

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**August 24th, 2020**  
**Via Capture, Okanogan County Website**

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**Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Maurice Goodhall (MG), Emergency Manager

*By phone :*

Roni Holer-Diefenbach (RH), Exec. Dir., Economic Alliance  
Lael Duncan (LD), Exec. Dir. Community Action

*(Time stamps refer to the recording to be found on <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html>)*

**Summary - 8/24/2020, 9 AM**

**Palmer Lake Fire (7:21-21:15)** - Only controlled burning was going on early Monday morning according to Emergency Manager Maurice Goodhall. Some structural damage (Houses, fences, outbuildings). Fire did not reach the lake. Cause under investigation but human cause suspected. Aid for victims coming from Red Cross, Cattlemen's Assoc., and maybe the state. National Guard had planes dropping water and flame retardant. There was a fuel shortage at Omak Airport which was "quickly rectified."

**Comprehensive Zoning Plan (22/30-1:12:00)** Hover and Branch discussed the reasons why the Comprehensive Plan announced for 2018 is taking longer: process complicated although enriched by emergence of sub-areas and their own advisory groups, and by turning the process over to a planning commission with participants representing the wide diversity of the county. Groups coming together through shared needs and visions deserve to have their voices heard, through the drawing up of "sub-plans".

**CARES Allocations (1:12:30-2:31:00)** New grants announced but too little time to apply for them; some money available to consortiums formed by counties and cities, the counties are to administer funds, cities may also form their own consortiums to apply for funds; With aid available for Public Health, businesses, low to moderate income programs, housing... Clerk Lanie Johns has no time for her normal functions. Commissioners consider hiring a grant manager, and in the short term agree to let Community Action, already managing a part of the aid, help in allocating funds to cities. The county disposes of roughly \$87,000, with \$227,000 for cities; the Economic Alliance must process requests totaling \$571,000 for businesses but its director says often past revenues are too high to fit the "low to moderate income" criteria. A zoom meeting will be organized with the cities to determine priorities. Deadlines for

applications range from Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> (businesses), Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> (block grants), Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, (2020), and January 2022.

- 7:41 **Palmer Lk. Fire - MG:** Got two teams on it. Got an update. It's burning in the North end, all controlled burning. There's some internal burning but I don't think it's going to go anywhere. Mr. Detro has been up there for (*inaudible*) meetings. Too much visitors (*up by Holmes Rd.*). Public Works --thumbs up. They were Johnny on the spot. Didn't have to ask them to protect the roads so there's not damage by one of the trucks stationed by one of the worker's houses. We had rocks coming down by the road at (*Split Rock?*). **CB:** Yeah, that's pretty steep. **MG:** It was like clockwork. They've been in touch with me; They did a great job of coordinating all that. We did get state mobilization right away for structure protection. It's actually not quite in the (*fighting?*) district but it was threatening the district so I worked with the state and got a fire grant, and that's two of them that we got this year...good funding, just need to get the fire district up and running so we're not scared of getting into a grant situation.
- 10:00 **AH:** So I know that you got a lot of range land that's up there so there's a bunch of fences that are getting burned up. What did they do in '14, '15, '16, '17, for people? **MG:** There were some programs out there, it all depends on what level, how much burned and whether or not it's (*taken care of*) in the grant. **AH:** So did the county declare a disaster area? **MG:** Well, during the '14 and '15 fires we declared an emergency but I'll have to research that a bit later today. (*inaudible*) They have been in touch with the Cattlemen's Assoc. and there's about three ranches, farmers in the area that were somewhat affected by the cattle or barns. **CB:** Spears? **MG:** Spears wasn't affected. He was working somebody else's cattle. I had a chat with him and he's down in the valley. They've been in touch with them and Jim's been up there talking. (*Inaudible*) and Austin have all come together and looked at that. We need to look at what is available. **AH:** Can you just do a little more research on what we did in those - **MG:** Yes I know, a lot of people got fences redone through the (*inaudible*). **AH:** I think that it's been working correctly with this. I apologize, you probably didn't get too much information, but that's (*inaudible*) public information.
- 12:15 **MG:** (*inaudible*) We're looking at what the levels are. There's a difference between an evacuation level and a road closure. We might have to keep the road closed and the residents home to keep them from traveling. So we might be dropping some levels, level 3 and level 2, around the outskirts of it. There are some pictures from yesterday at 6:30. I haven't put them on Facebook yet. There are two briefings on Facebook.
- 13:17 **AH:** How are they doing with the state Covid stuff? (*MG replies that Mask orders are enforced in the DNR building; testing is going on.*) **MG:** Lauri Jones and I have met with them twice on the phone. You can see guys out there (*on the fires*) but they understand there are groups. **AH:** Were they having to--a fire camp, that's different now? **MG:** Yes and now, number one is they're spaced out more....You don't go to chow line, the chow is handed out differently, you don't go through that line unless you wash your hands. They made everyone spread out. It's working. They've got several camps around. **CB:** Do we have National Guard? **MG:** I saw two. I thought there were going to be three but I've only seen two helicopters. There may be a third one. (*Much is inaudible. They talk about a lot of activity at the Omak airport, one and two person planes--modern E-Max, A-60s, water-dropping, temporary lack of fuel.*) **AH:** Were they running retardant bombers? **MG:** There have been some few, they've got Fire Bosses, but we did see some big planes. (*CB says something about their being sent to California, and making do with what they have.*)
- 17:36 **CB:** Are they just pulling the water out of Palmer? **MG:** They're pulling out of Spectacle,

