

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
December 22, 2020 AM&PM**

Present:

Jim DeTro (JD) - BOCC Chair, District 3
Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC Vice-Chair, District 1
Andy Hover (AH) - BOCC, District 2
Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board
Maurice Goodall (MG) - Emergency Management
Pete Palmer (PP) - Planning Director
Naomi Pleasley (NP) - Fairgrounds Manager
Tony Hawley (TH) - Sheriff
Leah McCormack (LJ) - Treasurer
Larry Gillman (LG) - Assessor

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 spot on the video recording.

Summary - EMS- Submitting All Hazardous Mitigation Plan grant for generator for whole building. 3 generators county-wide being applied for. This is mandated, but Community Wildfire Protection Plans are not, but will be part of All Hazards Mitigation Plan - which is mandated.

Planning Dept: Accomplishments: Methow Subdivision, Tunk Moratoriums, WRIA 49. Comp Plan and CAO have gone to Commerce for review. Addendum to EIS out in January; Clearing and Grading Ordinance, District Use Chart. Shared Planner, Importance of Angela Hubbard; **Fairgrounds Update**. Public Comment: **Comp Plan Status; Dept Head Quarterly Meeting/Updates.**

9:05 AM - Maurice Goodall, EMS - Briefing.

It's healthy in our office, everyone is ok.

Had opportunity because of the fires to submit for a Hazardous Mitigation Plan grant. Applied for generator. For the whole building, not just Emergency Management. They said we are qualified to go to next phase. They will look at what \$\$ they have. Cities and Fire districts applied - I tried to involve a lot a lot of people - ciites, fire districts. Wants approval to fill out the pre-application approval form. Deadline Feb 12.

MG - Pre-application approval form.

CB - Suggests if there is anything that includes uncertainty, bring it up in the spot for "comments." It would be good to have both Maurice and BOCC sign it.

3 generators county-wide. Aaron submitted for jail and something else in their facility. All are coordinating their efforts.

Disaster Issues (Still MG)

Dept of Ag secretary approved our county as a disaster for Ag purposes. Opens up different loan programs. All were waiting for this news. Other counties that touch your county qualify. Yakima does not qualify.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Did research. Provides a summary. This came out of Methow Plan. I was asking what a CWPP was. Right there is what it says.

All Hazards Mitigation Plan: We are now in he process of doing this Plan. Part of it is wildfire. Meeting with the Team tomorrow. What the discussion is: Is there a requirement that it be renewed? I can't find it saying that we actually have to have a plan. We are mandated to have a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, but in talking with folks about the 2006 Methow Plan, can't find that we have to have it. Question: How should we proceed with a county plan? Could move it to communities rather than having a county-wide plan.? It's different in different areas, from the Methow to the flats in Omak.

CB - One of the best points is that the applicability of a CWPP is very relevant to the particular population that you are serving.

CB Asks Pete Palmer to come out: Also it's a critical conversation piece on the lawsuit over the Comp Plan. Have been talking with Pete about that. Talking about what we have to deliver as a result of litigation. "You also had a talk with Lorah Super? Her experience was valuable through Conservation Dist, etc. A number of ways of protecting people in the WUI. The willingness of the people in any particular place is important to understand before you have rules or a cooperative effort for the community. You talked about it the other day.

MG - It's not a plan that we are mandating be in place, but it must be according to the community, not the whole county. If we make this plan today, 5 years doesn't mean anything if we let our cleanup go. When we have Firewire communities - it's not a certification; just an acknowledgement.

CB - Pete - do you have any thoughts?

PP - Important to focus in on each community and get them involved so they have ownership. But more importantly, if the community takes ownership of the plan, it's more likely to be looked at as a funding (xx\$\$) More likely to be enforced.

CB - All Hazards: Are you familiar with the All Hazards Mitigation Plan? The point is to mitigate all these. If sub areas would get together and say it is a significant need, it could wind up in the All Hazards Mitigation points. For example.....if an egress plan is needed. I don't know what we'll do with the CWPP in the Comp Plan, but we could make reference to the plans because it's more meaningful. To require it under SEPAit's only a bunch of books in the back of the room.

