

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting January 10, 2022
AM session

AH – Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District 1
JD – Jim DeTro, BOCC member, District 3
LJ—Lalena Johns- Clerk to the Commissioners
ZK- Zak Kennedy – Lobbyist
AC – Aaron Culp, Sheriff’s Dept.
CH – Cari Hall, County Auditor
KW- Kayla Wells-Yoakum (WSU extension)
MB - Margaret Bustion (Code Publishing)

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.countywatch.org/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see https://www.okanogancounty.org/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date.

NOTE: AV Capture was not working for the first part of the meeting. Notes were taken from Zoom for the first half hour – there is no video of this portion of the meeting. Time stamps noted below are for the AV Capture video that started when lobbyist Zak Kennedy was part way into his discussion. Click [here](#) to go to video.

Summary of Significant Discussion: Opposition to quarantine; ice dam on Agriplex roof; legislative update; repeal of motion to send letter to DOR; Sheriff’s Dept request for funding to purchase vehicles; renewal of MOU with WSU extension office; updating County Code (including full legal review).

NOTE: There was significant input in the Zoom chat from a participant who was initially anonymous, but later revealed herself as Michelle Randolph from Mazama (school board candidate in Nov 2021). A copy of the Zoom chat is at the end of these notes. The quality is not good, but it is possible to make out the text.

JD – mentions proposed legislation that he says will require the Sheriff to forcibly quarantine people (presumably this is related to infectious diseases) and incarcerate anyone who is not vaccinated. Other Commissioners express skepticism about the accuracy of his comments and take a wait and see approach. They express confidence in Sheriff to follow the law.

Conversation about an ice dam on the Agriplex roof and possible ways to address it. JD asks about ice dam on the Methow. AH says that the Emergency Mgmt contacted him about it – there is a transformer located there and it appears to be under water. Power had to be shut off.

AH – asks for Atty Dave Gecas to attend an Exec. Session to discuss building moratorium issues. He then says maybe it could be done in public session after all – just wants to know if DOE has filed an appeal. LJ calls DG and reports that he said it is possible, but doesn't think they would do it without letting the county know. DG will check and get back to BOCC.

CB – mentions assessment of water system at Fairgrounds and there are some ideas of how to handle it. One suggestion is to use water storage tanks. There may be some money available to help pay for it.

AH – brings up topic of precinct boundaries legal descriptions. There are a few typos to correct etc. JD asks if they want to start an insurrection. *(Not sure what the context of this statement is – the other two commissioners don't respond).*

AH – mentions that Public works has rejected a gravel crushing bid.

JD – says that someone is starting a petition to install a guard rail. *(No mention about where this is.)* Public works will need to go through the approval process. Discussion about meeting safety standards and also where funding would come from.

ZK – gives short update on Legislative session. This is the first day so there isn't much yet. He says that some counties are trying to find some way of limiting the authority of the governor. States sarcastically that we have an on-going rolling emergency so Governor can do whatever he wants without re-approval. Says that Democrats don't need Republicans to show up so don't expect results on this.

[HB 1410](#) – delaying collection of property taxes. It's back on docket – don't expect much to happen this year because it's an election year. "They" seem to be cognizant of that and likely won't move this year. *(This bill passed last year and is intended to relieve people who are struggling financially of the risk of foreclosure. The bill passed both House and Senate unanimously with NO opposition. Not sure why it is on the radar of Mr. Kennedy.)*

[WAC 246-100](#) – Dept of health could forcibly quarantine people. We have no idea how it will turn out. Probably won't be as doom and gloom as we have heard. Not a whole lot we can do about it. BOH in most counties includes commissioners so that helps.

AV CAPTURE STARTS HERE. TIME STAMPS ARE FOR AV CAPTURE VIDEO FROM THIS POINT ON.

00:01- Firearms stuff, civil liability for police officers are going to be discussed this week. We don't expect much from this session. Most of the legislators are working remotely, the ones who are there don't seem to be motivated to do much.

Any questions from BOCC?

CB- about the WAC quarantine- can you clarify if this is the state dept of Health, or the local BOH that would have authority to require quarantine?

ZK- That discussion is what will take place on Wednesday. Who will have the authority? I don't expect it to go very far. The implications are pretty darn scary. The people around here – you try to throw them into some sort of forced quarantine – I don't think it would go over real good.

AH – No, they did that in WWII and it wasn't a really great plan.

JD – I had feed back this weekend when I was at a funeral and had people tell me that it's not going to happen in our neck of the woods.

ZK – it’s just problematic no matter how you look at it.

(At this point ZK is inspired to elaborate on his general hostility to Democrats.)

