

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
July 7 & 8/2020

Present:

Jim Detro (JD) - BOCC Chair, Dist. 3
Chris Branch (CB) - BOCC Chair, Dist. 1
Andy Hover (AH) - BOCC Chair, Dist 2 - Present only Tues PM & Wed. 8/2020
Lanie Johns (LJ) - Clerk of the Board
Tanya Craig - Human Resources, Risk Management
Charlene Groomes - Clerk, Superior Court
Kyle - Fairgrounds maintenance
Josh Thomson - Public Works
Citizens following via Zoom

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>.

Summaries:

Tuesday AM, 7/7/2020: Numerous details related to Fairgrounds maintenance and Agriplex remodel for Covid-19 court; Shared planner position, county survey on Recreation Plan , Grizzly Restoration nixed by Secretary of Agriculture. Issues identified by Josh Thomson, Lanie Johns, and Charlene Groomes. All needing clarification on recent Covid-19 laws and guidelines. DeTro states that law enforcement says they will not enforce recent mask rules, mentions constitutionality issue being looked at in Texas; JT says L&I can fine; DeTro denies and refers JT to civil attorney Gecas for correct advice; sanitization of Hearing Room; social distancing in Superior Court issues raised again. Many anecdotes relating to masks, news, health, & conflicting info on Covid. Branch states philosophy of what complex info to accept, his oath as commissioner, and siding with science.

Tuesday PM, 7/7/2020 - Citizens' Comment:

Covid-19 - one speaker: I. Spohn recommends an agreement among commissioners as to rumors being passed on by Commissioners to the public during commissioners' meetings. She suggests a need to quote sources directly, rather than passing on 2nd or 3rd hand info to the public. Says false information or inaccurate broadcasting of information could cost lives. Encourages more support from Commissioners for Public Health during this crisis.

Marijuana grows - 3 speakers: Kelsey, Joshua Gonzalez, Anders Taylor. All question the wisdom of a moratorium on cannabis grows, pointing out that expansion is necessary in the industry, consolidation of licenses is promoting quality operations and that a response to any current problem should not inhibit those that are doing things correctly. Kelsey says she is investing millions of dollars and cannot continue investing if there is a moratorium and offers to be a liaison in order to solve problems. Gonzalez objects to a statement he heard yesterday during the zoom meeting to the effect that the Chinese growers are possibly a part of the Chinese mafia. It is clarified that Cmr. Branch was stating that he had heard this statement by someone in the community and his reporting that was part of a lunchtime discussion, not part of the Commissioners' meeting.

Wednesday, 7/8/2020: Public hearings announced. Both likely to be affected by the Governor's revised orders on gatherings, due August 1. #1) **Public hearing on August 3**, regarding Ordinance 2020-4, WRIA 48 Interim Land Use Controls, Subdivision Moratorium . #2) **Public hearing on August 10th, 2:00** regarding Ordinance 2020-5 for Lower Methow, amending official zone map in regards to 5 Acre zoning.

8:30 - Revised agenda item with Rabidou not recorded

9:00 AM -Commissioner's staff meeting

Chit-chat: 1st significant fire of the year - across the river above Hud 3 (??) Seemed like they had it pretty well knocked down last night - still smoking this morning.

CB - chit-chat about the history of fire fighters. Dallas Covey owns the cannon. Joking.

DeTro announces Cmr. Hover will not be here this morning.

Cost of baffles at Agriplex, eco blocks, f fairgrounds maintenance.

Unidentified woman - talking about cleaning, bathrooms, maintenance, I think in Agriplex? Installation of baffles? Ecology - 2 bids for transportation. Will see if Public Works can help - transport for ecology blocks from Methow and also to the Fairgrounds. Because fair has been canceled, do you want to cancel the other 9 events after the fair?

CB - That 's a tough one.

JD - We should include Andy.

CB - Bids - do we need sealed bids? Not necessarily - conversation on that

Woman - you have called 24 people, and no one interested except one.

Would love to see the other bids.

CB - We had some ideas for contacts.

Woman - they are coming soon. The 17th.

CB - Brainstormed ideas yesterday.

Woman - will wait to hear from you. She is taking e-mail, phone call bids,etc. Most people, too busy, scared of cost because they've never done this before. Not interested.

CB - Do you have copy of the instructions?

Woman - yes. 31 baffles.

CB - "Prevailing wage" thing may be a problem.

FAIRGROUNDS ISSUES

Kyle - A lot of people using our facilities re the water trucks. Very dry, blowing away.

JD - will discuss at public works at 11:00.

Kyle - Talked earlier - talked with pub wks to see if they can level tracks at end of season. Yes.

Outer rail on south end of arena - would install if BOCC wants us to. We are getting 3 bids to move it. You have to let the know. Willing to help. No crunch time because of fair.

CB - Will talk with them. If it works for them and money exchange works, sounds good to me. Methow has blocks available?

Woman - yes

JD -Godby, Chelan.

