

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, December 29, 2020. AM & PM**

**Present:** (Some attending remotely.)

**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

**Naomi Peasley (NP)** - Fairgrounds Manager

**Mike Edgerton (ME)** - Chair, Fair Board

**Maurice Goodall (MG)** - Okanogan County Emergency Manager

**Josh Thomson (JT)** - Public Works

**Dave Gecas (DG)** - Civil Deputy Attorney

**Tanya Craig (TC)** - Risk Management/Human Resources

**Arian Noma (AN)** - County Prosecutor

**Pete Palmer (PP)** - Planning Director

*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: Tuesday, 12/29/2020, AM & PM: Fairgrounds:** Discussion & decision to leave Fairground fees unchanged for 2021, Fairgrounds irrigation, Fairground improvement priorities, contracts to be reviewed; **EMS** - Oroville phone outage, Loomis status re All Hazards Mitigation Plan and fire hydrant; Discussion and debate in re **Horticultural and Disease and Pest Board/Agricultural and Pest Districts** & related taxation; **Public Works:** Complications of adding Barclay Ditch pipe at Evans Road in Methow Valley & possible related impact upon airport design; **AV Capture:** informal discussion of audio problems; **Noma Request re hiring a District Court prosecutor, including salary;** **Scheduling for next week:** OBHC. **Six Executive Sessions** relating to Evaluation and Performance of Public Employees.

*(Note: 8:15 AM - Update on Superior Court with Dennis Rabidou was canceled.)*

## COMMISSIONERS' STAFF MEETING:

*Summary of 9:02 session - Fees: Questions are arising having to do with the charges for use of the fairground during upcoming 2021. Due to Covid-19 the 2020 fair did not happen, but fees had already been paid (at least deposits) for use of the fairground by the County Fair and by businesses for advertisements at the fair. What do the relevant contracts say? One issue is that "gifting" can be an issue with State auditors. It's decided that the fee schedule for 2021 will not be changed from the 2020 schedule due to cancellation of last year's Fair. Gecas and Peasley will look over the contracts for exact wording on relevant details. **Fairgrounds improvement:** Irrigation system, bathroom improvement/showers and work on roof are Peasley priorities for any funding for next year. Peasley will prepare a presentation for BOCC within next couple of weeks.*

### **9:02 AM (AV Capture 0:01:04) - Naomie Peasley - Fairgrounds Coordinator, Mike Edgerton, Chair of Fair Board**

Naomie: Last week it was requested the FACC chair (Mike Edgerton) meet with commissioners regarding rental fees for 2021.

Mike Edgerton - *Has no opinion. Does not know the proposal.*

BOCC - No one has proposed anything.

Naomie - No proposal. My personal opinion is to eliminate the fee or reduce it.

AH - We can't eliminate it. Either the fair is a renter or...Ok county has the fairground and puts on the fair. The \$\$ goes into maintenance, etc. So they have to pay a part of it. When we put fairground into current expense, we had to say how much the fair had to pay.

CB - Either do it this way, or the revenue sources the fair. Seems the fair board would prefer to pay the rent, so you could plan around that revenue source. Otherwise, it's our control issue.

AH - Right now, the cost that we charge doesn't cover the cost of the upkeep, etc. It can't sustain the fairgrounds, so we came up with something as equitable as possible.

Naomie - The fair isn't doing that right now. Not making enough money to sustain itself.

AH - Not making enough \$\$ for the buildings and other stuff that goes along with it. Can't do it by itself. Can only charge on what sustains the fair itself.

CB - There is no proposal for an increase.

Mike - In that case, I'm fine with the structure as it is right now. As a renter, we can have certain expectations. Honestly, the additional security clean-up crew - all those guys - we can easily burn that \$\$ during that week. It doesn't allow for maintenance of all the buildings. Now, it's clean-straight-forward, easy to balance. If you charged piece by piece for maintenance that's difficult to budget. These things change. Too hard to budget for 6 months.

JD - Agrees. Why try and convolute it? More complicated to start separating individual things out.

CB - Am I in error in thinking that the fairgrounds was built for particular reason, but the fair is the biggest event there.

Mike - Right. I don't see any inconsistency in what we are doing. Each year it might go up and more cost is involved if it gets bigger. The reality is that I like having the liability on your plate and not mine.

Naomie - It was \$45,000 for 5 days.

Mike - I think we get 10 days. You lose revenue because you have to empty out the camping the day before. We need a day or two to clean up and restore grounds the way we found them.

Naomie- Just decide, so we can report to FAC.

AH/CB - Keep it the same. They will be reimbursed for costs?

Naomie - Did not get reimbursed from the state. They are trying to give us (\$6,000?)

Mike - We got para mutual \$\$ for the 2020 fair.

