

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, 9/22/2020 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

*Note: 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/Commissioners/Minutes%2020/2020%20Minutespage.html>.*

**Present:**

Jim DeTro (JD) - BOCC District 3, Chair  
Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC District 1, Vice Chair  
Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board

**Absent:**

Andy Hover (AH) - District 2

**Summary:** Public comment regarding the **out-of-date 2013 Community Wildfire Protection Plan**, important mitigations deleted due to insufficient funding and manpower, and failure of the county to include the CWPP in recent draft of Comp Plan. Branch will contact Maurice Goodall and Pete Palmer and anticipates review by Planning Commission; detailed discussion of **election procedures, cost, and backup provisions** by Cari Hall; **Irregularities at Fairground Demanding Attention**, by a candidate in the upcoming election regarding hay delivery to those affected by recent wildfires.

*To locate items on AV Capture listed here in real time, you can observe the clock on the wall in the AV Capture video.*

**1:30 PM - Public comment period**

**Isabelle Spohn (Twisp) Comments on 2013 Community Wildfire Protection Plan**, which is out of date, having been written before the 2014 Carlton Complex Fire. She expresses concern that the CWPP was supposed to have been revisited by 2018 and that deaths and damage have occurred in the meantime. She reviews with BOCC the mitigation action items such as marking of escape routes and safety issues of ingress and egress that were deleted from the 2013 CWPP plan, due to "insufficient funding and manpower." She is also concerned that the county is in litigation over the inadequate addressing of wildfire issues in the Comprehensive Plan, and that the CWPP is still not referenced in the Comp Plan, even in the most recent draft.

**Comments are acknowledged by Branch,** and he is forwarding her e-mail and attachments to Maurice Goodall. He will also bring the issue up to Pete Palmer so it can hopefully be addressed at next meeting of the Planning Commission on September 28th, in which they are reviewing the latest Comp Plan draft.

(See "CWPP Deleted Action items due to insufficient Funding/Manpower," posted on for this week at [countywatch.org](http://countywatch.org).)

## **2:00 PM - Elections and election cost: Cari Hall (CH), County Auditor**

**Cari Hall** - Thanks for time. Follow up on election costs etc. 9 items significantly over. Can estimate what we think we'll need on odd and even years did best guess based on last 2 presidential years. But k=unknown as to whether it will be regular size or legs, which costs more. We are careful not to make print too small, to assure voters understand everything. All candidates for one position will be in one column. When there are 20-30 candidates, cannot get into one column. So the second ballot will be legal sized, with added clots for sprinting and mailing. We have a lot of new registered voters, We are starting weeks or months before election with all necessities. There is a free asoto when the addresses are updated...these get printed on day the ballot is mailed out. Up to 44-500 ballots with changes. More and more voters, ore and more making the corrections.

Line items we are over - professional services, processing, Wanted to see how I do toward the end of the year. Sometimes can be made up in some way. Don't be shocked that we are over budet. Moving target. My first time budgeting a presidential year. I didn't guess right on some.

The ballots we mail out. Have to create files to people. That goes out in august. Since then, people change addresses, so the printing co has a different address. Can't update the mailing files.. we contact printing co saying we are doing those. Legal sized. Mailed no later than Oct 16th. Trying to let everyone know that if hey do not have ballot by 7 days, get int ouch with us.

Lanie - for young people who have just turned 18 and can't get an ID at dept of licensing, how do they register to vote?

CH - There is a form they can fill out or register through [WA.gov](http://WA.gov). If 18 by time of election, it will put you on hold and registration card goes out on that date. If someone moves here, they can transfer right in if they come in. College students can get them at their college. Turning up to do more educating about post marks. If they don't date ballot, can't be accepted. Discouraging - doing educating on that and the college thing, and going south for winter, etc.

JD - I would think if we did a proper indoctrination on how to use the drop boxes that will eliminate the problem of making at the P.O.

CH - In our primary, in my experience, we had the highest utilization on our boxes. Next election, will collect every 2-3 days. Winthrop went in yesterday. Working with Riverside. Hoping for Brewster. The city doesn't want it in front of their place. IN Winthrop , delivered tot

he mayor. Public Works placed right then and there at the barn. When new library is done in 2 years, it will be moved there. Twisp box will need to be moved for new city hall. Current: with Twisp, Pateros, Okanogan, Omak, Tonasket, Oroville, at the agency, one at Coulee Dam and at 12 tribes casino (tribal council requested this.) You can drive up.

Estimations: budget - another \$13,000 invoice from I-media, actual mixings, another \$10,000 estimation. About \$23,000 - not sure if I can make up full amount or will try. Oct or Nov I will ask for supplemental.

CB - Last revenue/expenditure?

CH - As the month closes. About 2 weeks ago. She is testifying before senate. Did presentation along with another auditor - mailing, process, etc. Senate Elections committee. Specifically wanted me because we are large geographically and rural. Can be a challenge. We have prepaid posted, which helps, but anything we can do for voters helps. I was asked to explain the challenges - not only working with communities, a prime example: Methow, Malott. In my experience they do not want boxes on their property. Must reach out. Getting it done is a challenge. The more boxes we put out....2 people must be involved according to alw. The staging levels becomes challenging. Voters have questions, you have to process ballots. She was able to explain all that. The chair asked if she didn't have enough money. You never say that. I'm tasing it's something we've never had before, so they asked her to track those costs. She said she would.