Palmer. I see that A-60s were up on top because there are several ponds... *(must be cautious around the ponds. MG is confident about the containment of the fire.)* **MG**: We have house “lossage”, we have outbuilding “lossage”. I don’t know the count exactly but I just got off the phone with somebody who wanted to know about his house. I found it, but someone has to visit it. It’s not a house, it’s a hunting shed. So we need to know that there’s something down there--there’s a 911 address...It’s going to be a little bit before we get that taken care of. We’ve worked with Red Cross. They said there are some that are not using a so-called shelter *(inaudible)* and it’s all working. *(CB had someone ask what was needed up there, clothes... MG says to send them to the Red Cross. Mentions that the CCC in Tonasket and Facebook as resources.)* I’m not going to recommend anybody taking anyone’s spot because I can’t vet them but I think there’s plenty of stuff out there for people to do to donate and just talk with some people. People in need are going to reach out and I’ve had some of those and directed them. It’s all working. I haven’t and any reports of any injuries. Cause of the fire is under investigation. I’ve been hearing it’s man-caused. **CB**: It did start right at Spectacle didn’t it? **MG**: It was about by Washburn. I’m not sure exactly where. **CB**: Did the fire go to the lake? **MG**: On Palmer? It came right down to the road *(by the launch, where the orchard starts on the flat area.)* It came right down to there in short sections. *(Inaudible)* I was there taking some videos and listening to the fire and I could hear rocks rumbling downhill. I couldn’t see them. **AH**: Right there on the south side of the lake it’s steep. **MG**: There were some rocks that they pushed off that were four ft. in size. No fire on the lake. Visit our page. You’ll get a bird’s eye view. **AH** and **CB**: Thank you.

*(Schedule discussion, the Planning update and need for supplemental Environmental Impact Study based on changes made to the Comprehensive Plan.)*

**Discussion on letter to the editor of the MVN, Comprehensive Plan - AH**: There’s a letter to the editor here the other day talking about how we are responsible for the Comprehensive Plan not being on time *(inaudible)*. When we first said “hey, we can probably get that done by 2018 that was because, my thought was, *(inaudible)* really diving into the 2014 Comprehensive Plan I think that all of our thought was “This is more than just minor *(inaudible)*. **CB**: We did. And it took a long time for you and I and Jim to go through that and try to sort through the issues of the existing one and try to put them into position, and then we had a planning commission. **AH**: If we didn’t have a planning commission It would be a little different. There would be a lot more that could be said about “We did not do something on time.” **CB**: And it may have still played out that way because there was a lot to look at, a lot of philosophical stuff involved and also it’s a good thing to have a planning commission that has a good maturity. **AH**: Yeah, that has a mix of people that represents the different areas of the county. And they’re looking at this thing and it’s taking people a long time because they want to put out a good product. **CB**: Well it’s not easy to address these issues. If it was a less diverse planning commission they might be able to put it out real quick. But then again did it meet the diverse population of the county? **AH**: You’re right. The diversity of the planning commission is representative of the diversity of the county. So when did we transmit that to the planning commission? It’s been quite a while ago - and they’ve been holding meetings and gathering information, look at it to try to put out a document that is going to be legally sufficient and going to be a good working model. **CB**: *(inaudible)* There’s a lot in the 2014 plan that complicates matters quite a lot. They had a lot to look at. **AH**: They do not use the verbiage that is consistent throughout the RCW (Revised Code of Wash.) so I guess I wanted to - I felt like I had been getting pinned for this comprehensive plan not moving forward as fast as we said it was going to. And, to be real honest with you, the time

