

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, October 27, 2020 PM

Present:

Jim DeTro (JD) - BOCC Chair, District 3

Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC Vice-Chair, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) - BOCC, District 2 - enters at 2:00.

Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board

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%Minutespage.html>.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct section on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions: Public comment period: Comments on record of mask wearing by BOCC and those attending county meetings. **County Recreation Plan:** No public comment, Recreation Plan approved as Res # 143 -2020. County emphasizes no adverse possession for trails; **Millage Funds: Okanogan County Behavioral Health Care- Budget** OBHC Bill Snyder & CFO; relative funding for Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol abuse, and Developmental Disabilities programs. Established that OBHC could be getting matching funds they are not receiving. **Discussion: Need for public hearings during the planning process, approval of ordinances:** necessity of **Planning Commission involvement.**

1:30 - Public Comment Period: (Summary) Isabelle Spohn following up on comment from last week, which was interrupted. Addressed mostly to AH, who is not present. Questions Hover's statement during the candidates' forum that he would support a health and safety requirement that all people attending public county meetings wear masks, yet he has not worn a mask most of the time between August 17th & October 21 (reads off dates.) Says maybe following the letter of the law is not as important as the message BOCC is giving to the public. You are giving a mixed message that needs clarification, as we go into this long, cold winter & requests that county staff set a good example to the public as winter advances. JD - we always leave it to the discretion of the person, but often if there is only one person sitting at the desk out there... like Andy is in union negotiations todaysays they are all far apart today because of that. Says he hopes it isn't a mixed message, but ...it is an "either/ or." If you are proper distance, you can take mask off. Spohn says her impression is that Public Health says mask plus

distancing 6 feet. She questions Planning Commission meeting on Oct. 26, during which members at dais were not socially distanced. DeTro offers opinion that masks worn during PC meeting make up for lack of distancing. Branch assures her he took last week's comments seriously and has found a mask that doesn't interfere with his being heard by the public while using mic; prefers people wear them voluntarily. Checks AV Capture video and confirms close seating. Appreciates the reminder.

2:00 - Public Hearing - Okanogan County Recreation Plan - Pete Palmer (Planning), Ted Murray (GIS)

Pete - SEPA comment period ended in Sept. comments received are in their packet. BOCC 928/2020, recommended adoption. Ted Murray can answer any questions you have.

(No public comment. Public comments closed.)

Discussion:

AH - Questions - some people called me concerned about a certain trail designated. I know it's just a plan. I am not for any condemnation of property for public trail systems. I would hope you could get 100% landowner agreement for trails to go across your property.

JD - Also wants no adverse possession. Get cooperation from landowners.

AH - I know there are some grant funding opportunities. RCO?

CB - I know if you made a grant application into this plan and you didn't get public support, you wouldn't probably get the grant.

AH - I'm just stating my thought processes.

All agree - County has never promoted adverse possession.

CB -Correction of statement about chairman on front page of Rec Plan. Thanks Ted for keeping it updated. Ted has even been known to present trail ideas to developers and had positive results.

Commissioners approve plan as Res # 143 -2020. Move to adopting Ok County Recreation Plan -(AH makes motion. Passes anonymously.)

3:00 AV Capture failure last week: Postponing adoption of the minutes from Oct 19th because the hearing did not have a recording (AV Capture failed to record.) The problem has been fixed. Later stated by LJ that the failure of the recording has been established not to be a legal problem. See below at 4:13 PM.)

3:03 -Discussion Millage Funds Budget -OBHC Bill Snyder & CFO. Trenton Harris
(Note: this was a detailed discussion that was difficult to follow, with speaker's voices not identifiable to notetaker.)

(Unknown) I was just telling the BOCC that I was providing them with the letter for fiscal year 2020 expenditures. Also sent to Bill Snyder. We do not have the funds available to respond to this, wanted to set the stage

Bill Snyder - Is there a suggestion as to where to start?

AH - I need to get up to speed. What funds are we taking about that would be used?

LJ - A portion of cute expense set aside for mental health, behavior health, disabilities.

CB - The 107 funds is millage, or liquor/property tax?

LJ - Liquor/property tax \$\$ collected.

