won't have murderers. But we have the same issues. You're shoving us into a smaller space, going between buildings. MB : It's all in one building. (The existing Public Health building would be enlarged.) Public access is better. Some complaints about public services being elsewhere, about parking. AH : Getting some new parking, that's part of it. ...MB : I'm pushing back. I don't want a « deal killer » as I've seen before. AH : Ain't gonna happen. We have to have a plan. They discuss the portion of 4th Ave. which goes from Maple to Pine. (2:20) TH would prefer it be inaccessible by car, to avoid danger to people in the parking lot, should one be built in that area. MB recommends a textured paving, a pedestrian area, or making it one-way.

There is a disagreement between MB and CS on whether CS had offered to show MB around the Courthouse. MB suggests CS put into writing what his concerns are. CS says he sent in a questionnaire. He feels that they will have less security being farther from the jail and that

transportation will cause problems. MB : From an architectural standpoint what works is moving towards jails remote from courthouses. LB tries to reassure CS : The only thing that wouldn't be there is the Jail. There's already an office for the Sheriff. It's trying to be more safe and secure. CB : What the judge has said is noted. Don't know if we need another visit but seeing what he's talking about would be useful... MB : What you do with the new Courthouse is full-time security when a trial is going on... (2:41) CB says they need to reconsider everything. MB : Without you guys' approval I can't move forward. If it stalls and dies, why don't we just do a new juvenile facility ? CB says they need to look more closely at some issues.

2 :53 - **CG** : It was disappointing (*to see the plan*), I didn't see where (*Court Clerk's*) storage would be. **MB** evokes a design process, possibly building another building, assures that she will have more space than before because they used every floor plan and overlaid it with Google Earth : It's all proportional based on what you said.

CB : It's a pathway that can change it's course. I don't want to be behind a planning effort that doesn't happen... Hopefully we can include this plan but we need to resolve some issues. **MB** : One thing in closing. My opinion is that the Courthouse doesn't work for us anymore ; (the same is felt by) Chris Culp, Jack Burchard and Heidi Smith. There are issues that can't be resolved. (3:01) **CH**, addressing security concerns, says other counties are doing District Court trials by video. **MB** agrees, says that an inmate must request to have an in-person hearing. **MB** : The transport of inmates will be rough on the jail but (*what we have now is*) less safe than transporting. There is some final discussion on the state of the jails in Okanogan, Chelan and Douglas counties, the need for a regional jail, maybe through the state. A new jail could cost from \$80M to \$120M. **JD** talks about the danger of waiting—since Stevens Co. started their jail project, costs have almost doubled.

3 :10 - Meeting adjourned