

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday September 6, 2022 AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 1

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: Problems with domestic water at the Fairgrounds – well not producing enough. Planning Director presents recommendations/discussion for approval of Lazy Lighting (south of Pateros) long plat; 6/ 1 acre parcels - DOE comments the need for water right. Planning has received 1 applicant for zoning consultant. Discussion of sales tax distribution and bonding. County Engineer reports on maintenance and road conditions; bridge work, considering project on Newby Creek. Public Works continuing to figure out OCOG position; Solid Waste booth at the County Fair; Public Works considering equipment purchase in light of inflationary prices. Considering policy decision for County Fair/ rental and budgeting. Recess for lunch 11:44

9:00

Meeting begins.

JD requests an executive session. He wants to make sure that the Board is aware of an Employee Complaint.

Executive session from 9:05 to 9:15 under RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)**8

9:15

Public Comment Period. Ruth Hall comments there have been no advertisements for the Okanogan County Fair in the Wenatchee World.

9:20

AH discusses how the domestic well at the fairgrounds is not producing enough water for everyone at the fair. They may need to turn off the irrigation water during the fair. It should not be needed at that time anyway.

9:45

Going into a Closed Session for Union Negotiations for Public Works Contract with Shelley Keitzman, HR for 10 minutes. Until 10:00.

10:00

Pete Palmer (PP), Planning Director brings Public Hearing results/recommendations for the application for Lazy Lighting Long Plat development, south of Pateros. This is a 7.65-acre piece of property to be broken into 6/1 acre lots, each with their own separate septic system. There are 2 other long plats in the same area; Big River with 8 lots and Coyote Rapids with 6 lots.

Public hearing was 7/14 with the Hearings Examiner. Applicant needs to prove water availability on Starr Road. DOE's comments: water right is required. Moving forward is contingent on the decision of the BOCC. They need to read over the information and make their decision. AH thinks there is water right available since this is by the river. He asks PP when the other 2 developments were approved. PP in 2008. This application does not have anything to do with the other 2 long plats – just noteworthy. Some discussion about Class A and Class B water systems. County Health Department also commented about 1-acre parcels, depending on how it lays, could make separate septic systems difficult.

10:20

PP reports one applicant for the Zoning Consultant position. They are waiting for another one. PP, AH, and CB discuss how helpful it would be to know a city's intentions of adding city water to new areas and possible annexations. Will discuss more in the PM session today.

10:22

LJ brings up homeless housing funds. Housing Coalition has a proposal. After a hearing on November 22, they will present their recommendations to the BOCC.

Discussion regarding how Economic Alliance submits their vouchers and what supporting documents are needed.

10:26

LJ brings up that Michael Beaman, Architect consultant, asks if progress has been made on the 20 year plan he submitted.

10:28

AH & CB discuss sales tax distributions between county and cities, capital improvement projects, and bonding vs use of sales tax/ county vs cities.

10:58

Moved, Seconded, and carried to have the chairman of the board sign the contract to move forward with the auctioneer services.

11:00

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer in for Public Works update.

AH asks JT if Public Works might have a piece of equipment and operator to help on Wednesday and Friday at the Fairgrounds. Items will be delivered to cover the stage and will need to be picked up on Friday. JT will see what they have available.

JT reports on maintenance and road conditions. Cleaning bridge decks. Per AH, JT has worked up a possible plan for working on Newby Creek, which is a county road and bridge – going to Forest Services. JT has some figures for working on the road.

11:09

JT is looking at next year's equipment needs. This year a grader was \$350,000. Next year, expected to be up \$100,000. They are considering purchasing and replacing equipment or just getting them refurbished. Also, working with State DOT for their used equipment.

11:19

JT is still working on the OCOG position and will have it written up enough for CB to take to the OCOG meeting on Monday. AH comments that this is a good position, and sees it's benefit for Mazama in particular.

11:22

JT reports still nothing back from BIA on the Cameron Lake Project.

Solid Waste will be having booth at the fair.

JT will check on loader for use at the fair – see what might be available.

11:25

JT will not be available next Tuesday.

11:27

LJ reminds AH that the State Auditor would like to meet with the Chair of BOCC regarding Risk Assessment. Cynthia.

Some discussion of USDA/Forest Service funds (Secure Rural Schools) funding. Some needs to be designated to Title 11 funds, and others for Title 111. Moved, Seconded, and Carried to approve Resolution 124-2022 designating the funds.

11:32

AH reports having participated in a conference call with the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer regarding Bonding procedures.

11:34

LJ brings up the Fairgrounds Property – to utilize or sell. AH states that they need to make a policy decision regarding growth of the fair. Also, whether to keep charging the fair rent for the Fair event or to do a different process.

AH will ask the Auditor what she suggests. Fair generated their own money. It was decided to discuss this in the PM

JT also states they will be hearing from the new Ranger at 3:00 this afternoon. CB states they will also be coming back to see results of subdivision.

11:44

Recess for lunch.