AH - So everything rolls over to the next year. So increase in the rate right now wouldn't be wise.

Mike - Even if everything goes through, we have \$6,000 in the hole. But no para mutual \$\$ for 2020, because it didn't happen. You just keep moving forward.

JD - Sounds good.

AH- No motion necessary. Not changing the fees schedule.

All agree.

Naomie - Have not heard yet from audio or areas re event coordinators, nor about auction software or event coordinator position. So I will see what the changes are. Need to know if anything will be a problem to get software. Whether I can be added as coordinator.

*BOCC asks Cari Hall if she can comment. She is apparently away from the Zoom conversation.*

Naomie - details on charges for various items. Asks if she should charge based on last year's rate or ???

JD - We should stick with old rates.

CB - If for 2020, something needs to be signed, with new price if we are going to do that. Asks Hover if we budgeted increase for those contracts.

AH - No. Didn't you bring this up before, Naomie? Contracts - should these people be able to keep into next year? As long as county isn't taking the money..... Before going ahead, I'd get a feel from the different venues as to what they are getting for auction services, etc. I think we just need to do....do you know who actually wants to continue over? Any contact with them?

NP - Yes.

AH - They deposited on a contract - we need to do a resolution that due to Covid the prices remain at the 2020 rate because of their deposits, etc.

CB - Asks David Gecas if he's been listening. In renewing contracts for next year, a resolution vs revising all the contracts?

DG - Look at terms of contract whether they expired or not.

AH - If signed with no termination,....

DG - A section called terms will say whether it ends at end of year, or whatever.

CB - Will check Right now; it's worded to use the same rate as the last year.

AH - One thing I want to do in terms of audit.....I'm ok with renewing contracts, whatever we need to do. Deposits were taken in 2020, say this contract is hereby extended.

CB - Let's see what the contract says.

Naomie - Will read contract and let you know next session. RE arena signage: would like for him to explain what do we allow for them to continue on and not charge them, or do we have to charge them again?

Mike - Advertisers - It could be a problem with gifting, but .....we talked about what was agreed to, whether the advertising would be there all year...whether it would be a partial reduction and not compete waiver. So they paid for all last year, shoaled they get a discount for last year? There were zero events.

AH - They did get something, because people were using the arena. You did have people in there riding?

NP - 20 people

AH - So they didn't get a lot.

DG - Hard to tell what they got. Sounds like nothing at all in change ..maybe 20 people saw advertisements. Gives examples of other situations. If it was stated in there - but I'm guessing it wasn't in the agreement at all, so you just have to interpret it. Probably you could justify a significant reduction, since they didn't get anything last year.

CB - That's the way I feel. Someone didn't get what they paid for - a typical business thing to make it good for you. Not gifting anything, really.

JD - Agree with you. They didn't have a choice in the matter.

CB - I was thinking of a website, if you didn't use it, you still paid. But this is more lie a business deal. Think we should make good on it.

JD - AH agree. They paid a good chunk of change every year to put up a banner.

AH - We have put in \$500,000 into small business stuff, so taking away a service to them, it's even worse. State auditor is the one that will be on us for gifting funds. So between Dave and Cari - the auditor wants us not to be arbitrary. If we say we have looked at contracts but couldn't deliver what we promised, so if we are going to reduce the rate to zero....

DG - Might we be criticized if we DIDN'T reduce the funds?

AH - Asks Dave if he can look at the contracts.

NP - Will work with you on this.

CB - We could document through a resolution too.

NP - Will introduce fees, revenue, etc all at once.

AH - Could you bring it in on a staff report to be sure Lanie knows what you are going to do, so we understand any changes?

NP - No changes, just additions.

AH - OK . Just need to know about additions and why.

NP - Think about it this way. Often, recommendations aren't accepted - but just important that you explain so we understand.

AH - One more thing....

JD - (*Re upcoming employee evaluations today*) Looking at how these evaluations can be 15 minutes instead of 30 minutes. I guess we can't roll this one up.

### **Fairgrounds Irrigation System:**

AH - I brought up that it would be nice to have full underground irrigation system. In thinking about this, One thing we need to know from Joe and Kyle is where they would want sprinklers where they would get run over - or if off and on wouldn't be worth it - and draw it on a map so we can put out RFP's. Suggestion from Treasurer was if we want stuff, to put it all out in one bond. That would save labor and time.

NP - Could probably eliminate one worker by doing that.

AH - in some places, heavy trucks drive on them. Types of things needed to see so we can give it to a designer irrigation place...areas we need irrigated, etc.

NP - I'm the fair coordinator. Are you asking me to do this?

AH - Never mind. It should go to Lanie!

NP- Last time, I asked for bathrooms to be added to that. Upgrading and making showers. Hope for next year or the following for capital improvement. Also, FCA grant.

