

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, October 19th, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

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Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2
Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk
Emily Sisson (ES), Okanogan County Resident
Isabelle Spohn (IS), Okanogan County Resident

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. See AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php

Summary of Important Discussions: *In Public Comment period ES notifies LJ of sound problems with Zoom connection, IS echoes Planning Commission members' complaints of public comment on the Comp Plan draft being disregarded, thus forcing commission member McCoy's resignation, and regrets removal of public comments on the plan from County website; lengthening of sheriff's officers' probationary period evoked; State grant agreement for Courthouse rehabilitation approved; CB to sign off on Forest Service Building sale.*

1:30 - Public Comment Period - (ES) There have been problems with the sound on the (transmission via Zoom of) BOCC meetings these last couple of weeks. The sound cuts in and out. It's hard to follow. LJ: Yesterday the internet went off and on and I got kicked off of Zoom. ES: I'll let you know if it's still happening.

IS (She reviewed the past several Planning Commission meetings on the Comp Plan for the benefit of the Commissioners.) In March after the public hearing on the Comp Plan there was no deliberation by the Planning Commission after public comment, on the grounds that the comments had not indicated anything legally lacking. Commission member Gina McCoy had then objected that readjustment as a result of comment was the purpose of a public hearing. When Planning Director Palmer said the plan would also be presented at the upcoming November 22nd public hearing with no changes, Commission Chair Phil Dart objected, asking what good it had done for the Planning Commission to go to the trouble of trying to understand the draft Comprehensive Plan, and why bother with another public hearing if there would be no changes by the Planning Commission allowed? The Track Changes copy of the Draft could have assisted the PC this weekend in understanding what changes the attorneys had made, but it was unavailable to the Planning Commission due to what the Director called attorney-client privilege. Dart said if all this had been done differently, member Gina McCoy may not have just resigned—the commission had been let down. Commission member Verlene Hughes then suggested that any

future hearing/public comment be held in front of the commissioners and their legal counsel, and that they do any re-writes then. IS also stated there have been many public comments on the Draft Comp Plan, and these are no longer available for reference on the County website. She asked: What is the purpose of encouraging the public to comment if there are to be no changes as a result?

Commissioners answer that: 1) comments will be in the record that comes to them and they will consider them and 2) comments can serve if there is an appeal of “this land use decision”.

1:35 - *An executive session with a Mr. Rice, dealing with the building moratorium.*

2:35 - LJ: I have a memorandum between the County and the Sheriff’s Employee association of commissioned employees about lengthening the probationary period of incoming officers to allow them a better assessment. Also a grant agreement between the WA Department of Archeology and the County regarding the courthouse rehabilitation project. And I’ve prepared resolutions for Wednesday’s 10 a.m. public hearing for a supplemental for the Prosecutor’s Office, two in case the hearing is continued.

AH moves to approve grant agreement of \$248,925 for Courthouse project and to authorize Commissioner Branch sign off on the sale of the Forest Service property. Both motions passed.

Consent agenda, minutes and Public Health voucher are approved.

2:44 - Meeting Adjourned