I listened to a **training under WASU** (*Travis Paveglia*?) The point was that it really depends upon the profile of people who live in these areas. The rules are sometimes not accepted (*if not compatible with the community*.) It's important that people understand they are responsible for themselves..... We need to figure out how to make that point to satisfy the requirement in the Comp Plan - could be just talking about the progress.

Maurice, I know you are understanding that you are also a planner. If you could take some part in getting this into the Comp Plan - to address the addition to the Comp Plan.

MG - There is no requirement for this plan, just the All Hazards Mitigation Plan. Why have a plan if you are not going to get anything out of it? Would rather have quality.....

CB - People are asking what the status is....that's what stimulated me to look at it. We needed to look at the plans and see whether anything had been done.

MG - It was initially done because in 2003, the legislature came out saying you have to have this. People need to be aware of their surroundings. We can't help you if you don't want to be helped. It was for some forest management funds, and it was built and then they never asked for it again. USFS initiated it. Western Governors Plan, other plans....they said you had to have it, but they haven't pushed for it.

CB - Let's be sure we understand that if it's the lack of coordination with the county - kind of like the Methow Watershed Plan; it's there, but did the county ever commit to it? Need to define that commitment. Let's not forget about it.

MG - speaks of \$\$ available. Moving forward to the Multi Hazard and then the Wildfire Protection Plan. We will do that, and then work on the plan. Fires will be out there, won't stop. It's a matter of mitigation. Biggest thing is to make people aware. We can't push it upon them. It is about implementation.....can't help you if you do't want to be helped.

CB - Mayor of Paradise said they had done a lot of work on this, but some things were not addressed - like egress, and before they knew it this fire was upon them - it is about implementation.

MG - If there is no exit besides one, you chose to live in a different place.

CB - Could amount to, if you do't have egress you have to leave later.

JD - RE ingress/egress, bringing all these huge (????) for wildfire protection is worthless. They (firefighters?) can't go in there. In 2015, an engine was stopped. They said they couldn't legally go in because it was a single lane road. They wouldn't go across the alfalfa field. A kid went in with his pickup and saved the house.

CB - Something changed here. When I helped with this fire last year..... a few years ago that's what happened. Kids on the engine were just sitting there. This year, it was different.

MG - The people you saw last time were probably local people. This fire was quick, short-lived. It's a point of how I operated - the emergency part was an instant . When things happen so quickly, you can't move forward. Local people do what's necessary. But still, some things are in place. Sometimes they (*firefighters*) are watching and waiting to see what the fire is gonna do.

CB - These guys were right there. When they ran out of water, Oroville was right there. They were running the flank as possible, but they just seemed to be well-coordinated.

JD - It's been problem we are trying to address at wildfire meetings (*State level*) Same thing DNR is now doing on initial attack. Same thing I've always beens saying. They are now really doing initial attack.

CB - Same thing with the WUI.

JD - Some people are adamantly against WUI's.

CB - It's connected with policy.

Pete Palmer: Accomplishments: Methow subdivision, Tunk moratoriums, WRIA 49. Comp Plan and CAO have gone to Commerce for review. Addendum to EIS out in January; Clearing and Grading Ordinance, District Use Chart. Shared Planner,

Pete - I have interviews this afternoon. So 5 minutes: Will probably come in at end of afternoon quarterly meeting. Accomplishments - Methow subdivision ordinance, Tunk moratoriums and division of land and required WQ (?) plan. WRIA 49 completed, wrapping up well tracking grant and software. Comp Plan and Critical Areas Ordinance went to Dept of Commerce yesterday to start their review. They had been threatening the county. Comp Plan - We are drafting the addendum to the draft EIS. Out for comment in Jan. Methow Rezone has been adopted. Rule 1 to use 5 (?) Everything submitted for several grants. Should have a pile of \$\$ coming into the county soon.

