

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, August 3, 2021, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2 – on Zoom

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 not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see https://okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Time Stamps are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Staffing issues in Planning Dept, BOCC approval of a FT Clerk 3 position in the BOCC office, Update from Fairgrounds Event Coordinator/ Puncturevine Weed problems, Fair Registration opened Aug 1, Budgeting changeover to Fairgrounds being it's own separate dept, invoice from new Tri-County Pest Control Office, Updates from Dispatch/Communications Manager/ network costs/possible connections with other counties; Skagit & Skamania, update on maintenance and road condition, damage from current fires, discussion of when Hwy 20 might get re-opened.

9:01 Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director – GIS Department technician training ends 8/31/2021. Getting a new person trained and hoping to keep technician. Sheriff's Dept has a contract with Wa State for GIS. Planning to be short staffed in August d/t vacations, but have yet to hire open Planning position, PP gives kudos to fairgrounds staff for horse races this last weekend Track and grounds look really nice.

PP also discussed possible vendor to do the scanning of files for record retention. Have received a quote for this \$110 per box comes to \$42,000
AH states we need to get this done. Planning has brought in extra revenue that was not in the budget – could be used for this.

PP also related there is a \$4,000 grant from DOE for periodic updates to the Shoreline Management Plan. This is a no-match grant.

AH requests Planning Dept to put out a timeline of upcoming deadline, what needs to happen now, and a start to finish plan to be proactive, rather than reactive.

PP – OK, I can do that.

LJ reports that Planning Dept has \$100,405.00 revenue over budget.

9:19 LJ would like to go forward with the Clerk 3 position in BOCC office; Could be fulltime or ¾ time. Moved Seconded and Carried to hire FT Clerk 3 Position. LJ to bring resolution and add job description. Directing LJ to advertise to fill the position. Could be used to help with administration of American Rescue Act Funding. Moved, Seconded, and carried to direct LJ to complete Resolution with job description.

LJ is very appreciative of the BOCC for authorizing this position.

AH suggests that LJ work with PP to cover any related jobs in the Planning Dept.

9:29 Naomie Peasley (NP), Fairgrounds Event Coordinator – Working with WeedBoard to get rid of outbreak of Puncturevine Weed in numerous areas of the Fairgrounds.

NP reports there are 4 events this week. Chelan Fresh, 2 weddings, and barrel race on the weekend – both days Fair Registration opened August 1st.

Some discussion between NP and BOCC regarding how to pay the upcoming bills until the Fairgrounds Dept has their own line items in the budget. Currently under Maintenance.

NP also discussed mapping the fairgrounds for utilities. Water project is a priority, There are 2 bids; Pioneer Waterproofing and Courtner Architecture.

2 Worksource guys are helping with the weed eating at the Fairgrounds.

9:56 Pest Control Invoice from Will Carpenter – Director discussed. How are the expenses divided among the 3 counties, who is responsible? There will be expenses and revenue when landowner pays for Pest Board services. This will go through the Treasurers Office it appears, especially if the expense becomes a lien on a landowner's property. Discussion of enforcement as stipulated in contract.

10:14

AH spoke with Will Carpenter on the phone during this discussion – He works with the Treasurers Office.

10:26 Mike Worden (MW) from the Communication/Dispatch states emergency communications seem to be going well in the Methow. All systems working okay. There could be some City frequency issues, but believes they are resolved.

MW reports 2 things of interest; 1, Previously spoke with BOCC about Broadband for Pine Creek/Laminosky Mountain area. 2, Spoke with Colville Tribes about Coulee Dam area for Broadband also – possible use of ARPA funds.

Also, considering upgrading the communication services in Conconully in conjunction with Public Works Septic System project.

10:37 MW states the Dispatch receives \$\$ from the State and they are talking about consolidating services and he is pretty concerned about that. Although, MW is in conversation with Skagit and Skamania Counties to be connected with us.

MW hopes consolidation will be a positive, not a requirement.

11:00 – Josh Thomsen(JT), County Engineer – maintenance and road conditions are not very impacted by the fires in the Methow Valley. There will be a need for guardrail replacement On Cache Creek. Wolf Creek and Elbow Coulee are getting a lot of traffic.

Other projects – chip seal seem to be going fine. Upcoming projects

CB asks JT if we could capture project on a map. It could be fairly dynamic that would be a great tool for us. JT – Yes, that would be good to have.

AH would like to get a meeting together with Chris Fischer from the Tribe, Bureau of Reclamation, Conconully Irrigation District to work out issues in Conconully – could use Streamflow Restoration \$\$, ARPA funding, or Fish restoration monies.

It would be good to meet together.

Alarm Systems could go into the cabins

11:15 – Meeting needs to be re-scheduled with Doug Ralson Re: B&O Road West.

Some discussion about when Highway 20 will be re-opened. There is no consensus among the business community in Twisp/Winthrop.

AH as soon as it is safe – as soon as possible.

11:23 – Consent Agenda approved.

11:28 Meeting Adjourned.