AH -One reason we called this meeting is so you understand the funds. For Mental Health - we have 3 different funds....the one for mental health - we have to figure out what the communities utilize - (Fund #104) - over \$114, 000 on hand. Developmental Disabilities, \$84,000; Alcohol & Drug abuse: \$15,000.

Bill Snyder or Trenton Harris: I have a letter: Fund 107- It says to divert funds from 104 because what is tracked and what you just said reinforces what you said. 104 is underspent and 107 is more costly. Not sure if that helps....

Bill Snyder: S How much of the \$86,000 is still available to us?

AH - available:

#104 = \$64,000

#105- \$30,000

#107 - \$20,000

(?) - We asked for \$95,000 out of 107. Came up during budget for next year. There would not be enough money. Don't know if you can transfer from 105 to 107. You have 3 funds. Two are making even (?) , the other barely. But we can move out of 104 into that fund.

So you are asking how we can move this out?

BS - Sounds like there was a desire to give more funding for this. I hear we are asking more than we got in the past. But you are saying "there is no more money to give you." So if we were to entertain honoring or funding? Is there something that needs to change in order to get more money into the coffers for this?

AH - Yes. Would have to change the millage rate.

LJ - Diverting current expense to these funds.

BS - How difficult is it to put more funding into these categories? Is it a decision people on this call could make, or something much more formal?

(Discussion of millage rate)

AH - It would be subtracting funds from our current expense to go into OBHC.

BS - So the last time that the millage rate was contested?

AH '97?

CB - Has been the same as 1997?

BS - You have been supportive, but we saw Ken's letters as being uninformed and over reach.

AH -He didn't understand the pieces of the pie. I could understand a train of thought saying we want to use more of the epic for alcohol/drug abuse but not realizing we can't divert this much \$\$ into thatthe 105 fund DD (Devel. Disability) has about an \$18-19,000 revenue source, and can't divert back out of it. We should have to do a resolution to re-allocate - don't know if it's legal or not.

LJ - In the past, with Skip Rosenthal - Disability funds had more funds for the services they were providing for schools for Parent to Parent.

BS - Yes, the drug and alcohol are more needy of funds.

AG - Can split up the \$86,000 - however you want out of 2. But 105 has only \$19,000. I would like to see a reserve for a rainy day fund. The 105 fund, you can use \$19,-000 out of this for professional services but it can't transfer money out for any of the other funds. You are locked into using \$19,000 out of DD. 107 - A conglomeration of transfers from 105. So 105 basically supplements 107.

LJ - 104 supplements both.

AH - Only about \$4,000 in 107.

AH - Need decisions by first week of December.

BS - need to circle the wagons and figure out what to do.

(Was the above Trenton Harris?)

(It is established that OBHC could be getting matching funds that apparently they are not getting.)

4:00 PM Discussion: Economic Alliance Contract - Roni Holder-Diefenbach

DeTro apologizes for BOCC being late for her.

Am here to discuss our 2021 Oka county contract with county. Over last couple of years have tried to take heart of this in Oct. Only changes we made under scope of work - changing dates of work and combined reporting of business attention, expansion, recruitment into one Bulliy point....etc. Small changes. Did not have Covid before now, so wanted to be sure these changes are included in our contract for 2021.

AH - This is the 100,000 we pay out of infrastructure?

RH - Yes - supports small businesses.

LJ - for \$100,000. AH asks additional questions.

This year, we had match for Broad band. \$8,500.

RD - Last time we met, asked about cost of administering these grants. Got an estimate as to what they may look like. Had discussion with Commerce re 1099's for everyone - yes, we need to do that for myself and staff. Goes into more details. 15,000 are staff expenses and additional work on 1099's. Comes up to 2.5 - 3.0 % of funds. Will need to invoice county for admin cost, staff time, equipment -County submits to state.

\$15,000 for Admin of Covid funds approved .

RDH - Wanted you to know that we served 63 businesses with the funding we got from county CARES grant. That was just one of the progams we had. Actually have ran through our office about 1,000,000 in small business grants. (Names off the grants.) We have served just about 200 businesses. This has been rewarding. She has received many thank you cards asking her to thank the BOCC and staff for giving them the opportunity to apply because it has enabled these local businesses to keep their heads above water.