CB - In that process, I'm used to capital facilities being rated as to what is most important. If you have proposed projects, we could add.

NP - I have 3. Irrigation system, bathroom, roof (?) I listed them last week.

CB - So, a simple approach where you are asking , comparing. You wouldn't even need a matrix if you only have 3 projects. You might consider revenues in your arguments for the priority, which will give the decision-makers needed information.

NP - I can have that presentation in the next week or two. Noted. Anything else?

LJ - Had handed out packets to the board this AM - it is info that I found in regards to pest and disease control board. I thought David could help with that. Need to know if you need to include Maurice.

### **10:40 AM (AV Capture 0:38:53) EMS Update: Maurice Goodall**

*Summary: 6-10 day Centurylink ongoing outage off and on for 6-10 days. He can't fix what he doesn't know about. CB found out about it and passed it on immediately to Maurice. MG called the area rep, and it was fixed immediately. Due to the holidays, they had not addressed complaints. He discovered they do not act unless it involves 911; but if it does, they jump right on it. Loomis was denied some funding because they are not listed in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan, so they have applied for a generator instead. Aspects of the situation are discussed. Loomis firemen storing firefighting gear at their own homes, Fire Dist has one hydrant.*

### **Phone outage in Oroville;**

Century Link, in Oroville. Had discussion with Pubic Health, citizens called. A T-1 line feeding Century link. It lasted for 6-10 days, ongoing, going off and on Yesterday was first time I knew about it. I contacted the area rep, and it was fixed. They jumped right on it. The company supplying the service, with holidays etc., they figured they'd deal with it later. If it's a 911 issue, they jump right on it. But if it's something else, they don't.

CB - I notified MG as soon as I found out.

MG - If I don't know what's going on, can't fix it.

### **Loomis: All Hazards Mitigations Plan**

AH - I had asked about Loomis and All Hazards Mitigations. Received a message by Tim Cook. They are denying them, because they aren't a part of all Hazards Plan. What applied for - It isn't the Water Users Ass'n? I haven't found out who they are - will have a phone call, and maybe they can be included.

AH - One of the people involved from the state actually went up there and told them they couldn't apply for a new station because they don't meet the thresholds. So they said they would apply for a generator instead.

MG - I understand. I just got this.....

AH - If you run into problems, let us know.

MG - I talked with Tim Cook. He's hard to get ahold of. I have to figure out who they are .  
AH - Call Rob Enloe, on the Fire District.

CB - Are there hydrants?

AH - Right there on the main road.

JD - Make sure it's not a decorative one! Basically the whole Fire District was serviced from one hydrant.

AH - If no power, they can't use it.

MG - Fire Supt's are getting the ES (?) This is the first one turned down. Except for PUD - they asked to replace wooden poles with metal. The amount, he thinks, was denied.

JD - PUD was trying to do forward thinking. They have a service life on wooden poles for 40 years, and they have (?) I suggested to go underground.

MG - Had quite a few people submit ( too rapid.)

AH - If we need to be involved, let us know. The Fire Districts are their own Jr. Taxing District, but for Loomis I'd like to see them get that - they have a solid plan for a small amount of property where that building is, that barely gets heated. Would like to see a 4-5 bay (*opportunity*)

JD \_ Maycumber got that for Conconully.

AH - Maybe we should talk with her. All the guys ' equipment is just tat their houses.

MG - During fire season, that helps..... But during winter time.....during maintenance, etc. they need it. That's all. Call me anytime for my evaluation this afternoon. One last thing- if you send an e-mai, send to my EM e-mail, not "mgoodall." Lauri sees that also. A few minutes ago I sent from FSA for Ag (???) too rapid to follow. Having problems getting call-backs from agencies

CB - This is a good opportunity to participate in the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

MG - Loomis ins't part of the plan right now - before, a lot of fire districts had been dropped (before I came along ) but we are putting them back into the new plan.

CB - Thinking about the non-incorporated parts of the county, if you can draw them into the plan. A lot of them have water associations, etc. Would be good to know they exist.

AH - That also includes contamination of water

CB - And aquifer recharge. The whole thing about floods - half their info is already there. If you passed this on to them (the Idaho firm) they would know that half their info is already in place.

**10:53 PM (AV Capture 00:51:24) : Debate among BOCC, LJ, DG regarding meaning of RCW 15.09 and RCW 17.12 regarding Okanogan Horticultural Pest and Disease Board and Agricultural and Pest Districts.**

**Summary:** Lengthy and detailed discussion regarding county history and application of RCW 15.09 (Horticultural Pest and Disease Board) and RCW 17.12 (Agricultural and Pest Districts); Tax assessment is one issue regarding this. Creation of board, assignment of an expert, and responsibilities of BOCC are involved. Bill Carpenter, the agent for both Chelan and Douglas counties, has reached out and offered to assist. LJ has scheduled him to meet with BOCC.