frame that I thought it was going to take was because we figured out we would only have to make some *(inaudible)*. **CB**: I'm as responsible for the delay as you are. We had to go through some issues. **AH**: A lot of issues. **CB**: That turned over to the planning commission and that plan is complex, but it isn't, with the fact that the zoning was mixed in with it. It made it very complex so to undo it...There's more to undoing it than there was to creating the plan. **AH**: That is correct. Undoing a lot of that work which makes sense to some people but if you really look at it in light of what you have to create, then it's implementing tools. It was already trying to be done within the planning document itself and that's what complicates it even worse. And then the other thing that I guess I want to make sure to bring to people's attention is- - we're in the Methow Valley- - is that there are actually two separate comprehensive plans, "sub-area-n" plans, that are contained within the overall comprehensive plan, that aren't going to get changed based on our planning commission. So right now the sub-area A and the upper Methow Valley are two separate planning commissions, two separate advisory boards for their plans, and so- - **CB**: Is that contained in *(inaudible)* **AH**: No, they haven't, and so the reason why *(inaudible)* is they know we are going through this larger comprehensive plan. So it would be this- - or it would be difficult for them to also try to bring changes to the sub-area plans at the same time. So I think that there was this acknowledgement that, "hey, we know you're going through the comprehensive plan; get it done and we need to make changes to the sub-area plans that are *(inaudible)*, then we'll get people together. **CB**: I just saw that there was a draft. **AH**: I guess that's the plan we're at. **CB**: I guess it's not out, it just happened to be on Pete's desk and we've got her this afternoon. I haven't looked at it in detail at all but on page 3 I want to make sure that, I'm hoping there's some reference to sub-area planning. **AH**: Absolutely. We are not taking sub-area planning away because- - There has to be a process and there has to be a good process. **CB**: And so, another thing that we'll have to talk about again- - The comprehensive plan should actually make reference to that but- - **AH**: I'm pretty sure it does. **CB**: One of the problems with the plan is it is always continually referring to regulations and codes that exist and that shouldn't be the way it is because that's driving this *(comprehensive plan)* *(inaudible)*. Acknowledging that there's a sub-area plan and in fact that the plan they've done is already contained in here is really valid, I think. And then to make reference that we should be doing sub-area planning in other areas like that, I should think that that language, then, puts you on notice, and says we're going to do that instead of making decisions that are really separate. **AH**: The expanse of this county and the geographical differences that exist mean that it would be hard to put out a comprehensive plan that says "this is the way it's going to be." Because you've got a lot more, let's say, steep terrain over in the Methow or whatever where it's difficult to *(inaudible)* whereas you get over here in more open places, that would be different. **CB**: And so that's part of the initial planning effort that was left behind, and being able to pick that back up over time *(inaudible)*. We went to areas of the county to listen to people, and then didn't use the information in the end because the planning process changed and so the reason I make reference to that is because you know there was these *(under-planning?)* you know, we had these rules that are still on the books, and I'm just reminding - - *(The conversation is largely inaudible. CB points to code referring to regional advisory boards; under what form can sub-area plans be taken into account? With the comprehensive plan itself, where the authors would stipulate that, given the diversity of their county, sub-areas plans are necessary and will be informed by separate advisory boards.)*  
50:10 **AH**: *(They go over the draft together.)* So is it right- - **CB**: I use this example often when it comes to sub-divisions. I have property rights. I sub-divide my property and so now I have 10 private properties. Is any one of them more important than the other? Collectively it's the people. **AH**: We had that discussion and I specifically stated that for creating- - **CB**:

Well you could do sub-area planning by what you know, and when you talk about a zone, an are, they should be developed. Possibly your initial approach is geographical. A basin is connected by water, something like that, and so a sub-basin- - **AH:** Do you really want to go down to, well (*inaudible*) Mazama, and I don't know if I'd like to go down to that scale. Like, If I were to look at the map, there's a line, and it's roughly the school district line where the geography changes. **CB:** And people change too. **AH:** There's a big difference in what you have as far as the ownership, federal, state, (*inaudible*) There's two sub-areas. I wouldn't go to Twisp River and say it's a sub-area. Because going down to that scale, on a sub-area plan, is not going to do us good. If you get too specific, like if I say I'm in the upper Methow five acres is okay; in the lower Methow maybe there's bigger lots. **CB:** You know in the upper and lower Methow, I mean there is a self distinction as well, so far as the people who live there- - isn't there? **AH:** Of sorts, you know. (*Inaudible exchange*) **CB:** There's a certain amount of sub-area that's necessary because people live in granges- -have transportation systems, water systems, and the transportation systems depend on the water systems. Chewiliken, Tunk, Bonaparte; Aeneas Valley is a good one. People who live there tend to think of themselves as a separate unit. **AH:** Yeah, but if you take that section of valley as a whole and you really look at it, is there really any major difference in water in as far as overall? I'm not talking about coming down to (*compares allowing one size lots in Aeneas, another in Tunk.*) **CB:** Let's call them neighborhoods. (*inaudible*) **AH:** I am not for that specific, I'm just not. Cause you get a lot of, you get like a homeowner's association. **CB:** Well I could say North County considers themselves a different (*inaudible*). So in the North County there's neighborhoods that come together and they talk and that's why Grange halls were created. So I'm not saying necessarily that that is your suburban area. You have a sub-area but also you have recognition of these, for instance, Granges, and let's use one that we're dealing with right now, Tunk Grange. I mean if you go out into the Tunk Grange you take this road, it goes up (*inaudible*) So there's a lot going on there. But there's a lot of relativity in terms of that road in the winter, the water issue, the transportation issue, and so they're a neighborhood that needs to be listened to as a unit, not necessarily a sub-area like what's been

