

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, September 13, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1 (in attendance after public comment)

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Chair, District 2

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 are 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 below 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:

Discussion of Barnholt Loop zoning area advisory committee, currently zoned Agricultural Residential, needing to meet/be re-established. Hearing on affirming ordinance/moratorium on Tunk Valley Basin Development until January 19th, 2023, public comments in favor of this. County to partner with 2022 NCW Career Exposition and waive Agri-Plex Fee, this will bring students and employers together in a hands-on interactive format. Recess at 11:45 until 3:00 this afternoon, after Public Health Meeting.

9:00

BOCC meeting opens. JD and AH in attendance.

9:15

Public Comment Period: Paul Sisson wondering when BOCC will re-visit ARPA allocations, especially in regards to Fire District 6. AH states they are working with State Auditor and we (BOCC) does not have a time yet. Their allocation is contingent on speaking with the State Auditor.

Isabelle Spohn asks about the Resolution being available for upcoming hearing this morning on the Tunk Valley Moratorium. She had to ask for this twice. AH made sure she got it so she could comment on it. Ms. Spohn also commented on the confusion with the Sub-Areas applications, wrong due date published, and not enough information from County for people to apply. People aren't taking this seriously. Ms. Spohn thanked AH for coming to their recent meeting.

9:23

CB in attendance.

9:30

Stan Carter and Chuck H – members of previously appointed Barnholt Loop Advisory Committee on zoning in attendance. *It took some considerable doing to accommodate Chuck H (previous Chairman of*

this committee) who is hard of hearing, so that he could understand what was being said.

Commissioners all commented that this was good for them to realize they need to be set up for people with hearing impairments. The Courts have a system for this, but BOCC not set up for this.

Pete Palmer (PP) Planning Director began by giving history that she had learned about from her research. An 8-person committee was appointed in 2003-2004, which expired 2007. However, the last meeting they held was in 2013. She had been unable to locate letters of appointment for these individuals. Per PP, apparently the zoning of the area changed in 2013 when it went from minimum requirement (2&1/2 acres) to Agriculture Residential. There are 116 parcels in this area. Also, per PP, it was rezoned in 2016-2018. *Lots of confusion regarding history, loss of previous paperwork, and understanding of what, exactly, this area was zoned at and when.*

Per Stan Carter, there are more people here now that do not know what the requirements of this area are. He would like the Committee to meet again to get back on track and invite all people in this area to a meeting and would like the Planning Director and/or BOCC there also. He will work with PP on this. He also brought along an old handbook that was made specific for this Advisory Committee that should have a lot of the needed answers in it.

10:11

AH comments on the need to look at the Zoning Chart and the District Use Chart. PP to work on getting that information.

10:21

PP suggested that they get started by sending a letter out to the current members (she will get list from Stan Carter) and then have a meeting inviting all landowners in that area. PP will work with them on this. BOCC seems in agreement to this recommendation.

11:00

PP back in BOCC meeting for the hearing on the Tunk Valley Basin Moratorium reporting their recommendation to affirm this ordinance that is in effect from 7/19/2022 to January 19, 2023. This will get time for them to consider zoning options for this area. Public comments in support of this. One commenters stated they would support a 100 acre minimum.

11:17

Moved, Seconded, and carried to approve this Ordinance/Moratorium.

This prompted quite a bit of discussion regarding consolidating parcels and how to apply zoning types county-wide, rather than just by area. The same ideas can be used in other areas of the County.

11:30

Heidi Ott and Kristi O'Neill from FYRE, along with 2 youth in attendance to discuss upcoming 2022 NCW Career Exposition. This is scheduled for October 26th at the Agriplex.

This was last held in 2019 (before COVID) and they attempted to do this virtually, without much success. They are looking forward to having this in person this year, but do not have any start-up money and have determined that the Agri-Plex is the best place to hold this event. Their previous expo brought together 850 students from 12 school districts, and numerous employers. This is a hands-on event which is different from other job fairs. They figure they serve around 50% low-income students and would like to have the rent cut in half or none at all.

All 3 BOCC would like to co-sponsor this event by utilizing Economic Alliance and waive the rental fee. Moved, Seconded and Carried to partner in this event and waive the fee.

CB also commented about our Youth need to see themselves as agents of change.

11:45 Meeting in recess until 3:00, after Public Health Meeting