

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners  
(BOCC)  
Dec. 5, 2017**

Jim Detro – JD (BOCC)  
Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)  
Andy Hover – AH (BOCC)  
Josh Thomson – JT (Public Works)  
Debi Hilts – DH (HR)

Perry Huston – PH (Planning)  
Lanie Johns – LJ (Absent – Substitute Clerk)  
Ben Rough – BR (Public Works)  
David Gechas – DG (Deputy Civil Att.)  
Tanya Craig – TC (Risk Manager)

*Notes are impressions and interpretations of the note taker. Every attempt is made to assure accuracy. Specific comments by the note taker are in italics and not part of the official record or intended in any way to be other than the impressions of the note taker. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see [www.okanogancounty.org](http://www.okanogancounty.org).*

**BOCC Staff Reports, Mazama Advisory Group: Board of Adjustment & Hearing Examiner process, Public Works Update, Admin Report: SWAC, Communication upgrades, Roads report: “Banked” 1% tax increase, road vacations, distressed county funds; Executive Session, Prosecuting Attorney for Land Use, Senior Meals, Mark Funds, Supplemental, Consent Agenda**

**BOCC Session**: Note Taker arrived late at 10:35 due to earlier doctor’s appointment.

**Mazama Advisory Group** – Jim Gregg & other. A meet and greet to familiarize the BOCC with the makeup, history and goals of the group. AH & CB not in attendance (AH – union negotiations, CB – recovering from knee surgery). Upper Methow Community Group – formed up in 1984 to deal with potential growth as a consequence of proposed Early Winters Ski area. Set up by BOCC to advise County Master Plan.

- Grass root guide lines for buildings
- Do whatever “people” in upper Methow want.
- Demise of early Winters , thought was MAG would fade away but recognized that issue of growth was not going to fade away
- Visited other growth areas of similar nature. Colorado & Whistler, BC. Steamboat Springs.
- How to recognize growth while preserving positive attributes of the area.
- Had a small grant for a comp plan (Kurt Danison was the Tech. advisor) – went through the grant in short order
- Planning Commission accepted input in 2000?. Still in effect, See various documents on MAG website. The area covered is Sub Unit A of school district. Complete plan includes Wolf Creek & Rendezvous.
- Membership is appointed by BOCC with recommendations from MAG, tries to represent all factions in affected area.

- SG: looking at Mazama Junction. Proposal from 4 different developers, MAG President Steve Gregg got parties together on an ad hoc basis to put together a coordinated plan. This is an unofficial document and is on MAG website, put together in 2011.
- Mazama Core Area is between Mazama Store & Community Building. This is a developer driven, not MAG. Not ever incorporated to current County Comprehensive Plan.
- (10:52) Lodging business is the main economic driver in the area. Trail systems and new effort for stream & fisheries
- Effort to make sure covenants enforced & kept on the table.
- Want current BOCC to be aware of history and desire to continue as an advisory group
- Grass Roots and trying to keep it that way.
- JD – 1978 looked at property across from Mazama Rd near river on 75 acres for sale at \$85,000. JD & brother had put down an earnest agreement but then back out after warnings from his father. Seems foolish now.
- Jim Gregg: Feels what is there did not happen by accident.
- JD – Inquires if JG had heard Woodward's have sold out (local rancher). Didn't know if a rancher or developer.
- Conservation easements help out but not a total solution. AH – complains about that if State has control then no PILT.

**Board of Adjustment & Hearing Examiner process.** There currently isn't a way for MAG and similar groups to fit into the process. In past could meet & talk to Planning but now are bypassed. PH – says not intentional, says with personnel turnover & changes has withered away. Need to come back.

**Public Works Update:** JT & BR. AH leaves for Union negotiations. No quorum.

BR – **Admin Report.** Needs to redo lease on space in Public Health building. Lease agreement will come to BOCC in a consent agenda item for approval. There will to be a signature from Chairmen of Board of Public Health (JD). Open positions filled. Engineering Tech Asst. filled (Brad Scott), second position filled by an in house transfer from financial position. There will be a need to back fill the financial position. **SWAC** reviewed budget, recommends to approve new solid waste plan. Recycle buy back wants to eliminate. Have discussed and want to discontinue. Solid waste manager visited other counties and questions from them said why county had such a program and leave to commercial recyclers. By law update for SWAC: BR has updated and has added language for substitutes, how to modify or amend By Laws in the future, structure of SWAC (what kind of membership representatives). Reviewed draft at Monday meeting, will come to BOCC for a final approval. Old founding resolution from BOCC will need approval of current BOCC to change. Solid Waste Mgmt plan discussion had Parametrics (technical advisory company) on conference call on Monday discussion. There will be an open hearing on Dec. 13. The final will be out sometime in January for SEPA review. Dec. 1 was the beginning of snow grooming season, no action due to not enough snow . New groomer will arrive on Wednesday

and will be taken down to shop to be shown to mechanic. May take the groomer out for a run. JD – communication has gotten a new machine, might take a look at it.

