

**Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
January 26, 2022**

Present:

Andy Hover (AH) - Chair, District 2
Chris Branch (CB) - Vice Chair, District 1
Jim DeTro (JD) - District 3
Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board

These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized or paraphrased. Note takers comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://www.countywatch.org/> 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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php

Summary: Cannabis Moratorium lawsuit against county, Executive Session on strategies for lawsuit; Discussion regarding hiring an Interim Prosecutor to fill position of resigning Prosecutor. Meeting set for Friday, 3:00 PM to discuss; agreement to allow Board of Health to use the Hearing Examiner used by county (*Beardsley*) ; brief discussion of wide-spread government problems in our state in regards to affordable housing, wages, inflation, ability to prosecute, staffing, and so forth.

1:30 - AH: 2 pieces of business:

1) Cannabis Moratorium Lawsuit

Executive Session: Lawsuit filed against County regarding Cannabis Moratorium: Strategy; 10 minutes.

Lawsuit filed against county- We will keep working on that, considering a special appointed attorney. Ken Harper being considered. Already doing some similar cases. Defendants and other defendants who work for county sued on Monday by Miller-Chase. Court date of Feb. 7, less than 20 days. Gecas will file a notice of appearance so someone is on record. No claim for damages, so

2) Hiring Interim Prosecutor to Fill Position of Resigning Prosecutor

Prosecuting atty resigning as of Friday. Want to hire an Interim Prosecutor, someone who can Deputize others. Meeting set for Friday, 3:00 PM, January 29th.

AH wants to address wages paid to prosecuting attorneys later.
CB - How about number of attorneys?

AH - wants to discuss later, after securing a Prosecuting Attorney. And wages.
CB - Fairground. Naomie wants to go ahead with bid.

3) LJ: Miscellaneous

- 1) Hearing examiners services agreement to be signed by BOCC. Agreeing to allow the BOH to use the Hearing Examiner the county uses.
- 2) Capital grant application to Dept of Agriculture.

4) Discussion of wide-spread government problems in our state during these times:

Difficult situations across the state in relation to affordable housing, working class housing, wage differential between private sector and government, inflation, keeping up with wages, keeping up with staffing levels and wages, unfunded mandates, lodging taxes/LTAC.

AH - Something as simple as putting out ballot boxes for a county that is 5400 square miles, and 4 hours border to border.

CB - That's the mantra of the legislature - unfunded mandates.

AH/CB - Discuss the situation in our state. Current dilemma with public safety if we can't prosecute. If state will pay for indigent defense ...

Meeting on Prosecutor's position Friday, January 28 at 3:00 PM.

Adjourned 2:00