AH - Do you have recorded, written down, how many acres of assessed orchard grounds?

LJ - In minutes from last week, there are notes on those acres. On the 21st. Tanya cancelling 10:00 AM Update. 26,000 A, assessed at \$225 per acre.

AH - If we assessed like Chelan, that would pay for the uh.....

LJ Provided packet of info on findings to you, just so we have a base to start from. Page 3 - 3rd page in packet - a star - Okanogan Horticulture and Traffic Assn - p. 2 , county had in 1969 - at bottom of page, refers to/ etc. etc. The board was created. Further back packet - laws of 1969. We do have something adopted, but unclear make-up . No resolution but do have motion adopting that chapter. And another one in 1995, which created a district. Confusion over RCW's. And commissioners designating persons to act or doing it themselves.

AH - wants to know CB's thoughts. In counties having no AGA expert. Each commissioner shall be ex-officio rep in their district OR the board may designate a person to act. Is it each commissioner (3?) or one person?

CB - Assuming one person, is it just for that year? There is no ag expert (reads)

AH - RCW 17 - refers to one person designated. But then it says if you don't have one person, each Commissioner shall be ex-officio for their district. Or the board might designate each person to so act. Confusing.

LJ - the Ag expert would serve as the county's expert, supervised by WSU, or.....

AH - No - can designate 3. Reads it over again.

DG - You have 15.09 then 17.12 - Two separate statutes. I'm thinking of them separately. 17.12 talks about mammal pests, the Sort and Disease is about diseases, etc. Trying to figure out how separate they are.

AH - Under 15.09 - what is the funding source?

LJ - Reading aloud the statutes.

CB -9. Horticultural Pest and Disease Board - We have it in '69. Board created in '95. They existed in code. I looked in code - codified presumably in 1995: horticultural pst and disease board - I looked in code, presumably in 1995. They designed this board, which already existed, then they created the district under 17.12 because they already played the role....

LJ - They also pulled out in .....

CB - You could designate someone if there wasn't anyone? Did they do this in error, and made the BOCC the supervisor to do the duties, using a Board rather than a person? Individual vs. Board doesn't line up. 15.09 is a totally different ....did 15.09 set up this board? (Someone answers YES.) Is it an error, and does it need to be corrected?

AH - Do the only other thing - I think what CB said is spot on. They created it under 15, but what they didn't do was under 15 - the only way to actually get \$\$ into that was to tax everyone known as horticultural tax. That is one of the ways. So 15.09 refers to 60 - who is taxed?

AH - Under 17, I don't know - maybe they re doing the same thing. Creating Districts.

LJ - 15.09 - They designated who benefits and who can be taxed.

AH - Agrees. We can exclude certain classifications.

AH - They are using 15, not 17. We are truly using 15 in order to collect the \$\$.

LJ - They wanted to include 17 due to other kinds of pests.

AH - If Dave asked the question of AG....

DG - Just looking at this, maybe I can get better answers.

LJ - Bill Carpenter s the agent for both counties. He provides for their pest control. He called me yesterday to see if he could help out.

AH - That is my next thought - if we call Chelan-Douglas. They have a large capability to do this. Could we join with them and use \$315 per acre, take it down to root stock, do a join MOU or MOA with Chelan-Douglas and combine. ....

LJ He lives here, has an apartment in Wenatchee. I have scheduled him with the board. To see what kind of expertise we might need, how they currently do their thing. To help board do whatever we need to do.

AH - So for the vertebrate deal, we'd need to designate an AG expert.

LJ - So for horticulture pests - is that strictly insects? Doesn't have a definition.

AH - Pests and diseases is not limited by any ....(reads all ends of conditions, virus, bacteria, etc...etc...) that was 15. Now go to 17 .... The ones that we are.....pest districts authorized for the purposes of destroying squirrels, etc other rodents or any predator animals, etc, that interfere with products injurious to plants or products, etc. dealing with vertebrates.

LJ - The starlings are a big thing. Are they addressed?

AH - 15 deals with non-vertebrates. 17 deals with vertebrates with exception of the starlings. For everything else, we can use 15 - designate the properties - there can be a board, and if we go in with Chelan-Douglas..... Under 17, it would be us, Manning the ex-officio from districts, How are they getting money for the bounty?

LJ - Gebbers and others paid the pest control back. We pay the person with the bounty count, and then Gebbers and others gives us a check to cover costs.

AH - Somehow you have to separate those out.

LJ - 15.09 puts revenue into funds. (Other details.) Do not collect under 15.09.

AH - Technically, we are collecting under.....

LJ that's where the confusion is too, it's not going into the general fund under either.

AH - if it's 15...

