

**Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting January 24, 2022**  
**Mon 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  
DG – David Gecas – County Attorney  
ZK- Zak Kennedy – Lobbyist  
CH – Cari Hall, County Auditor

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](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. Click [here](#) to go to the video.

*Summary of Significant Discussion: Legislative Update; County Employee Resignation; Capital Improvement Plan; Budget Supplemental.*

Meeting opens with Pledge of Allegiance.

AH – requests that County Attorney Dave Gecas come up now to go into Exec. Session because there are lots of things to discuss. (This is in addition to the Exec. Session that is on the agenda for 10 AM).

While waiting for DG to arrive, JD and AH have a discussion about Unemployment, Inflation, and vaccination status of Canadian truckers. JD asks AH if he knows when the appointment for Superior Court Judge will be decided.

At this point BOCC goes into Exec. Session and AV Capture is stopped.

10:53 – Short discussion about ARPA funds while waiting for Legislative update.

13:15 - Legislative update with Zak Kennedy. He reports that there lots of strange bills due to it being an election year. Example is a bill that would split up counties. Election years usually have lots of special interest bills. They usually don't go anywhere, but you have to watch them closely. We are waiting for the first cut-off so we know which bills may actually move forward. This is a big defense year for us. There is risk in playing defense early on because there may be

some bills that have a small piece that we support. This Friday at 10 AM will have hearing on oversight of Gov powers, and 1<sup>st</sup> amendment issues.

AH – asks about bill that would restrict false information about elections.

ZK – mentions that “they” also want to create a clean car authority (inferring that BOCC should oppose this bill).

[SB 5901](#) a bill about tax credit for warehouses >100K sq ft. Could impact orchardists and others.

[HB 1722](#) – everyone is concerned about this. It has to do with microtrenches. I’ve been working with Axel on this. Everybody is confused. (*note- microtrenching refers to shallow trenches that would be used for installing cable for broadband access. These sorts of trenches are not normally allowed in most building codes.*)

The riparian bills [HB 1727](#), [SB 1838](#) – The hearing was amazing. Basically, fishermen and tribes against everyone else. If they would simply fund VSP (Voluntary Stewardship Program), this would be unnecessary.

CB – WSAC is approaching the operational parts of it. The point (on the Leg. Steering committee) I made is that it tears apart a lot of the work that has already been done.

ZK – farmers testified that it would put them out of business- asked to just fund VSP. Probably won’t go anywhere,

Bills [HB 1941](#), [HB 1973](#) – (active shooter drills, recording school board meetings). Need to take a look.

We are really just watching now – first cut-off is next Thursday so we will know more then.

Interesting note- looking at end of session. Don’t expect R’s to enter into dealmaking. No need to compromise – message is that we compromised last year, and then Gov vetoed them so why should we work with D’s. There might be fireworks towards the end.

Any questions?

AH – asks about high-capacity magazine bill.

ZK – don’t know what will happen – might have some legs, but won’t know until the last day.

Gov vetoes last year made D leadership look bad. Compromises took a lot of work, Ds are really split. Don’t know how the dynamics will play out.

32:50 - LJ – states that discussion about bond issue scheduled for 10:30 has been cancelled.

She has updated county website with correct info on Planning Commission hearing. Short discussion about the PC using Webex until their subscription runs out. (*Presumably they will switch to Zoom after that*)

45:38 – DG shows up for scheduled Exec Session, but BOCC decides it’s not necessary at this time. DG uses the time to discuss a settlement about a foreclosure and where the funds should go. There is a court order to pay. Motion made and carried to transfer funds (\$5336.21) so as to fulfill the court order.

51:40 - AH Brings up something about the last sentence in a document that he is unhappy with. Crumples up the paper and tosses it in the garbage. Vents for a minute and then storms out of the room. (*There is no indication about what this document is*).

There is about a 20 minute period while commissioners review documents, look at computers. A few short comments about scheduling, budget, AV Capture.

1:10:15 – LJ states that she received a letter of resignation from Crystal (Deputy clerk of the board). She is leaving to work for the town of Omak because the pay is much better. Short discussion about wages, contacting other county employees. LJ states that most county admin people are out of the office until January 31st.

1:33:10 – AH asks CB about bonding and ARPA funds and how they relate to new Coroner building. CB says he prefers that question be answered by the courts.

1:42:30 – public hearing on Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). AH reviews background, and distinction between CIP and Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). Says there were 2 proposals for projects which were incorporated into the document. Only public comment is from notetaker. She asks if BOCC could describe the 2 projects that are in the updated plan (Sheriff dept & Fairgrounds). AH responds that they could respond during general discussion. List of projects are as follows:

#### Fairgrounds

Underground sprinkler system; electrical upgrades; bathroom upgrades; grandstands; race horse barn & stalls; commercial bldg. demo/replacement; repurposing of restrooms in courtyard; roof replacement repair; outside track rail replacement; chain link fence; LED lighting; new HVAC in Agriplex; parking lot storm drains/lights; replace Quonset huts with large indoor venue.

#### Sheriff dept

Evidence room assessment; 911 dispatch center design & construction; jail expansion study and construction; Jail intercom system; jail emergency power system and backup; jail courtroom metal detectors/cameras/radio upgrade; coroner facility.  
CIP plan is voted on and passed unanimously.

2:11:15 – CH and Lisa (Finance manager) appear for public hearing to make adjustments to budget. Discussion about various accounts and how they have to all match up. This adjustment is necessary to correct an oversight about budget funds that occurred. BOCC voted and passed budget supplemental to move funds to proper account so as to be compliant.

Adjourn for lunch.