Next is Clearing and Grading Ord. Updating fee schedule. 2 ordinances - Methow subdivision and Tunk water - need to get moving and see where that is going to go.

I have a district use chart. Will pull it out and move it forward. WRIA 49 group - how does the county want to see it act for the future and who will be participants? This afternoon - interview for Admin Secretary,, so we can do more planning again. Have the GIS techs out for advertisement. Waiting for response back on shared planner with Oroville, 1/2 of the bill to the county.

CB - Who is key planner on the complicated Methow stuff:

PP - Angela. Anything having to do with water availability, closed basins in Methow, any permits or site analysis in that area or inquiries on that. She is more versed in this area and well-versed in basins and tributaries in the Methow.

CB - that's why I have been pressing for that "step thing." As far as I know, there is one bachelor's degree in that whole office.

PP - She's my star planner and I want to do everything I can to keep her. She does a lot of work to keep the county out of lawsuits, and that's real hot in the Methow right now.

JD (to Naomi) Naomi, sorry we drug this out this AM.

9:48 AM FAIRGROUNDS - NAOMI PEASLEY

NP - Will have the 2021 goals and objects to introduce to you. *(They look at copy.)* Will be upgrading website.

Going over goals: Wants to increase public perception. More community buy-in., more advertising, Increase RV park usage. Utilize our space better, increase revenue. Promote grounds usage. Upgrade facilities. Utilize social media, creating secure (?) QR code for fair. Scanner on phone, can scan posters. Upgrade technology at fairgrounds.

Also included 2021 ideas - would like to introduce you to fair committee. Upgrade facilities - capital improvement.

9:52 AM - I Need guidance on what projects to focus on.

JD - All of these are good ideas.

CB - when doing cap facilities, you have folks that get together and prioritize.

NAOMI - Will communicate with the Chair of committee to come in and present to you.

HUMAN RESOURCES: HAS NOTHING TO REPORT.

LJ - Also, Cari has made suggestions on the bar lines on the supplemental we discussed yesterday. Recommend. Doesn't change the amount.

CB - Prosecutor replacement - CB has appointment on Jan 6th to talk with someone who knows a lot about the process of how to appoint a new prosecutor. Someone he consults with often. Having dealt with those different issues, good to have a conversation.

Additional perspectives on bar codes.

There is a hearing at 10:30 .

10:20 AM - Hover returns from meeting.

10:30 AM: Hearing on budget supplemental from Sheriff Hawley

Budget Supplemental Appropriation from the Sheriff. No staff comment or public comment. Sheriff special project 124 fund grant from traffic safety commission \$1,970. Approved. Hearing closed.

BOCC agrees to approve vouchers, Levy Shift (County Road Fund.)

Around 10:40 - BOCC adjourns early for lunch. Nothing scheduled until 1:30 PM BOCC Adjourns early for lunch.

1:30 PM - Public Comment session: I. Spohn (Twisp) is the only commenter, with a question: One quick question regarding the Planning Update this morning - I had thought the Comp Plan would go to commerce after the Planning Commission had finished working on it, but that apparently wasn't correct. So would the draft come back to the Planning Commission after Commerce has finished reviewing it?

JD - Defers to Branch.

Branch: Typically with Commerce, they distribute to other agencies for comment - that's about all they do.....and then provide that to Pete. (Branch says he will get back to Spohn regarding what the timeline is.)

1:33 PM - Supplementals: - Amendment to yesterday's supplemental , Attachment A, including the (??) codes. Subtracted the \$878 that they had not been reimbursed for public works costs.
Resolution # 173- 2020 to include Attachment A. Approved.

Consent agenda approved. (Seems to be the below, except #177-2020

1. Agreement Union Contract- ASFME -Prosecutor's Office & District Court
2. Cattle Guard Renewals- CCT #N-39; WDFW #N-152A; WDFW #5-95; and WDFW #N152B
3. Addendum to Contract for Legal Services-McDougall Law, PLLC-Okanogan County
4. Resolution 177-2020 Reclassifying Events Coordinator Position.