*(Too confusing to follow. Involves building code being under general fund, and then it changed. Listen on AV Capture for more info.)*

LJ - the are collecting a permit fee for revenue, etc.

AH - We can go into an MOU on 15, but on vertebrate part, we'd have to shif the revenue into general funds, using 17 as a reimbursable fund for bounty If we designated someone to do it, designate that fund for vertebrates.

LJ - Can we do without a pest board?

AH - Most likely, yes.

LJ - Don't know how Chelan and Douglas has their own board. Ideas as to how to do that? RFQ, or....??

AH - Don't need to think about that now.

LJ - Will Carpenter participates in apple maggot working group. Familiar with this area.....

CB - Did he, understanding what's going on, did he come in and make you a proposal?

LJ - He reached to to us, knowing that much of our Pest Board resigned. He and Dan know Each other, have communicated, etc. I believe he's coming to talk with BOCC about whatever way he can help and provide options. He's familiar with....been, I believe, the pest agent for 7 years for Douglas and Chelan counties.

CB - It helps to know that there are people out there who are already talking about options

AH - When they created the district - they never call used it. If we have always.....

CB - they set up the district but didn't use it.

AH - All they did was just what you said - designated the Board as the Ag expert.

*(Discussion of additional info that Lanie has included.)*

LJ - On this, they were primarily talking about the starlings.

### **10:30 AM - Executive Session - Performance of a Public Employee - Pete Palmer.**

For 15 minutes.

**10:55 - BOCC has returned.** (Zoom program has kicked note taker out of Zoom during the Exec Session, so notes below begin after 11:00 meeting starts.)

### **11:02 AM (AV Capture 1:55:26)- Public works Update, Josh Thomson**

**Summary:** *Issue of how to deal with a parcel necessary for Methow Valley Irrigation District (Barclay Ditch) to install pipe. Ownership of the parcel on Evans Road, is not clear. JT will further investigate: 1) Who has been paying taxes on the property? 2) Are there fences on the property? 3) What do the property owners think? This issue affects the whole design of the airport.*

### **Methow Valley Irrigation District and a pipe being added at Evans Road, running East - West, related also to Airport Plan:**

AH - Would never do this on property that was owned by someone, but how about imminent domain?

JT - The problem with imminent domain is that there is no property owner. The recommendation was to do it via quiet title. Is this a definite no, can we pursue it , or?????

CB//AH - Agree to check into it.

JT - Strip highlighted in yellow on your map, running East-West. Doesn't really serve a road purpose. From county road to ditch below is a pretty steep drop-off. Deed didn't say it say it's for a road.

CB - Almost looks like more intended for a pipeline to go across river or something. Goes straight across. Where does it go?

JT - Not sure, but thinks it's in the middle of the river.

AH - Which yellow piece are you looking at?

CB - I'm looking at the one that says "Composite."

AH - Looking at a different map.

*(They straighten out the confusion between the two maps, discussing whether the property in question could have been for a withdrawal or other use, different colors on the maps, etc. )*

CB - Observes that anything you could get control of for an airport - RPZ - is what you want.

JT - The other map shows ownership. The annotated one. North of that is Wa. Div of Aeronautics - south of the gap is private.

AH - David and Nancy Lemeux (?) and Ron Alderbrecht. How do they know the surveys - how did this come up? I know the maps sector is not always correct. Who has been paying taxes on it?

JT - Probably shows a gap . State on North side. Don't know what parcel it's locked into.

JD - They may have thought it was exempt property.

JT - Not sure they knew there was a gap there.

CB - Evans Road? County right-of way? (*YES*) It doesn't show on the parcel map.

JT - That right of way is an easement granted to us by the USFS before it went to the State.

AH - So we have a right-of-way.....No, an easement, over the south part.

JT - It's really an easement, not a fee ownership.

AH - Our roads have actual .....

JT - Lots of time - there is a difference between an easement and grant of right-of-way. (People talking over each other.)

CB - When you get to court, this ties into it.

AH - Are there any fences or anything on that piece of property? I'd like to know where someone thinks a property line is.

CB - Joke - just put some stakes out there. (*Laughter.*)

AH - Would be inclined to look at this, but want to know the background.

CB - As far as that's concerned, is there a conflict on what the State Aviation owned?

JT - Not sure State aviation knew there was a gap. We want to know that Barclay.....State aviation agrees there was a gap. Original ownership was Meredith. It went to American Legion Airport.

AH - Original owner conveyed the property the is not the state.

JT - 1930 & 1940 - Nothing to indicate except that the owner intended to keep this small strip.

AH - If it has right-of ways.... I'm inclined to look at the to be sure the two owners don't think that....don't want to be involved with a boundary war.

JT - Who has been paying taxes, are there fences there, what do the property owners think?