CB - Did you cover most of them? Did you have to leave some hanging there?

RD - Most of grants and county/state grants - we have been able to fund anyone who has completed their applications. Part of what we have to do is an application, then send out for a copy of their business license, beside L&I is current. It's a reimbursable grant, so had to have receipts for everything - utilities, etc. They had to send same amt in receipts as what they received. This is in case we are audited, etc. A lot of people didn't want to move forward with doing all this - We were able to serve everyone who filed an application.

BOCC - Expresses gratitude for her work.

4:13 PM - LJ - The AV Capture that didn't record -It is not a legal problem - according to Gecas. Legislative vs quasi-judicial. He confirmed that only the quasi-judicial are really important to the Board. The board discussed whether or not the public hearing that didn't get recorded - it wasn't necessary because it wasn't a law for something that is going to be enforceable.

4:15 PM - BOCC discussion: Need for public hearings during the process of such items as Critical Areas, Comp Plan, etc:

AH - Wanted to go over the need for a public hearing . Trying to cut down expense when not needed. What I think I saw - if the PC initiates something on their own, they have to pay for that. When it comes to us, we don't necessarily have to have a public hearing for that.....

CB - Here is the deal . What we have to decide... I agree with that approach because if you have one hearing and PC does it, you get everything that everyone said...what that cuts out is the 2nd stab at a direct appeal to BOCC. It's more difficult at this stage, because you are the elected officials. You are the elected officials that like to stay elected, and people start to pressure you. I agree with that. That's why the regulatory...for quasi-judicial....the elected officials always get themselves in trouble. The PC not paid. But They get all the info for you. I would support you on that. Saves you that whole extra.....

AH - Sounds like we have a lot of redundancy. We are trying to streamline things - would be good to have certain good solid process steps...if initiated by PC or told by us to do that, we could count on PC to do everything for us....OR if we suddenly say we need interim controls, we send to PC for recommendations and it comes back.

CB - The difference on the interim control is you have to have the hearing after you said.....(?) do it....I agree.

LJ - How about tomorrow? Isabelle still on line - she wouldn't need to call in if we aren't meeting.

TOMORROW - Union negotiations for Hover. They won't meet.

4:21PM - Rehash of conversation with OBHC; how to work with contractors, money flow....

Discussion with OBHC - we wanted to help them and it seemed like they were commenting that they weren't getting what they were supposed to be getting.

AH - I felt like....

CB - Almost wanted to ask what are you getting at?

AH - Wanted to say that you are a contractor with the county, and we can say this is what we have to give! It's not like you are a part of the county. You are a contractor, and this is the amount of money we can give you.

CB - Wanted to bring up the HCA. I can't ask that question.....

AH - It was good to take a look, say this isn't the \$\$ that is being generated, this is how you can split the pie, this is what's left.....

CB -and there is other money out there. If they have it figure out they'll know where to go for that money. Would be helpful with contractors if we had a sheet that shows.....

LJ - Roger Bowers was really good at outlining these things and showing to the board. He would come in a lot to talk to the board about different things they were doing services provided.

AH - At some point, someone should put together a list of all the \$\$ that goes to OBHC. Therapeutic court, etc....to say here - there is about 1/2 of.....

LJ - I could do that. Probably more than about a million \$\$\$. Since I already make lists ofPlus homeless housing funds.....

Discussion of amounts of OBHC received.

CB - Relative to the problems we have..... A lack of understanding. That's all it is.

More discussion about the specific numbers.....

JD - They really need to be careful about ..you start hitting the reserve funds, and the tendency is to...pretty soon....

Ah - When I see reserve going down, that's a red flag.

LJ - County used to provide alcohol services. When OBHC broke away, that may have been part of the ad valorem....still trying to figure out how that came into play.

AH - The RCW's say you have to provide mental health services....then all of a sudden....we needed to find someone to contract.

LJ - Something changed where the county could delegate the duties to another nonprofit....There was something that happened that allowed the county to separate itself. There was still a connection between DSHS and OBHC.....

(Discussion of the various services....)

(CB - Gives some relevant history about rezones and town of Okanogan.)

4:33 - Commissioners leave, assume adjourned.