11:20 JD – talks about other **Communication upgrades** from a big grant. Need for good equipment due to remote & difficult sites. Mandatory GPS on each groomer (State Parks grant requirement?) IS on and track automatically. Discusses moving of Bonaparte Snowpark (USFS) to Lost Lake/Beaver Lake Y from Bonaparte Campground. Almost done with change over to new cash handling policy.

JT - **Roads report**. Got a bit of snow, 44 hours of overtime. Had to wait on some roads as they had not frozen up and didn't want to cause rutting from heavy trucks.. Grange Rd project work has started by Gebber's, county getting culverts out for project. Will meet with Corps of Engineers to coordinate new levy projects on Elmway and Mazama. Waiting on name change on Squaw Creek to Hunter Mtn rd. Working on access road signage. Talking with State Department of Transportation. Looking at what 2018 budget will look like. SRS (Safe Rural Schools \$) still hopeful but US Congress has taken no concrete action despite assurances, wait and see. JT needs to know 2017 to 2018 carry over as will have some front funding needs on upcoming projects. County will be reimbursed after projects completed.

JD – Public Works has “**Banked**” **1% tax increase** over the last 4 years. Could increase this year the full 4%. In real money this translates to just \$1.87 per 100,000 valuation, but would mean a lot to the Roads in keeping up with needs. Average cost of living inflation is about 3% so current tax income not coming close to keeping up with average inflation, falling behind more and more each year. BOCC has not decided but will when CB returns from surgery (maybe next week?). Passes on a compliment about snow removal.

11:35 Lunch

1:30 Public Works public hearing on **road vacations**. AH & JD present, CB still recovering. #123 Byers Rd, #131 No Name Rd, #218 Monse Rd. #123 Byers Rd north of Conconully posted on both ends, published in legal papers, only one comment from DNR about part of road had been deeded to County but would now revert to DNR. No problems. Road not current used or maintained and has been by passed. JD comments used to go to an old homestead. # 131 No Name Rd posted and there were no comments at all. This road was hard to find and was totally overgrown and unusable. No issues. #218 Monse road is from old town of Monse and was bought up by Douglas Co. PUD for Wells Dam pool. They have no objections. No evidence of old town remains. No issues. Move to vacate approved. Public Hearing closed a 1:39

2:05 Discussion of concept of **distressed county funds** & designation payments to Okanogan County. AH inquiring as part of process of balancing 2018 budget. Payment is at the discretion of State and amount is unpredictable. Makes it difficult to budget. Will inquire with CB for what he might recall from WSAC meeting on issue.

2:09 DG – David Gechas, Civil Prosecuting Attorney. PH request **Executive Session** for 30 min. on current litigation. Over at 2:36

**Prosecuting Attorney for Land Use.** DG has been part of interviewing for a professional services contract for county. The position will provide as needed input on land use matters at \$300 an hour, this under going rates for similar services. Intention is to use as little as possible. Mark Johnsen to get contract for professional services.

3:00 **OCTN Senior Meals.** Jenifer Fitzhum and Oroville Senior Center President. The organization supports senior meals and home delivery. Process of setting up TranGo in county assumed support of senior meals. The tax for TranGo is used totally for its purposes and County stopped \$7500 payment to OCTN Senior Meals last year. TranGo cannot give cash donation to Senior Meals but does provide transportation and transport of meals. This still leaves Senior Meals down the \$7500 from previous years. JD feels ballot issue for TranGo was intentionally misleading about Senior Meals support and feels bad about outcome. Senior Meals is there to express impact of \$7500 loss while they have a 20% increase in home deliveries from past years. \$7500 contribution is not in 2017 and not in current 2018 budget. Is there to ask BOCC to consider reinstating contribution. JD supports effort, wants JF to come back to talk to other BOCC members and help them understand. 3:11 AH shows up. Renewed discussion of how funds were absorbed and disappeared. LJ – reports that at one point \$7500 for meals + \$2500 for bus replacement. TranGo helps with transportation but not cash budget. AH feels County can't help for 2017 but wants to investigate if TranGo can legally fund. AH fully supports aims of senior meals but can't guarantee funds due to tightness of 2018 budget balance. AH & JD will find a way. Will consider current invoice for 2017.

3:45 Discussion of “**Mark Funds**” - \$ intended for historical preservations of documents with AH & LJ. Generally gets rolled into Current Expenses as Mark Funds not invoiced for expenses during year. Money is used but not for allocated purposes. No current way to roll over to next year without setting up a line item to roll into. Concern that money is not being spent on designated purpose even though there is a need to used for that purpose. Back and forth on how the Mark Funds move around in budget – (source of funds State?).

4:00 **Supplemental** for Building Dept. and Jail. No public or staff comments. BOCC is the source of funds. Revenue for permit renewals at Building Dept. exceeded budgeted amount and budget needs to be amended to accommodate. Jail costs need to be reviewed but paid due to closeness of end of year. This does not affect current budget. Approved.

4:10 **no Citizen's Comment** period – no AH, JD working on computer.

5:00 AH returns, Approve moving of a Union group into HCA (Health Care Authority). **Consent Agenda** approved, Adjourn.