Needed to know whether the county was willing to take ownership.

AH - We we would be the ones to go through the quiet title process. W'ed e the bad guys if the owners think it's their property.

JT - the easement Barclay needs to put MVID ditch. If their current right-of way lets them to assign their rights to someone else. When we get right-of-way, we stipulate in the agreement that we have assigned.....

AH - Please check on that. May be a moot point, if they can.

CB - The houses on Evans road leaves to houses, right? That is their access through n easement or right - of- way? *(YES)*

CB - Plays into the whole design of the airport.

AH - I asked FAA. (Federal) about requirements - that road is so close to the end of the runway. In the zone of the approach. In the section where you can't have anything in it. Not the only one in the county.

CB - Did FAA find it acceptable?

AH - This isn't their strong point. Got discussions goin with them last year. Will pick that up during the summer.

CB- That road to industrial park in Oroville is controlled through the gate.

AH - this is more if you have cars going on the road, it's a height issue. IN Twisp there is an automatic beacon. Couldn't we hook this to an auto beacon if a vehicle is there?

*(Joking around. )*

JD - Didn't Ulrich hit a hay truck right there? *(In his plane)* One of the Cotners, a young kid who didn't realize they had to look up and down the runway. He *(Ulrich)* tried to abort and go around it - added power, but didn't clear it. )

**11: 25 AM - Josh Thomson- requests Exec Session. Evaluation of Public Employee.**

RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) **5 minutes.**

**11:31 PM** - CB - Do you do employee evaluations? Formal?

JT - Yes, but I need to catch up.

AH - Roadway Management Position is not a non-union position. But in the organization chart, he is on the same level as the ER&R manager and solid waste manager, which are union positions.

LJ - Is Tanya aware of the situation? Yes. 190.2020.

AH - because of the pay increases to RR&R and Solid waste from 34 to grad 37, bringing it back to the level of those positions. At Step 5. You have all that on grade 37, Step 5.

Josh - YES. 190-2020 - reclassify Pub Works Road Management position on a grade 34 Step 5, grade 37 Step 5. Passes.

JT - Confirms Tanya knows about this.

**Executive Session: Public Employee Evaluation15 minutes. Josh Thomson**

**11:43 PM - Exec Session ends Nothing else on docket until 1:30 PM .**  
(BOCC appears to leave.) LJ - "We did adjourn."

**\*\*\*\*\*Lunch Break\*\*\*\*\***

**1:30 PM (AV Capture 2:39:13) - Public Comment Period:** Observation & question, I. Spohn, Twisp:

1. **Observation** regarding AVC audio improvement this morning, but it turned out to be that the speaker had been using Zoom instead.
2. **Question:** Any more information on who recommends the choice of Alternatives on Comprehensive Plan, and at what point that will happen on the timeline? My info is that the Planning Commission hasn't met since October, and that this was the most recent Comp Plan draft. **Answer:** Planning Director Palmer has been out, but CB will be sure she addresses this in her next report.

**Public Comment closes.**

**Miscellaneous:**

1:38 - BOCC looking over various documents, various brief related comments. Waiting for AH, who will be late.

2:00 - Hover returns from meeting.

**2:01 - Tanya Craig Employee Evaluation. Executive Session. 15 minutes.**

**2:16 - BOCC Returns.** AH will be late. Discussion of swearing in and whether public is invited, due to Covid-19 (undetermined.)

**Miscellaneous:**

LJ - Payroll showed a donation to the Board for the "Retro."

AH - Okanogan Contract needs to be addressed.

2:20 - Woman enters, immediately taking off her mask. Miscellaneous details regarding documents, small corrections, etc.

**2:29 - Executive Session, 15 minutes. Karen Beatty Employee Evaluation.**

**2:39 - BOCC Returns**

**2:30 PM - Fairgrounds contract details:**

Issue brought up by Tanya. Contract with Gecas. If another contract with date and time of the event wouldn't apply to 21. Issue of contract did not mention expiration of the contract.

AH - event date, clean up date - re fairgrounds.

CB - goes over dates.

AH - Let me ask, not tell, if she has all these contracts filled out with dates, payments, and times, why go through the ....if we had another contract that says 2021 but has 2020 payout, we'd have

to write another one anyway. ....we should state we were unable to fulfill our obligations so the contract will move forward.

CB - If they don't sign and agree, there's no contract.

AH - We need to do a resolution that says why. CB agrees. Needs to have new dates on it, along with a resolution saying why they are a certain price.

Joking around that CB and AH actually agree. (*Laughter.*)

**2:44 PM - Minutes Approval:** CB states they are all ok, and nothing Hover said was changed. But one said that you had opened the hearing. (*He didn't.*)

AH December 21st minutes -- a motion. AH authorized stipend to Mike Weaver for UW project. Checking to make sure we were not approving a stipend to homeless youth.