56:25 created in the Methow, but they're part of the North- - **AH:** Maybe that's how you should define representatives of your sub-area planning. **CB:** So nothing's ever cut and dried. To me it's like you work yourself into that and then people, they'll respond. Will self-identify. They'll say "I belong here. I'm a part of this." If you go to Tonasket and even at the council There's times when people come from all that area, but Tonasket is their center so you could say there's a sub-area there if there's neighborhoods. But what I'm saying is there's a real difference in the people and some of the difference in the people is relative to how the land developed. The Methow's a good example. The Methow Valley in itself, you know, the west

57:41 side of the county is developed. I just use that sort of in jest but there's some meaning to it. It developed in such a way that it got different people there. They're than the people that lived there actually all their lives, and several generations, so then we get to the point where we stop and we say "Do the several generations that lived there control the land use? Or are they part of the conversation and may give basis and additional value to the planning of it? Because, again, if we subdivide properties, we create areas that- - people come and buy the properties, there tends to be some similarities, they tend to be new property owners or (*inaudible*) so it changes the process. It's like of Andy Hover on Wolf Creek and 10 other neighbors who lived on Wolf Creek all their lives then do they have the most voices in how Wolf creek further develops in the future? **AH:** No but however, let's all go th the fact that, let's say, the county would have said 'No. On Wolf Creek we're going to have 20-acre tracts. We would have developed differently. We would have. So I think there's a chicken and the egg theory that we're talking about. **CB:** But we've got to recognize change and change is created by rezoning. **AH:** That's it. And if I have, if I allow for 2-acre parcels, I'm going to,

I believe, attract different people than if I have 40-acre parcels. **CB:** Depending on where you buy it. Because the Methow Valley is a place to make money on land. And so in the Okanogan over the years we had exempt segregations according to the place, and there was

59:54 land that was real cheap. And it's got more expensive now but you can still buy land a lot cheaper than you can in the Methow. And so the people who live there look at why they bought their land there and they look at how it would (*inaudible*) and then they go "This will change depending on how we manage land use. But in the Methow it will probably always be pretty expensive to the point to where it's saturated. **AH:** It's always going to be expensive. **CB:** And then while it could be balanced, we had this conversation with E.C. tourism people.

1:01:13 They talked about the natural E.C., you know, Employment Centers. That's what they sell for their product. Like the upper Methow so that's not (*inaudible*) So there was an acknowledgement by people who got together and said "Yeah, we can saturate this (*inaudible*) for super-natural ECs." **AH:** I see. So you create what they're trying to move away from. And so they don't want to move there anymore. **CB:** Or you create what they liked- -they might not be moving away from something but there's something they like. And so there's people I'm sure there that I've talked to, people in the Methow Valley over many tears, that like it there and they came from somewhere else because they liked it there. There's people there that I- - commissioners from another county who grew up there and his comment was an interesting one, you wouldn't have to agree but he said "Well they already messed that up." So it's different than when he was a kid. And from his perspective it was a better place. **AH:** A long time ago. **CB:** And so we have a lot of cheap land here but lots of people come from different places, I mean all kinds of people. Land was so cheap that you could get it. You know we used to joke about it. A hundred dollars down and a hundred a month for 700 times. You'll get a chunk of (*inaudible*) So that'd be fine, that area. **AH:** So let's circle back around to the early, initial conversation starter which was this personal talk about how I was (*inaudible*) in the press. So nothing is going to change in the sub-area units over in the Methow. It's not going to change based on this conference because there are sub-area plans contained within (*the comprehensive plan*). So until they get together and decide they want to try to change within the sub-area plan... **CB:** Well that's the one thing we were talking about, how that gets defined or how that gets set forth in terms of these areas. Like

1:03:17 the more completely-planned areas and how that gets established (*inaudible*) and I fully agree. For a majority of landowners together two thirds of acreage is almost a decision to incorporate, a decision to annex, because it looks like that, 60% of people in that area who signed a petition, said that they wanted to be a part of the city. There is one thing about that. It's not the biggest landowners (*inaudible*) Actually could be, but two thirds of the acreage. (*inaudible*) ...operate, you could define an area. **AH:** That's what we talked about when we were talking about that...I can remember back in the specific conversation about- - **CB:**

1:04:1 How did that get established, more completely planned area in the Methow? **AH:** It's- -you got the upper Methow and then you go sub-area A which is the Mazama area. **CB:** So how did that get established? **AH:** You mean like petitions or- - **CB:** So a group of people came together, said "We are this." **AH:** It's been in there. I think the document attached to this (*comprehensive plan draft*), it's been there for a long time. **CB:** I could give another example of that but it was a smaller area, the Barnhart loop. Chesaw-Molson overlay. So there's obviously some people who got together, I don't know if they used that sort of criteria to pull themselves together, they started meeting and they somehow agreed that "This is who

