

## Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting October 24, 2022 PM session

AH - Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2  
CB - Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District 1  
JD- Jim DeTro, BOCC member, District 3  
LJ- Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board  
PP - Pete Palmer, Planning Dept head  
LH - Larry Hudson, Noxious Weed board chair  
DH - Dan Higbee, building dept head  
KWY- Kayla Wells-Yoakum, WSU Extension agent  
CH - Cari Hall, Auditor  
LM - Leah McCormick, Treasurer

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, click [here](#).

### **Summary of Significant Discussion:**

- *Budget reviews for Planning Dept, Noxious Weed board, Building dept, WSU extension.*
- *Discussion about surplussing a vehicle from Sheriff's Dept*
- *Short discussion about homeless population and housing situation in general*

The time stamps refer to the video that is published on the county's AV Capture site. To watch the video, click [here](#).

Budget meetings.

**3:33:00** - BOCC passes motion approving purchase of new tractor and surplus of old tractor

**3:36:00** - Planning Department budget review. No remarkable issues to report.

**4:34:00** - Noxious Weed board budget review. Discussion on how to handle people who refuse to pay their assessment. Larry Hudson reports that the weed board will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday 10/26 to approve increase in assessment. It is currently \$9.74 per parcel, and they will be voting on whether to increase it to \$12.74 per parcel. The reason for the increase is to fund an additional position (asst mgr) and promotion of current employees. Short discussion on the history of how the weed board was created- it was in 1969 as a result of a petition from the people of Okanogan County.

**5:06:40** - Building Dept budget review. Dan Higbee, Dept head. Discussion about future plans for employee retirements and promotions. Increasing fuel budget due to gas prices. No remarkable issues come up.

**6:02:00** - WSU extension budget discussion. Kayla Wells-Yoakum. Proposed wage increase based on comparison with other counties. Final approval will be done when the contract with WSU is finalized.

**6:07:10** - WSU extension budget concludes. Building dept returns to clarify a budget item from their previous discussion. Discussion about a request from coroner to fund a new position for his department. BOCC talks about what category the employee would fall under. The hours may be irregular due to the nature of the job, and could result in a lot of OT.

**6:20:00** Budget discussion concludes, Auditor, Treasurer and other people leave.

**6:21:30** - Undersheriff Culp presents on surplussing of vehicle. Discussion about history of a vehicle that was damaged, and the saga of how it was eventually resolved. It's a complicated story involving a vendor who is out of area, insurance company, and the necessary accounting steps to be in compliance with rules and regs. BOCC determines that they need to hold a public hearing on the surplus, which will be done ASAP.

**6:34:44** - Surplus discussion ends.

**6:48:20** - discussion about an email regarding complaints about homeless people camping on a trail and what can be done about it. AH - mentions a similar discussion about the Fairgrounds. General discussion about how to handle this situation. CB says OCCAC might be able to help out. There are restrictions about what the county can do vs. what other organizations can do. Says that CAC has discussed using a piece of property south of town. AH says he has been thinking a lot about the housing situation and what the county can do about it. Says they are very limited since they are not contractors and can't just go out and build housing. JD suggests using wasp spray on homeless people who won't move.

LJ - says that PUD has requested a letter of support for a broadband grant they are applying for.

**6:59:16** - BOCC meeting adjourned. (4:56 pm actual time).