Now they are addressing the Long Term Care act. We knew it was a horrible bill and now they realize it was a horrible bill so now they are going to try and fix it. But I’ll tell you what they haven’t learned anything from putting forth one horrible bill, they just keep doing it! There’s not a lot of motivation to try to do anything this year and that’s a good thing. One thing we are going to be watching close for is any carbon initiative stuff that may get tagged onto a bill.

(emphasizing that efforts to address climate change are very bad and must be opposed).

AH – about limiting Gov emergency powers. Did you say it would go slow? I thought there was bi-partisan support for that.

ZK – explains about situation at the end of last year where Gov vetoed a bunch of compromises that D’s made. Says that the internal disagreements within the Democratic party may make it hard to accomplish anything.

JD – is there any chance that legislation regarding getting cannabis money for indigent defense is in the works?

ZK – I will look into that and let you know.

11:25 – AH and CB engage in discussion about difference between a “town” and a “city”.

13:55 – AH brings up a motion from last week that was made to send a letter to Dept of Revenue regarding personal property taxes. New information has come to light that makes the letter unnecessary. Motion is made and carried to not send the letter after all.

18:10 – AH brings up issue of communication from state auditor regarding stipend for administrating Covid funds. Need to justify need for funding in terms of extra hours worked.

25:50 – Aaron Culp (Sheriff’s Dept) presents budget request for funding for vehicles. Auditor Cari Hall is present also. Lengthy and details conversation about how the funding need was determined and why there is a shortfall now.

52:45 – Kayla Wells-Yoakum (WSU extension) arrives to discuss MOU for 4H. CB asks if other counties are using ARPA funds for 4H programs? Suggests that there may be some opportunities to do so if we can identify underserved communities that we are serving. Many of the things we do and people we serve meet the social justice requirements of ARPA. Motion to approved MOU is made and carried.

KW – asks about a MOA that was given to BOCC about a year ago – wonders if it was followed up on.

1:11:35 – AH looks at Zoom chat and sees question that he would like to answer. CB asks if it is appropriate to do that since it is not the public comment period. AH says he knows the answer and can answer it quickly. (The question is from Michelle Randolph of Mazama asking about why roads in that area have not been fully plowed).

1:14:15 – CB reports on recently purchased Forest Service building. There is a strategic plan to develop it for use with the District and Superior courts. Discussion about rumors that are going around, CB clarifies a few things, talks about DFW and their need for space (apparently they are currently using part of the building).

1:27:15 – Margaret Bustion from Code Publishing gives presentation about updating County Code. Planning Director Pete Palmer is present. BOCC references a history of the code that was provided to them in advance, and a list of services that Code Publishing provides. One of the options is a legal review.

AH – asks for quote to have a full legal review.

MB – introduces two people from General Code, a company that will be merging with Code Publishing to provide enhanced services. Detailed conversation follows regarding examples of map integration, search functions, etc. The potential result would be a much easier system for builders and developers to navigate when planning projects. *(It sounds like it would also be much easier for general public to use when researching zoning, land use, and other county code research).*

1:57:34 – adjourn for lunch.

BOCC meeting Monday, January 10, 2022. Zoom Chat.

The screenshots show a chat conversation with the following messages:

- iPhone to Everyone: Or folks could bypass the permission process and just fund projects themselves through gofundme campaigns and skip the lemon poppyseed muffin reports.
- Just checking to see if everyone is listening 😊
- iPhone to Everyone: The implications for the negating of Due Process is dangerous IMHO
- iPhone to Everyone: The Sheriff's office is intended to be separate for the sole purpose of preserving the Constitutionally protected rights of its citizens.
- Coercion to participate in a drug trial is a violation of USC TITLE 18 2331 section 800
- iPhone to Everyone: In the legislation it clearly states the governor's powers to 30 days at a time. It seems ridiculous to me that we're nearly 2 years into this with no clear parameters for limiting his overreach.
- Have any of you gentlemen ever read the book The Doctrine of Lesser Magistrates? I'd highly recommend it to each of you.
- Findtheright Passion to Everyone: Thank you
- Thank you
- It's also worth mentioning that the WAC discussed earlier with regards to the onerous power invested solely in a Board of Health officer brings to mind Title 18 241 & 242 in essence the conspiracy to deprive citizens of their Constitutionally protected rights under the color of law.
- Provide a rubric for the calculation process.
- iPhone to Everyone: Is there a reason why the County plows aren't fully widening Lost River and Goat Cr Roads to the full width that they have been in years past? I.e., two days after the storm the road was still not fully widened. Are there staffing problems contributing to this?
- I work for a contractor doing snow removal in Mazama and have had clientele inquire and just wanted to give them a clear answer. Again, thank you for addressing my question so promptly.