1:05:59 we are." **AH:** But it has to be- -there has to be criteria for it. So again, not to make a statement, this will come out, that if we want to double-check on this with planning commission... **CB:** Well I don't know what the draft says now about it. But I remember the conversation that took place back when the- -before that initial citizen participation was done. And that it changed course. There were people that came together for different areas that- -

they sort of defined themselves but whether or not they wanted to become a regional planning advisory group is another story. And then having a means to acknowledge that group- - and then how you engage with them. **AH:** But here's the thing too. It's how the process for the (*establishment?*). It is bylaws that say, just like you were talking about...neighborhoods. it's like if you wanted to have a more complete planning area, say, up here on the E. side of the

1:07:15 rink. So there has to be a representative of this sub-basin, you know this sub-basin will be on a yearly deal that will (*inaudible*) on places to pull off. People interested in doing that will submit hundreds of interests on a yearly basis. It has to be established so it's not just the people with the loudest voice. It has to be balanced. **CB:** Citizens' participation defines that. I'm reluctant to use a process that says "It'll be this many people this area." To make a decision on the zoning thing you still gotta have a group of people that come together that's usually defined by the people that come together. North of 97, that's another one of those resort areas. People in that area, they came together and the group was loosely put together. The interested people came to the table and they talked about it and they went through a whole process through the planning commission. And the way they did that, there was a group of people interested in how the area by the highway below the border and Oroville would be developed. And they came together and the reached a consensus. I'm not trying to convince you of anything. I was just talking about it. **AH:** Actually I think we should probably move on from that discussion. **CB:** One thing I did see as a problem, though, in terms of agenda work, (*inaudible*) ...went over for years, was that strategic planning sessions are necessary to have the conversation that we have. They have to be long. They have to be facilitated. (*AH agrees, says they should set aside blocks of 4 hours with Planning Director Pete Palmer. CB says facilitator need not necessarily be the director.*) **CB:** They have a way to fight what you're trying to achieve. You've been facilitating in many circumstances. **AH:**

1:12:00 Yes, a lot. But I'm just trying to figure out in what instance- - **CB:** Let's say that we're going to strategically plan next year's focus. In general. And we're going to say who's going to do what and how we interact. That would be a facilitation process. I'm on one now that's pretty deep on health care. It wouldn't have to be so deep but it helps you to- - **AH:** It helps you to keep focused and to set goals.

**Corona Virus, CARES Act - LJ:** Here is a number of Corona Virus relief funds that are being thrown around and (*inaudible*) there's lots of different sources that require someone to go over, understand and price them. **CB:** Because the cities have their own amount of money- - **LJ:** This email is talking about a solution that's a CVBG (Block Grant) CV1 fund application that's due September 3<sup>rd</sup>. (*Plummers?Connors?*) is assuming that county will take the lead in administering those funds (*laughter. Inaudible.*) So cities are in the County CVBG-CV1 consortium unless they clearly state to the county that they aren't. so this (*other*) email is from the mayor of Brewster saying he (*inaudible*) in the cities that would like to join a consortium. Well, personally, this is the first time I've really heard about this. So yes, it's til Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> to- - **AH:** That's a very short time. **LJ:** And so, behind that is the overview of the funding and behind that is the facts that they've put together. There's a lot of links and things that need to be explored and understood about this grant. There's also a list of local government-certified programs and it includes us and several of the citis of Okanogan County, and then there's also a list of funding distribution with those city and county amounts

1:15:21 of allocation. **AH:** So this one specifically says it funds public health? I've not been able to review this. . **LJ:** That's okay. This is just to make you aware of the situation so you can further provide direction to me on how I'm to fit into the scenario. **AH:** Oh Jeez. **CB:** We did have a conversation with the governor's office this last week for this very reason. When these things come out they're sitting in trust and, and giving us a very short time for a response. And this is jus another- - **LJ:** I feel like I'm one of the few counties who doesn't

have a dedicated person to handle all these grants and these funds. And as Clerk of the board I have a LOT of other responsibilities besides these funds, that I have to do as my job, my main job. And so I'm feeling really pressured into trying to do everything and I simply can't do everything. I can do certain things and I can do them well. But if I start to get too much

1:16:48 piled on top of me I'm not going to do anything very well. **CB:** You just got this, right? (*LJ-Yes*) So we're in the same boat. I don't have to respond to anything just like that, and we'll miss the boat. **LJ:** I don't expect you to. **CB:** I know but if we miss the boat we miss the boat. But let's look at it and see what it is. **AH:** So let me ask you a question. Just hold on just a second. Because you just- -you've made this statement two or three times and I totally respect that and it's very true because they keep piling on these grants that we want to get right. I mean it's with the cities also. All this Covid-related stuff. Temporarily we could hire somebody specific to, with public money, administer these grants. I think we should do that. **CB:** I would do that as a temporary, but you can't do that by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> can you? **AH:** No. Do you think that it's going to run out after October? **CB:** I understand what Lani's saying. It's a frustration that I have just as an elected official too because it doesn't have to be that way, it's just that she got the information that she's passing to us. A grant person to respond to every one of these...We've still got to (*inaudible*) look at that, so I see what you're saying, about a grant person. **AH:** You want a more long term. **CB:** Actually I would rather hire one long term but I also see some other (*inaudible*) staffing requirements we're very short on and so if we could do it in the short term for with the Covid money, Okay. Coordinate the Covid grants. **AH:** Are we going to get this one by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>? **CB:** That's the question. So if you add us to the cities we have a consortium, we have a (*inaudible* This thing comes through so