LJ - We meant to go back and clarify that. I forgot. Further small corrections on minutes.

**2:52 PM - Approval of Minutes & Consent Agenda as written,** for December 21 and 22nd

AH - Stopped by Leader Lake yesterday - a lot of people there ice fishing. Probably 6 people by the dam, and 2 ice shanties up further. People in ice shanties must have gone up the side of the lake. Only 2 cars parked there, but more people in shanties. Kids, etc.

Branch - I park at dam and ski up to the other end. (*Jokes around about game warden.*)

*Chit-chat about ice fishing in the county. Good trout fishing at Leader. Sometimes nice bass at Leader (CB.) Food and temp tend to keep size down.*

**2:56 PM - Executive session, Naomie Peasley Employee Evaluation, 15 minutes.**

**3:17 PM - Extended another 5 minutes.**

**3:17 PM (AV Capture 4:22:54) - Informal Discussion regarding AV Capture audio, LJ & MG:**

**Maurice Goodall** enters, waiting for his evaluation time, looking at AV Capture on the screen.

**MG** - It's hard to hear this stuff. Asks about when they got the sound system.

**LJ** - Says some people say it helps to wear headsets. They are top-of-the-line mics. They were checked when AV Capture was checked. People don't talk into the mics and they move the stickers I've put on the table. We are also getting these types of mic stands. They don't sit close enough to the mics. Someone is coming, maybe in February to look at it.

**MG** - It's interesting, sometimes it picks up great. I don't know anything about these type of things .

**Lanie** - I think we'll add hanging mics. That will be really good. We'll see. The thing is, it's Zoom that is important during Covid. *(Note taker comment): Zoom is not archived, so the public who cannot listen live cannot listen to Zoom later and AVC is often too difficult to hear.)*

**MG** - *(Couldn't understand.)*

**Lanie** - If I start Zoom, it takes over the computer mic and uses it, and AV Capture doesn't have a mic after that.

**MG** - You get on AV Capture and it delays a little bit.

**Lanie** - If I start Zoom after the recording, it's the opposite. The system doesn't like it. Zoom takes the mic over, and AV Capture has no mic. It's tricky.

**MG** - I called them at IT . I'm sure they get tired of hearing from me. I talk with Eric mostly. I think I generally talk with him.

**Lanie** - Steve has been my go-to person. I think he's retiring soon. I was curious if you had a go-to person.

**MG** -If he's not there, someone else fixes me up.

**Lanie** - So happens that Steve has known me the longest down there and knows what I problems I usually have.

**MG** - You have to protect yourself on computers, but now in different ways . They sometimes have their ways of doing things.

**Both** agree they have a good crew.

**3:27 PM BOCC enters again** - All join in the discussion about catching mice.

**3:29 - Exec Session 15 minutes - Employee Evaluation, Maurice Goodall**

**3:47** - Additional 5 minutes

3:53PM - BOCC Returns. Something about economic development district is being discussed as they come in

CB - We have a resource for it to make grant applications for infrastructure. She's asking us to put that in there if we have the opportunity.

AH - We are a proponent for all of this. There are people out there applying for broad band help , and we have an opportunity to ask that those requests be looked at seriously.

CB - If it works for you guys and you have the opportunity - we can ask Lanie to put words to this and address it next week.

AH - to Lanie - very general now, needs to be more impactful for us. We see a need in the county for increased broad band and hope that any grant opportunities that are presented for citizens of Okanogan County be seriously addressed.

CB - If you can put together for next week on letterhead, we can add anecdotes or whatever.

### **3:58 PM (AV Capture 5:01:03)- County Prosecuting Arian Noma request re hiring of a District Court Prosecuting Attorney**

AN - We have a District Court opening, we have a candidate that is considering, but due to our pay scales they wrote back talking about health benefits, it would cost my family over 1200 per month and that is too much for his family to handle. He made a counter-offer. District Court prosecutor position. He's asking for \$300 more than Step 5. Would the county consider Step 5 for him?

AH - How long has he been an attorney? He was a Rule 9 (externship to practice law under direct supervision of an attorney.) I asked if he had ever done a jury trial under Rule 9, but he hadn't. But he had done a lot of the prep for these trials, Why he is very interesting - he was on the Lynnwood City Council for 9 years and was also president) Had tremendous government experience before law school. He thus did very well in the interview.

AH - What were the positions of persons that held that position?

AN - Step one. My other deputy is also on Step One. I try to hire at Step One unless there are other conditions. There have been no applicants since (*vacating attorney*) Left - about a month ago. The applicants don't come in often. With that city experience, he interviewed really well. City Council 2011-2019. 8 years, then two of those years, he was the president. He actually went to law school, managed real estate, and was on the city council all at the same time. So he's a worker. I know the city council position was part-time, but still a lot of work.