CB - Less opportunity to testify from what I hear. We talked about that in WSAC.

CH - all on zoom, great. Committee members were wonderful. That's where we are in elections and budget. Trying to figure out a way around it. Unexpected cost - we have bar code scanners for scanning signatures. Had to buy a new one.

CB - A contingency?

CH - 4 scanners. Priority of signature checkers. Would like back-ups. Big scanner that is \$25,000 - we have a scanner for that.

CB - backup generator?

CH - Brings us into the 2 grants I received. Only the gym has a back-up. If problem, we will come up here. Speaking of recent fire, I had no power even to my house. Okanogan Behavioral Health may be able to help.

JD - Maurice just bought more than 20 generators to help bolster what was given out because of fires.

Lanie - generator for central services - wasn't conducive to generator hook-up.

CH - We have a personal generator, which I'd use if needed. Tabulation system in the vault, not connected to anything. Has an external hard drive and a laptop - in secure location. I can grab it with emergency bag, only need a generator to keep going. Have to be able to get results up when I need to. Is there a place I can go to - I can grab the laptop and go. OBHC has generators....will talk with Maurice to see if he has any kind of plan.

JD - there are couriers who can tap in and make you generator accessible. You need to be sure it's not back-feeding down the line and destroying people's equipment. Mentions several options.

CB - tabulation for elections back-up - if this had happen during elections, we D be delayed a couple of days. I had a Plan B to get people paid - we pay them what they got last time and we'll figure out the rest later. EDEN on back-up would be a good thing. Licensing - you have to record in Ok county - I have no redundancy yet on this, but probably next year.

CB - Should be in All-Hazards mitigation plan, etc.

CH - the more protection we can build in, the better.

JD - maybe should have new generator for whole courthouse.

LJ - remember in capital improvement plan for generators.

CH - names of offices that would need this. Would be great to have the courthouse as essential in emergencies.

Election grants - They gave us a lot of money Thanks to Lanie for all her help. It's a federal grant for permanent safety glass. Lanie spent a lot of time explaining to her. Struggling to find 3 on the small works roster that can do it. No general contractors on the list to really struggling to find 3 quotes to bring to you. Will be reaching out to Josh for help. \$40,000 just for safety glass in my office. There will be you tube channel that will become live when the ballots are being processed, so people can watch remotely. One camera is online, the rest are backed up. No audio, just video.

CB - didn't we have protective glass somewhere just put in? (Treasurer's office.)

CH - the grant is for security. Got a crew with permanent safety glass. Swinging barn door - having that replace dwith a glass door. Do not have capability of locking our own front door. Need that. So we can push a button to keep someone out without getting help.

JD \_ Could auditor's office piggy back on this situation?

LJ - They also have key cards.

CH - Also, magnet system. Only one glass company on small works roster, can't find 2 more.

Lj - Call the ones on small works roster - but call the ones you need and add them to the small works roster.

CH - Trying to get quotes. All money from the secy of state. Not coming out of current budget. Specifically for election protection. CARES money - they gave us a lot. Can't spend it all. Timeline Dec 31. Advertising, Nov 4.

They talk about the specialized nature of installing glass, foundations for it, etc.

Dept of Enterprise - we are on the state's contract to be able to utilize their contractors. (??)

CB ON senate committee, was it local gov't committee?

CH - No, elections committee. Had Tribal government included. Last Friday the 18th.

### **Cari Hall Leaves 2:40 PM**

**2:45 PM- CB** researching law on tribe government elections, etc.

2:50 Only CB and LJ present. Voices talking about prep for 2020 elections - sounds like someone is playing a recording. Only Branch present. Reviewing Minutes, making correction in minutes. JD - Returns, makes corrections in minutes.

**3:00 PM** - Budget Supplemental, Planning Dept. Pete Palmer. Methow Trail self-contained toilet, Highway grant. Granted. Other Supplemental Appropriations, Consent agenda. Resolution 121-2020 approved by BOCC.

**3:40 PM-** Maurice Goodall - Parking issue (*at fairgrounds?*) Another issue brought up - Branch intends to go to talk with Fairground manager (*Naomi Peasley*) before we get into this.

### **Irregularities at Fairground Demanding Attention - 3:44 PM, 4:50:24 time stamp on AV Capture**

Branch says he is going to take advantage of the opportunity right now, after we finish this thing, to go and talk with Naomi at the Fairground about some things that "Shouldn't be happening."

JD - "Like?"

CB - "Political campaigning."

JD - "I think Andy already did."

CB - Didn't know. Then I won't go down there.

JD - States that he doesn't know if Shauna (*candidate for County Commissioner*) ever returned the (*see below*) because she's still up to her old tricks. She's still diverting hay trucks. I don't

know what to do about it - I know you (*Branch*) can't offer anything because you are, uh, her opponent - should give her a verbal warning? (*CB appears to agree.* )

**Note:** *Notetaker later clarified with BOCC that the thing Shauna Beaman should have returned to the fairground manager was a list of hay donation destinations that she had taken and that she was accused of diverting loads to where she thought that they should go. This accusation appears at this time to have been confirmed by Commissioners.*

**3:55 PM** - Adjourned

**SEE ATTACHMENT "CWPP 2013 Deleted Action Items due to Insufficient Funding/Manpower,"** posted with these notes for 9/22/2020 at [countywatch.org](http://countywatch.org)

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