1:19:34 fast, that it's (*affecting our meeting schedule.*) **LJ:** If we get too deep into that, I have related issues that I'm going to be working on in the next day or so. I just received on Thursday an email. I think the commissioners may have also received it. It's from Melanie \_\_\_\_ stating that the Office of Budget and Financial Management told her today that the House Appropriations Committee Chair and Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair have requested copies of the plans that cities and counties have developed for the use of their CARES Act relief funds. Your plan may be as formal as a highly detailed (*inaudible*) document. It could be a spreadsheet or a Powerpoint demonstration. The form does not matter nearly as much as the content part of the review for the next triage of funds. The legislators want to get a sense of what the CARES money is being spent on. They originally wanted to condition release of the funds on receiving reports but were dissuaded after realizing non responsive cities could hold up the funds for everyone.. that does, however, show how important it is that they see the plan as soon as possible. Please send a copy of the funding plan no later than Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup>. Tomorrow. **CB:** So that's stressing you out. **LJ:** I'm also thinking about that as well. **CB:** When did that email come to you? **LJ:** Thursday. **CB:** Not to worry. I mean we could come up with a- - **AH:** We can do a "Flexall Stretchy". I mean really, literally do it in probably 10 minutes. **CB:** You're right (*inaudible*)

1:21:18 **LJ:** The Covid 19 request that I'm working on now for submittal to Commerce reimbursement of the Corona Virus Relief Funds is different than what (*inaudible*) But this lays out how we are to organize our A19 for the different categories of funds that we're identifying a need for. **AH:** That's not a plan, is it? **CB:** We can use that for a guide. **AH:** We've created part of this plan, right? **CB:** Yes we have. **AH:** Because we ...already said 25% goes to Public Health. So that was step one of our plan. **LJ:** The Corona Virus Relief Funds, so right off the top we dedicate 25% to Public Health. **AH:** Ok. Then we look at County Corona Virus-related things that we had to do (*inaudible*) in order to function. So that was our second plan. After reviewing those costs then we determine an amount that we could then safely apply to our small business loans, and with reserve to then, after we've fulfilled these and we still have money left, possibly go out for a second round, whatever. I mean

1:23:16 that's the plan, right? **LJ**: That's the plan for the Corona Virus Relief Funds. We have planned the addresses of all the possible relief funds that we are eligible to receive. Not just those, because there's CV1 and CV2. There's also the funds that we opted out of that we opted out of that we're sending to Community Action and there could be various other Corona Virus-type funding through the Department of Commerce that should be included in the plan that they're not yet quite aware of. So it's kind of an overall plan for the use of the funds that is meeting tomorrow. And we could get a basic one down and that was the *(inaudible)* issue. *(Discussion of schedules. AH wants to meet with CB and LJ; CB says take the time now.)* **CB**: Just to note that we as County Commissioners, the word's being used

1:25:55 often, unprecedented: "Plague". The word. It's coming at us from every direction. What I want to establish is one very important thing. And as that is, we make sure that if it's too much and it's hard to deal with, then we actually maintain a certain promise about all this because what you look at - What's the worst that could happen? Death So-- **AH**: And the fact is that if something comes through yesterday, and it's due today, for a grant, do we even have time to go through that? **CB**: You really have to decide that and, you know, strategically, what's the things we need to incorporate, what do we need to deal with. And then if we get these things laid out, which we've done, *(inaudible)* Right now I was just looking through a few things. Homelessness is always on our plate, that's exacerbated by Covid. This *(inaudible)* is a huge thing. **AH**: And actually business generation. I think like hey, we know that it's a weird climate, and if you guys are looking to move out of some place, we may be able to help start up. **CB**: I agree with you except we're in the mode of triage. Things are coming out that we've never seen before. I'm afraid that some of those things that are coming up are as a result of the climate that we're dealing with now, especially with the Covid, and with an election year and there's a lot of craziness that's gonna happen from now until the end of the year. It's gonna keep coming at us. It's something, you know, I think that just among ourselves, make sure that our staff doesn't feel overwhelmed by it. Because expectations are only what you can do. And so, it comes through your *(inaudible)*

