

Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners meeting June 13, 2022
AM session

AH – Andy Hover, BOCC Chair, District 2
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC vice-chair, District
JD- Jim DeTro, BOCC member
LJ- Lanie Johns, Clerk of the Board
CH- Crystal Hawley- Deputy Clerk of the Board
JT - Josh Thomson, Public Works Engineer
Joe – Maintenance Supervisor
Kent- Solid Waste Dept.

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/commissioner-and-board-of-health-meetings.html> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, Click [here](#).

Summary of Significant Discussion: Change to public comment times; methods of funding projects; HVAC unit in jail; impact of crime on local businesses; WATV access in Methow Valley; Budget public hearing for litter grant; limits on dump truck loads at Twisp transfer station; funding building for FD#6 (Methow Valley); Duck Lake Water district funding.

The time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date. Click [here](#) to go to the video.

00:00- Discussion about agenda. Planning Director has called in sick and won't be appearing this afternoon. LJ- mentions that the standard weekly agenda has been changed so that the public comment period is now going to be on Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:15.

13:35 – AH mentions funding the well project for FD#6.

14:50 – CB starts discussion about budgets and how to fund projects, including the definition of a project. Conversation includes Fairgrounds work, courthouse and other department projects including the subject of how bids are awarded, and the need to adhere to the written policy that is in place.

22:16- Public Comment period- no comments today. BOCC continues conversation about managing bids and projects.

38:45- Staff Report from Joe, from the Maintenance Department. New HVAC unit has been installed in the jail, all going well. Short discussion about HVAC at other buildings.

45:00- More discussion about budgets.

1:02:30- AH asks about a meeting being facilitated by the Economic Alliance Director (Roni Holden). CB says he asked RH to have a meeting to address local business owners' concerns about rising crime. He has been hearing from people that it is becoming a problem. Discussion turns to how arrests are handled between towns and the county. There are rumors going around that are not accurate.

1:10:00- CB asks about the difference between an “agreement” and a “Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)”. This is in reference to the fact that BOCC is partially funding a well for FD#6 (with ARPA money) and wants to have an appropriate arrangement that meets legal requirements.

AH finds some definitions and reads it to the BOCC.

1:21:35- AH says heard from a person in Conconully who was upset that the county advertised for a consultant to update the County Code. Her concern appeared to be based on a misunderstanding. AH explained the situation and referred her to more information.

Discussion follows about how the public often misinterprets statements they read in the media.

1:24:20 – Discussion returns to the difference between an Agreement and a MOU.

1:35:30 – AH mentions an email he received from the WA ATV club requesting the County to amend their rules about which roads ATVs are allowed on. Discussion about issues that would arise due to the fact that Winthrop does not allow ATVs on the town roads. JD states that Winthrop allows a gay pride parade so why won't they allow ATVs? AH- says he doesn't think it is equivalent. Discussion follows about the arguments for and against allowing ATVs in various areas, and the comparison of the impacts of motorcycles, 4WD cars and ATVs. AH says it is simply a matter of opinion analogous to preferring one color over another. The people opposed to ATVs simply don't like them and say that they will tear up the roads and they are noisy. Those are not valid reasons in his opinion. He states that as he is getting older he finds that he prefers his ATV over his motorcycle because it is far more comfortable. Discussion then turns to how cars with hikers are parking illegally along the road rather than paying for a parking pass.

1:53:10- JT arrives for public hearing on a Budget Supplemental Appropriation (Solid Waste). As he is early, the BOCC discusses the agreement with FD#6 regarding the well.

2:00:25- AH mentions hearing from constituents who are concerned about the 4 yard limit on dump truck loads at the transfer station in Twisp. Suggests increasing the limit to accommodate contractors.

2:02:50- Kent from Solid Waste and JT present request for budget supplemental of \$80,988 to facilitate the implementation of a grant that they received for litter collection.

No public comments. Kent explains the details of how the grant will be implemented.

BOCC approves the budget supplemental by unanimous vote.

2:08:20- AH leaves room to call the Fairgrounds manager (Naomi Peasley) about plan to replace bleachers. CB asks that AH explain to NP why they need to document the details of the bleacher replacement.

2:17:40- AH returns and says that NP will have all the info tomorrow.

2:17:55- AH asks whether the county could justify spending funds on the new FD#6 building in Winthrop. The new building has run over budget and FD#6 is trying to find additional funds.

BOCC has short discussion about whether they can help out. CB will ask someone on WSAC to do some research.

2:22:40- AH brings up the subject of the Duck Lake water district and some issues they are having. Short discussion of their issues and how they can find money to pay for necessary work.