LJ - Res #177-2020 (You wanted to talk to someone before approving. BOCC has not talked to "her" yet.They will talk to her later. Could send her the resolution, and she'll talk about it.)

Levy shift for Road Fund approved Res. #187-2020

LJ Talked with Leah, and it is not likely to have any effect upon the cities. Approved # 187-2020 Legislative authority to do a levy shift for road fund.

2:00 PM - Department Head Quarterly Meeting

(Speakers not using mics today - difficult to hear department heads)

AH - There is no agenda. Is there any item for discussion?

CB - There must be something, so if any Dpt head wants to say anything, that would be helpful. Otherwise, we are in a bubble.

Clerk office report - Everyone is healthy.

Leah McCormack (Treasury) - You guys already know this, because people are shopping on line. But ask far as property tax in our department, Covid did not affect that. Excise tax is also up. I remember in 2008, we would be lucky to do 10 affidavits per day. Now we are averaging about 25-30 per day. Right there, a change in excise tax, which helps capital improvement fund. Having said that I'm looking forward to a better year next year than what we had this year.

Unknown male voice - (difficult to hear.) The real estate market has not been affected by Covid, in fact the opposite. Might be a lot of exiting from Western Wa to Eastern Wa. People relocating and working from their home, not in the Seattle Area.

Sheriff - (difficult to hear.) Did annual shop with the Cop yesterday. Helped families, 21 kids. Quality meal. Want to do something to help out. Didn't solicit as much this year because we don't know where people are. Scanner for jail showed up today, hopefully will get staff trained on that to help combat the introduction of contraband in the jail. People will be scanned as another tool besides "pat down" Continue to have issue with Covid in jail. Not hourly updates (can't hear.) Everyone has returned healthy so far. Communications - patrol not having an issue with it but easier to segregate than jail. (Fades out.) Something about patrol staff.

(Loud sound of papers shuffling interferes.)

Cari - not a lot new. Something about UPS's from PUD, hard to hear.

Maurice Goodall, EMS - Busy year. Thanks to all the different departments he's been in contact with. Firewise has provided info to us. Will get with Sheriff's Dept. All in all, our Dept is mixing with departments well.

Unknown male voice, regarding maps and communicating with Pete Palmer.

Larry Gillman - Assessor - has a tremendous amt of data we don't want to use. Would be really nice to scan it. We are talking bout hundreds of.... If we have another opportunity to scan/ digitize/return.....

AH - Some will use the huge books and not destroy them. Like cars, you keep putting it off. We need to budget a little bit of \$\$, say which ones will go out each year. Instead of saying we don't have \$200,000 to scan, take it in pieces.

(All hard to hear - speakers are in the audience without mics.) **Maurice - Tanya is on vacation. Something about adding elephant whistles. Looking for a draft.**

LJ - Our county video is ready.

CB - company filmed each of us around the county. They pay for it through selling ads and logos on website. Haven't heard about how that went. Some people were "taken" by their marketing approach. I hope it gets some opportunities for some presentations. We actually use it quite often ourselves and look forward to you all

Unknown voice (Leah McCormack.) - Thanks all departments' cooperation on the budget. I remember that there used to be conflict and territorial budgets. Appreciate the Commissioners' leadership on this.

CB - Compliments Cmr. Hover getting out there and getting people to participate.

AH - One of those things can't go without the discussions, if we cut here, what impact will it have on the department. Having lots of sets of eyes, depts scheduling their workshops early, etc all helped.

CB - Hope everything is going well between y'all too. Anything you have for suggestions that you don't want to spend time on here, be sure to send some e-mails.

