

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
April 29, 2020
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present:

Jim DeTro - JD, Chair, BOCC District 3
Chris Branch - CB, Vice Char, BOCC District 1
Andy Hover - AH, BOCC District 2
Tanya Craig - TC, Human Resources
Lalena Johns - LJ, Clerk of the Board
Members of the public online via Zoom - unknown total number

These notes were taken by a County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized. 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 the Okanogan County Commissioners' website at <https://www.okanogancounty.org>.

Summary of Significant Actions

BOCC approves a memo to **Dept heads and Elected Officials to begin formulating their plans for bringing employees back to work safely** and communicating with Public Health.
BOCC approves **letter to the Governor which was patterned after Chelan County's letter.**
BOCC acknowledges appointment of Thrasher and Tackman to **Methow Watershed Council.**
LTAC membership discussed. **Updates:** Ameresco proposal, Okanogan Land Trust, North Cascades Highway and Casino openings, elective surgeries

1:30 - Pledge of Allegiance:

LJ - Based on discussion this week, we need to discuss another memo to employees, a letter to the Governor (sent a copy to your e-mail) and also the memo from Tanya.

2 other items -

- * Methow watershed council - Council proposes to add Bill Tackman as Lower Methow Rep, Ashley Thrasher, representative at large.
- * LTAC resolution to be amended for LTAC membership
- * *Ameresco proposal: Do you want to go over the proposal? Also sent to the Board

Memo to County Department Heads and Elected Officials

JD _ Start with Memo.
AH - Memo is good to send out.
JD - Agrees.

LJ - Spoke with Lauri Jones. She had a draft from the Governor.

TC (?) - We went over it. He may be leaning toward local jurisdictions, along with requirements - also, requires a plan from each office with bullet points that needs to be approved by local Health Dept. and BOCC. Once approved by these, then approved with State Dept of Health and Governor, he requires a decreasing number of cases in our county to be considered. Does not include essential business. Our memo addresses employees coming back, also our high risk employees and how we will keep everyone safe.

JD - Comments?

CB - The memo states that there is a draft Plan. Did he (Inslee?) change that to a final plan?

TC - I called it a draft plan because that's how it was stated from Lauri J. Not sure if it is finalized or not.

CB - Will now ask Governor's office.

TC - Lauri read it over the phone to me.

TC - While waiting, I want to point out that Lauri stated that it will now be required for everyone in the public to wear a facial mask.

JD - That won't fly.

CB - What kind of mask? (Joking, puts bandana on his face.)

AH - In 1820 that was illegal, and now in 2020 it's legal? (Joking.)

JD - There was a person who tried to buy groceries was told she wouldn't be served without a mask.

CB - Did you look at Tuesday evening "land layout?" (?) It says on the 21st - unlikely many restrictions will be modified before May 4.

TC - Lauri stated it appeared that the plan is being labeled "Draft" and would be in force tomorrow evening.

CB - I think that taking a look at this, it is good to communicate this info to the departments in putting in place their plan. Looks like they are talking about (according to Assessor Larry Gilman) ... he was looking at May 5th. Best to be ahead of it.....

AH - So we put the memo out so they can start figuring out how they will operate. Are you ok with the draft?

CB - Ok with the word draft. CB moves to have Human Resources send the memo out to elected officials and Dept heads on the soft re-opening.

Motion made and passes.

Letter to Governor drafted by Branch and T.C.

AH - Very well-written.

JD - Excellent

AH - Found one spot, run-on sentence..

CB - I'm famous for that.

AH - I understand - at end of 2nd paragraph - 6-ft "close." On purpose? (Yes.)

CB - I might add, the Governor is getting towards self-determination in the counties. Anything in there that might sounds like...he will have good coverage on the issue and will know what it's all about.

JD - Per our meeting last Friday, each county has already sent a letter out. That's why we should send ours out today. Don't know how Karen Skoog is coming ion her letter for all eastern WA counties. Her date as before May 4.

AH - After reading the run on sentence, it makes perfect sense.

AH - Do we need to add that we have the ability for contact tracing?

CB - I was trying to keep it shorter. I think there is an acknowledgement out there about our system of tracing.

AH - Ok with it either way.

CB = The main point is that we are closer to the situation. We need the resources from the State to do what we need to do. That tracing system is relative to our numbers, and when those numbers increase, something will change.

JD - Terry DeSalvo is well aware of our tracing ability.

CB - That was brought up in the discussion with WSAC this morning. Acknowledged by the (Washington Health authority?) The director acknowledged it.

AH - Moves to send CB's letter with the board's signatures to the Governor's office. Passes.

