

Okanogan Board of County Commissioners  
08/24/2020

JD—Jim DeTro (absent in the AM at Palmer Fire site. Present in the PM.)  
AH—Andy Hover  
CB—Chris Branch  
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners  
MG—Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
TC—Tanya Craig, Risk Management and Human Resources  
RH-D—Roni Holder-Defenbach, Executive Director, Economic Alliance  
LD—Lael Duncan, Executive Director, Okanogan Community Action Council  
PP—Pete Palmer, Director of Planning and Development

*This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Okanogan County Watch (countywatch.org) Any writer's comments or explanations are in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see [www.okanogancounty.org](http://www.okanogancounty.org).*

**Summary of significant discussions:**

**06:50**—MG arrives to update the Commissioners on the Palmer Fire. AH asks about help for ranchers whose fences have burned. There's also a discussion about how the fire camps are dealing with the threat of Covid-19.

**23:30**—Commissioners go into executive session with TC "to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee". RCW 42.30.110(1)(f). They return after approximately 35 minutes. (AV Capture is turned off during executive session.)

**28:15**—Meeting resumes. CB mentions he'll be attending an on-line seminar on water law on Wednesday and Thursday.

**31:30**—AH mentions a recent Letter to the Editor in the Methow Valley News blaming him for the Comprehensive Plan being delayed. He and CB discuss the difficulties in completing the Plan. Discussion includes the Planning Commission and sub-area plans. They wonder if they should have more of the strategic planning sessions they used to have when Perry Huston was Planning Director.

**1:13:00**—LJ has just learned of a consortium of cities in Okanogan County to deal with funding from Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) from HUD. Other counties have an employee dedicated to dealing with these grants and Okanogan County does not. AH wonders if the county could hire someone using Covid money to deal with these issues. LJ would like the county to have an overall plan to deal with Covid funding. They talk on the phone with RH-D of the Economic Alliance and LD of the Okanogan County Action Council for ideas.

**2:28:10**—Commissioners and LJ discuss the calendar for hearing about the 2021 budget. AH mentions that the goal is to finish by the first part of December.

**2:32:15**—LJ brings up the issue of a contract with Public Health to reimburse them for Covid expenses. Cari Hall, County Auditor, recommends a contract to pay the bills. Public Health has the template for the contract and the Commissioners are waiting for it.

**2:40:05**—Adjourned for lunch.

**2:40:30**—JD has returned from the Palmer Fire. Commissioners discuss issues of mobilizing local units and how contractors should be paid.

**2:45:38**—PP says Methow Valley vault toilet signature resolution is all ready to go. AH explains how the payment and reimbursement will work.

**2:52:20**—PP gives document with current trail usage data to BOCC. The Recreation Plan is ready to go. Its SEPA document is ready to go out for comment. BOCC discusses whether the Rec Plan should be part of the Comprehensive Plan or a stand-alone document. The decision is from stand-alone.

**3:01:50**—PP says the draft SEPA environmental checklist on the interim zoning code is available. Should that be put out for review, also? Yes.

**3:02:00**—The Comp Plan is in its final stages. PP will present a draft to the Planning Commission tonight. The SEPA and supplemental to the EIS is being done. The plan is for PP and Angela Hubbard to work on this off-site to avoid interruptions.

**3:07:15**—PP had the office set up with laptops to accommodate 8 people for the last WRIA meeting, but when people learned they'd have to wear a mask, they went elsewhere. CB notes that AV Capture isn't set up for Comp Plan or WRIA meetings yet.

**3:08:35**—PP leaves.

**3:10:15**—Resolution 105-2020 agreement between Methow Trails and the county to install a vaulted toilet. Passed. AH leaves. CB and JD chat with a man who came in to have a document notarized.

**3:30:25**—After the man leaves, CB and JD discuss selling water rights.