1:28:39 **LJ**: But I also feel responsible. **AH**: The thing is, you're not responsible. **CB**: This one is from the mayor of Brewster and it says please add us to the cities that would like to get a consortium and **AH**: They're already in it. Unless they ask to be removed. *(More talk of schedules.)* **CB**: What do they want for getting our foot in the door? **LJ**: An application. **CB**: How can we get this? **LJ**: There is a *(inaudible)* review that we need to get completed before the service providers request funding. **AH**: This is \$227,000! **LJ**: Spread out to the cities. **AH**: It's not like it's \$227 million, it's \$227,000. **LJ**: The county has to administer it. Commerce is assuming that the county will take the lead in administering the funds out to the cities or the county unless we hear otherwise. The cities are in the county consortium unless they notify us that they aren't. *(Reads the options a city has: to apply on their own,*

1:35:18 *establish a consortium with other cities or counties, or join another county's consortium.* **CB**: The question I have for us today is do we want the city of Brewster telling us that they'd like to join the consortium that we have established--because we haven't made this decision--and do we want to play that role? The cities have taken the CVD funds--CARES money, and distributed it to the businesses. **AH**: I can't assume that all of them have done that way. Without having the conversation with the cities, I mean the city of Brewster, could do that, a consortium to do that, given that amount of money. **CB**: There seem to be economic opportunity grants ... The biggest grant is to Okanogan County: \$86,964. **AH**: So to get that they use the county population and the city populations. **CB**: So we have \$87,000. We can deal with that on our own. And commerce assuming the county will take the lead in administering to the cities. So the question I have is, do we want to handle all the cities I don't think so. They would be able to apply themselves. What advantage do they have in applying through us except that we administer it? *(LJ says in the request you must say*

*whether county or a city is administering.*) **CB:** So I suggest that we contact the cities, maybe even have a zoom meeting, say they can participate. Sounds good. **AH:** It basically boils down to the fact that, capacity-wise, we don't really have the capacity right the moment *(inaudible)* **CB:** So otherwise- - **AH:** So what are the cities doing for us? **LJ:** So this money is for public service, and local, micro enterprises, and programs, and public health. So we currently have Community Action administering those funds. But they get passed through the city to then put service programs and some of the temporary housing that Covid 19 *(inaudible)* **CB:** The question is, is that what they're doing right now *(inaudible, asks what is the priority list for the \$87,000)* **AH:** I would say that since we've already put out \$576,000 so far, we've pretty well funded them in a pretty good way. My secondary thing would be small businesses and adequate housing I guess, even you get some of those farm workers stuff where they're having problems with places to put people, things like that. **CB:** So you make a proposal to do that by Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>? We'll have to decide what that program would be. *(inaudible)* **LJ:** So you could *(inaudible)* it's on the email saying they have another \$571,000 worth of business applications that have come through and are on standby. She's waiting til Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> which is the deadline for applying. **AH:** So that's 571 but we committed 250, right? **LJ:** Right. **AH:** So that's twice as much. Over twice as much... **LJ:** A;so on the commissioners' agenda we have the commitment to our current homeless housing funds agreement with the Okanogan County Homeless Shelter who has sent letter stating they want to shift \$5000 of the \$10,000 allocation to the construction of a homeless shelter, and that they are getting underway right now, in Okanogan. **AH:** through CARES, or is it through homeless housing? **LJ:** It's Homeless Housing money but I'm just saying they need a homeless housing shelter too. **CB:** So here's some ideas. Because that's the question I have with the homeless center is that, let's say, we take - - it's there right now. If we were to say right now let's take \$87,000 and give it to Community Action for a homeless housing grant. Or, since the push is being put to the cities, where is their focus? It seems to me it's on small businesses and we have a small business interest. The amount of money that's available right there...I don't know what the limitation of *(inaudible)*. But the idea would be if cities were interested in directing more of that to business, they would be interested in doing the program of a consortium. **AH:** Could we send out an email to the cities list, mayors, saying we do not have capacity to administer these grants for all of you; what are your priorities? **CB:** That would be good. (CB says to attach all relevant documents that the county has received so cities can make their priorities?) I think it's important to get a feel for what they have in mind. If we could, say, simple as this. We know businesses that are really in trouble. Would it be simple enough to contract with Economic Alliance to distribute the whole thing? **AH:** Our 86,000 or the whole thing? **CB:** Or the whole thing? The \$2 27,000. If the cities are interested in that I don't see any need or any converging. **AH:** That would actually go a long ways to filling up right now the \$571,000 request. **CB:** *(reading)* "The CVG-funded activities must benefit moderate income persons." So that falls into that CVG thing, the consortium, because a CVG has an administration and implementation. So maybe the city of Brewster wouldn't look at that. Maybe they've got something in mind because add it to the list, nothing, and it doesn't get done by September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Do you want to talk to \_\_\_ about additional CVG funding? **AH:** Yeah. I would like to see that because, ok, either we're gonig to have to tell Connors that we are not going to administer all of the funds for the cities, because they expect that we are unless we tell them we aren't, that the only way to get information would be, for the cities, to try to figure out what are are your- - **CB:** We should do that. They need to understand that they're meeting CVG criteria. Brewster'd know about that. You know I don't know each city's difficulties in terms of *(inaudible)* *(Talk about how Community Action has all their criteia established. AH doesn't want to speak for the cities.)* **AH:** The CVD grants and the other ones that we've passed through to Community Action,

most of all through administrative type work. Is that correct? Are you compiling it? **LJ:** I'm making sure that they are following- -that how they're spending the funds meets the criteria.