LJ - I tase this resolution and the resolution from yesterday prepared for all of you to sign.

AH and JD will come over and sign. CB will too.

Another issue about a tree and wells. CB is going to check on it.

LJ - Next item - whether you want to to recommend and appoint Thrasher and Tackman to Methow Watershed Council.

AH - Acknowledging or appointing?

LJ - I have no files of appointments Just acknowledging an appointment.

AH - Option to appoint them.

CB - Is there any idea how the appointments go?

AH - They put out in the newspaper a call for people to apply. I believe a week or two weeks. No one applied.

CB - So by-laws say that's how the process goes? Have never fully understood the continuation of the Watershed Council ad the community and how they relate to us. At some point we need a better definition so we (*interference.*)

NO discussion. Motion passes.

LTAC - This year's apportionments and membership

AH - Next thing: LTAC meeting. We are actually cutting back this year's apportionments of money because we feel we will be really low in funding. Cut back so expenses this year are covered by cash on hand now in acct. We covered by about \$70, 000, in the black. Whatever we get as of March until December will go towards next year, so when we start budget for that and look at funding for next year, we will look at that.

I think we need todo we have the new allocations yet?

LJ - Yes, I have the allocations that Don worked up earlier today.

AH - So what we did is we kept all the VIC and Chambers at 100% in case they need to hire, etc. We cut advertising by 50% to all, capital expenditures by 50% to those who applied...one was Winthrop ice rink - they will put off until next year, so they are at zero. Methow Trails - 50% of allocation. Cut DMO's by 25% which they were ok with. And we cut the Master Plan. LTAC Voted, and as BOCC we need to approve re-allocations.

Moves to accept. Motion passes.

AH - to LJ - Do you have the resolution to change the makeup of the LTAC board yet, or shall we wait until Monday?

LJ - Have not had time to change the draft I did. May not be ready on Monday.

AH - Tuesday? Not imperative, so not a huge deal. We are talking about the original makeup of LTAC was one payer and one receiver for each district. Having a hard time filling those positions, especially in District 1 because there are not that many payers.

We ned a 5 member board, 2 payers, 2 receivers. We have a 7 member board now. The other 2 we could change to be at large . We need to be able to solicit from different areas also we can find people to fill these positions. We've had an open position for a long time. We have someone who just came from outside the county.

LJ - She says she is very interested in serving.

AH - Excellent.

LJ - Intending on drafting for next week's consideration.

AH - So could we do that next week? Yes.

LJ - Her name is Rachel Havens. It's a receiver position. She represents the Chamber of Commerce and VIC in Grand Coulee.

AMERESCO PROPOSAL

LJ - Ameresco Proposal is next.

AH - Let's not deal with it today. Would rather do it when in full session.

CB - Moves to table.

LJ - When might BOCC be able to go over it with Ameresco?

JD - What was Divco's bid?

LJ - \$138,000, I think.

JD - My question : Is this Ameresco proposal a greater scope than what we asked Divco to bid?

LJ - Names all of the many aspects of what would be done as part of the bid.

JD - Agree. We need to discuss when Joe can be here.

AH - Yes, need to get it going. Can you schedule them for the ZOOM meeting next week?

LJ - Will put on agenda for next week. That is the last item.

Omak Food Bank, Okanogan Land Trust

CB - Just received an e-mail indicating that there is a donor of \$10,000 for Omak food bank.

Jerry Debacher still working for Ok Land Trust? He has to confer need to be by the last week in May. Maybe 3rd week in May.

AH - Yes, put it on early.

CB - He says any of the days the last couple weeks in May would work. Try for 3rd week.

AH - 18th or 19th in May. How about the 18th

LJ - OK's that date. Branch will notify him. 11:00 Monday, May 18th. Branch will verify.

North Cascades Highway, Casino openings

JD - Highway will be open in 2 weeks. Tribal council will take a vote on opening casino tomorrow.

AH - The thing about the road being open..... A lot of folks talk about constitutionality. We can't put up barricades, and there is commerce that has to go over that pass. I hope they don't close the gates and say it is only for an escape route.

CB - I agree this would be a bad message especially when you have essential travel.

JD - But I guess that will be governed by the Governor through an order to Highway Dept (?)

AH - I sure don't want to put up the gates.

Elective Surgeries

AH - Got an e-mail asking about elective surgeries. I favor opening it.

CB - The PPE"s was the biggest concern, and the space. I got my knee operated on and I was in and out in a couple days. Would really like to see them survive, would like them to open it up.

AH agrees.

Remote meetings

All agree that with remote meetings, they can go to more meetings now.

CB - I will most likely be remote on Monday.

2:12 - meeting ends.