Kayla (WSU Extension) - did you want to comment? WSU extension - continuing to work remotely according to university guidelines. We were one of the counties that were first to the drive-in hot spots. Master gardener coordinator was involved in remote training and getting 8 new master gardeners certified. A great thing. Working with professor at WSU on a Capstone Project - Needs assessment as to people's draw to Okanogan County and to come here to be employed - Last set of students crunching numbers and an info graphic to present to the BOCC as to the needs assessment. Success on 9-week remote state-wide workshops. I coordinated an Okanogan Cohort with Kalispell and Colvilles. Continue to work remotely 4H, Master gardeners, etc. Reach out with your questions or comments.

CB - to Kayla - with the new master Gardeners, what is average age?

Kayla - Prior to new training, retirement age was the average. This time , 1/2 were not of retirement age, closer to my age. This is good because they will go longer.

Judge Short - District Ct. applying again to admin officer of the courts, trying to expand options for people who do not have internet access or devices to access trying to coordinate so people can drive to places - working on CARA's money application - and online system that snoomeish superior court and another court - people who cannot drive to Okanogan to make a petition in person so they can talk with advocates and file petitions on line. Hoping the admin officer of court approves our \$\$.

Also, working with center on court innovation re domestic violence, stalking, etc. victim advocates and health orgs around the county and treat providers around the county. Has been a real benefit to our county and costs us nothing. If any general questions for district court, would be happy to answer.

Jim and Cari Hall - We finished the election, which was very busy and intense. A special thanks to Tony, Aaron, and Laura, who spent extra time in our office. Scrambling to get the new budget into EDEN for Jan 2, when everyone would want to use it. Huge increase in recordings. So a lot of re-finances, purchases, From what we've seen, property sales have not slowed down in Okanogan County. Other than that, business as usual.

Mike Worden: The only 2 big items are that we are on track to get generator for courthouse. Pending electrical big for installation - should be in May. Will improve durability for IT and ?? - A positive for the situations such as in the cold Springs fire. Brand new item - possibly a way to make our internet connectivity more robust when there is fiber damage. Will see how this develops. Other major thing we are working on - issued an RFP for radio network improvements. Got bids. Will be bringing to board next year re contractors.

Wrap - up:

AH - Capital Facilities Plan. I just figured out out to get Excell spreadsheets into Word document. As written when I read it, it needed some tuning up. We went to different septs who are involved, Pub Wks, etc - before we do anything, I'll send the draft out to everyone as to funding sources and other things. Another set of eyes. Taking a long time - want it to flow and for tables to look right, so takes awhile if you do't have all codes, etc.

JD - Said before, but I'll say it again - Thank you. Everybody. You don't know how stressful it is to sit here at 5:30 on Dec. 31 with budget problems. This time, it's a pleasure at this desk.

AH - Thanks for everything, all year - a very stressful year for everyone. Hopefully a year we cannot have ever again. To be able to deal with that and still provide services to tax payers, shows a lot of good work from a lot of good people.

CB - So out of the ordinary. I think of looking back to people apart from people with masks on - and the very extraordinary situation in the whole globe - a lot of controversy that we can't do much about. Very pleased to hear we are getting some protection out there, hope we get through law enforcement and every one inoculated. Hope we can get to everyone who needs inoculation, etc. Hope we can get through his inn a good way. We deal with a public that doesn't agree with it, but we just have to deal with it. A little more serious than the flu. Try to keep this thing from spreading - and hopefully the inoculations will work. We will be able to look back at it sometime and tell our grandkids we lived through it.

AH - hopes for really good holidays. ...comment from back (couldn't follow.)

CB - Thanks for dealing with it. It just must be done.

Unknown voice - hard to hear. Our staff is due to be qualified....too broken. Seems to be from North Valley?

One last thing - Ok County should be proud of itself. We still have counties that are not ????? Something about Work Force - Okanogan County has been a shining beacon to work through this.

BOCC thanks everyone for coming.

Christmas greetings. Monday, 27th will be gone for 1/2 day in morning, here for evaluations.

2:40 PM - Adjourned.

LJ - one thing Monday AM - Tonasket EMS, \$72,000. AH will not be here.