AH - I don't have an issue with hiring at further steps. It just throws such a wrinkle into others being hired at Step One. But we are not having anyone apply - I would like to hire .....But we usually hire at Step 4 if there are excellent credentials. Just out of law school, it's hard to justify. Oh, boy.

CB - Just thinking - a thought is that if we are going to hire someone, we work with the situation. The one concern I might have is that you are resigning on the 15th, and whoever gets in there, will they have another idea about how to attract someone to the position? A question I have. Don't know what's going to happen. But that doesn't come around until well into next month. Just a thought as far as the concept of hiring at a higher rate because you can't get anyone

else, it's something we might have to do. I have a concern, but not a problem with going head with this.

5:05:25 JD - Considering we have such a difficult time in attracting people...Do you think he would take a Step 4 if we explained to him that the protocol we follow is if you are going to give an upgrade when we usually hire at entry level, it's usually a Step 4.

AN - Not sure if he would or not, because in his last sentence, he said he's consider it if we increased to fifty six fourteen (\$56,014?) which is \$300 more than Step 5. But if approved by you at Step 4, I'm willing to talk with him about it.

AH - What is Step 4?

AN (\$5,051 per month.)

AH - Works out to about \$60,000 - not a lot of \$\$ . I'm willing to go to Step 4. Understand Branch's concern.

*(Note: the mathematics and figures were very difficult to follow on AV Capture, and it is hoped they are accurate.)*

CB - Do you have enough support for this person as a new attorney ?

AN - I've voiced enough that we need more support. The new attorneys we've had before - we've been able to help them enough. In a perfect world, no.....but in our world, yes.

CB - Did you advertise the pay? If we advertised for more (*pay*), would others apply?

AN - Not sure. But in the experience I've had in hiring people, that position at one point was open for 8 months. (*Noma got about 5-10 applications total, after 7 month period.*)

AH - Next prosecuting Atty will have to deal with it. I don't want him to come in ....I want all hands on deck. Not sure how it will go over with other folks in the county.

CB - Wants him to offer Step 4.

AH - Says ok.

AN - Thanks them and leaves.

\*\*\*\*\*

JD - I've been thinking about it - congratulations to both of you. Would like to attend your swearing-in but considering everything and the fact that I don't wear a mask, I'll probably pass. I also may have gotten there, and they might say it's restricted to family.

AH and CB ok with it.

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**Upcoming Scheduling:**

OK - tomorrow at 10:00 (Swearing in ceremony for Branch/Hover) Any other business? Brief discussions:

CB - I have a meeting with the risk pool on a potential litigation I wanted to run against defense.  
-You'll hear about it later.  
No other employees to evaluate. - We are done.

**OBHC**

LJ - Am scheduling time on Monday the 4th for 9 AM. Nothing else except regular briefing. Waiting to hear back from OHBC - tentative Meeting and Greet with Mark McClay. Also, Thursday with Eric Westerland, to go over therapeutic report by someone who is no longer a part of OHBC.

Will go over homeless housing invoices also with him. Also 104 and 7 budgets. And therapeutic court invoice as well. Hopefully Josie will get back with me on January 4th re meet and greet. You guys may just want to talk about the millage money and what that needs to be in the future and what kind of changes may be needed. Might be a good idea before that meeting to pull the contracts. There is an MOU from a prior coordinator and report back to BOCC on that. The other two contracts for therapeutic court that also requires some sort of reporting.

AH - Can you pull the report for Developmental Disabilities?

CB - Would be good if they were prepared for that. What grants are they getting for DD? That grant may address some of the issues . Would like to know what they have for grant funding, along with block grant.....

AH - We pay them - if the county sends the \$\$ back to the state.....

LJ - If we don't take it, we'd send back to state and they can divvy it out.

AH - Brings up another possibility (*didn't follow.*)

CB - If so, we can work in a cooperative way with them.

AH - Yes - the money can make more money.

cB - Part of it is pretty straight- forward. We need to understand that, and they do too.

AH agrees - under RCW's, we need to understand how our money from taxes are spent....

All agree that an individual be invited - who used to be employed at OHBC>

LJ - Sometime in January Weill need to approve the ad valorem that applies.

AH - Sent them - Say, "Here are the 3 funds we have for millage rates. This is what we've budgeted for you.....this is the way it works, and if it doesn't work tell us why." In looking at he RCW that says mental health "OR" DD. We have a mental health contractor that is doing the work that we need to have done.

CB/AH remind each other not to forget swearing in tomorrow.

**4:24** - JD - Until tomorrow, 10:00 AM. We are having a quorum, but it doesn't involve decisions. See you next Monday - 4:24. **(They leave.)**