1:49:05 **AH:** So it's less stressful on you when that happens? **LJ:** Absolutely. **CB:** This is a ratio turn-around because we're thinking of turning our funds over to the Community Action Council to deal with moderate income programs there...see what they say. **LJ:** So the County could pass on the \$227,000 allocated to cities. Community Action would be responsible for submitting to us an A19 showing the amount that would go to those cities. *(inaudible)* **AH:** And they would have to determine that x amount goes to Pateros and x amount goes to Brewster. *(CB asks LJ for the number to call Lael Duncan to make sure what they're envisioning is acceptable for the CVG funds. LJ announces that she's asked Johanna to come help her a few hours a week. CB and AH approve. LV reaches Lael /LD on the phone.)* **CB:** Have you seen the overview on this CVG program? **LD:** I would need to see what the program allows and what the term of the grant is. *(LJ will send her info. Largely inaudible sequence, they mention a phone ccall to the one who will set up the zoom meeting with the cities, the total of 2 million in total CARES funds for the County, AH thinks maybe a "Grant Manager" position would bring all the aspects together and facilitate reports to the auditor at the end of the year, provide continuity. The person previously i-gired was too busy with non-administrative functions to do these things. CB evokes poorest counties who struggle in everything. Phone call with Roni Holer-Diefenbach/RH, Community Action, for checking grant criteria.)* **RH:** The problem is that businesses have to qualify as lower to moderate income to be eligible to receive a grant through CVBG, just like the regular CVG program, and with their annual revenues they don't qualify. **CB:** That's what we thought might be the case. We thought about that, wanted to see if the city of Brewster wanted to be part of the consortium, and number two, if they'd have the problem we just explained. So we had a thought because community block grants are always ...*(explains the idea of letting Community Action administer the funds for the cities. RD says not as many limitations on the grants as on the business funds. She hangs up and they take a call from LD, discuss state grants meant for Public Health, Emergency Response, temporary housing facilities, and ask her to address Covid impacts. Deadline for the program is January 2020. Lea says probably use it for emergency housing. She'll go over it with her leadership team. Asks about agreement cities and the county. CB replies cities have to ask to join the County's consortium. Lea is reticent about taking money that could go to the Economic Alliance. CB says County allocates other CARES money to Economic Alliance. LD is concerned about exceeding the collection limit. LJ says this would be a different sub-recipient agreement. Probably freedom to spend on what you need. LJ reminds that they would have to hold a public hearing as for other CVBG grants. LD will let them know Tuesday. LJ hopes public hearing can be held after the grant deadline, or, in re-reading the info, that this can be waived and done through change of contract.)*

**Budget workshop** - *(talk of dates for budget meeting: usually alternative date is used, December 1st, AH says they need that extra time until December so to aim for that On course to receive the budget 1<sup>st</sup> week in September. AH will take a week to go over it before meeting with individual depts. CARE allocations will be taken into account, using a conservative*

2:32:10 *estimate.* **LJ:** I got some clarification from Commerce as to how the contracts from the Corona Virus Relief Funds were allocated to Public Health and Economic Alliance.- - Economic Alliance is more like a sub recipient of the funds. They are required to provide us the receipts of the businesses that have spent money because of the Corona Virus. However the Public Health contract is different. They are more like a reimbursable entity. So they would need to submit to us the invoices and we would submit this on our A19 as Public Health-type costs. I spoke with Cari Hall in the Auditor's office. She recommends that we

still have a contract with Public Health for pass-through of those funds to reimburse them for those costs. They then submit to us in their own A19 (*inaudible*). I did receive a bundle of bills from Public Health. Jill Gates certified them. They're not certified by Public Health but she might be authorized to do that. I'm not worried. But I have a bunch of them for \$6,500 worth of Covid -related costs. So I'm going to enter those on our A19 and submit that for reimbursement. But you need a contract with them as recommended by Car. It's all in (Public Health's) hands. I've done my part. Also Cari recommends that there be a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the county and Public Works because they are a special bunch and need to understand the requirements. Talked with Cari and to Josh already and told him that one was requested by Cari and said I would create a template with all the eligibility requirements in it and then we could work on it together. **AH:** The contract is in their hands. I don't want to pay them until we have a contract in our hands. **LJ:** We don't have the money yet to pay them so we're a little ways off. **CB:** The priority list establishes the many costs coming in that we don't know about, what we have, and needing to provide costs by October. We haven't done any allocation of the funding. We agreed that we would see how it works, spend funds we already have and we see how we get reimbursed. **AH:** I think that with what we spent and what we've been allocated that will be fine. **CB:** Adjourned!