Woman - Methow has best price. 35 for a 5-foot block (\$10 off.) But then transportaion.

JD - Maybe.

9:18 - Still talking about this. Lots of details, all prices discussed.

Agriplex

Kevin - Agriplex annex talk about installation plans, etc. Getting more quotes on maintenance. & trim. Hard to find someone.

Lanie - crimping machine for siding. They might have a way of shaping the metal.

He will be back after lunch!!

Planning

Pete Palmer - Mayor, city council - trying to have smaller meeting to talk about shared planner position, scope of work, etc.

Thurs - WRIA 49 meeting at 7PM . One hour bet 8 and 9 - discussion on the project that is going on. Should be good meeting. Also an appeal hearing with HR at 10:00 someone requesting continuance. Survey out on Recreation Plan, out until end of the month. If you know of anyone who is interested, fill out the short survey.

Last week - justification to Tanya for attorneys to review critical areas. She should get back with us.

CB - Remind "them up there" when you talk to them about the survey.

Grizzly Meeting Today?

JD - Someone said at coffee this morning that there was a grizzly meeting today.

CB - Hadn't heard of one . Did you Google it? If it would have been NPS, (*Looking it up.*) Doesn't see anything - last updated Oct 25, 2019. Maybe WDFW (*looking.*)

Eco Blocks, continued

CB - Back to the block deliver. \$4,000. Has to be a better way. ARE you thinking short term?

JD - Did someone just not look at the dates?

CB - One thing - you can't do the job by yourself - something about prevailing wage. Is Mac-Millan still in business? He does commercial buildings, has done a lot of government work. Another person who might know is Howard Zoesel . Good that everybody is busy. (Conversation continues.)

9:38 - LJ - Agenda is updated with WRIA 49 on Thursday and Hearing Examiner on Thursday.

LJ - Cari Hall scheduled to update board next Tuesday but she has a webinar at that time. Can she reschedule, or wait until next time? That is August 11th. But she can come with finance committee earlier. Will let her know.

9:40 - CB - Apparently a delay on getting the camera part of the system, right? Curious how long that will be a back order.

LJ - getting everything else going, though, with the vendor. Software, computer update. Lots of things to do before camera hooked up. Likely a training.

CB - Have to have a comer for that?

LJ - someone wants to know how many other boards, etc. can use it in addition to Planning and WRIA. Something about we are not really supposed to be meeting. Board of equalization is important and essential. They are doing zoom now.

Fair Board - Many attendees, Sanitization questions regarding other meetings held in Commissioners' Hearing Room.

CB - Fair Board - when meeting this week? Maybe I'll come to it.

LJ - Well.....are they wearing masks?

CB - Didn't see a lot of that. Passed through this week. A lot of people coming.

LJ - 11 member committee, but 2 openings.

CB - must be bringing people with them.

LJ - It's a concern. I don't like that.

CB - We don't have a sanitization after that meeting.

LJ - I don't sanitize after that meeting. I do after our meetings.

CB - Better talk with Hover about this.

LJ - We haven't made it clear about the other meetings (other than commissioners) that happen here.

CB - Also,, may have Lauri talk with them about.

LJ - Is that something commissioners will.....?

CB - It will be something Cmr. Branch does. Will talk this afternoon. We are remiss if we don't do something.

LJ - I know the zoom was set up for last board meeting. So if zoom is being set up for it.....

CB - Hover said they were socially distanced.

LJ - 20 people.

CB - Doesn't AH go to most of those meetings?

LJ - Don't know - he went to the last one.

CB - I was surprised at the meeting in Douglas county for aging and adult care. At least 4 people said they were coming. Can social distance, but they are in phase 1. I decided I would participate through zoom.

LJ -Thank you.

CB - That's the bottom line. I remember reading that most people get....nationally - most people get it at home because they bring it home.

LJ - first I tell my kids: Don't greet me until you have washed.

CB - So I do grocery store. It's mostly where I go. Occasionally , once every 6 weeks I stop at Harbor Freight. Probably go to Home Depot once a week maybe, probably both grocery stores..mostly people are wearing masks there, but not everyone. Safeway - mostly they are .

LJ - I don't trust that the carts are sanitized, so I wipe everything down before and after.

CB - Not all stores have the wipes...they have the spray bottle. Used to have a woman at Highland Associates - she did the phone, door knobs, everything. Nervous about the flu, etc.

LJ - There was a kid, it was chicken pox back then. People said - everyone has to come over there and get it over with. Allergies? Go sit in the hay field for awhile!

JD - Apparently not present (?)

9:50 CB - Leaves to check on something.

9:51 JD - "Lanie, on minutes? 29th, is that the first one? Will you put THAT behind THIS?" (Doesn't sound like there is a quorum? Lanie does it.)

JD - Thank you.

JD - Is AH meeting until noon?

LJ - Thought he'd be back in Okanogan around noon.

9:54 - Silence.

LJ - To someone: "Clerk's meeting is at 10:00." *Sounds like Charlene Grooms.*

Side Conversation: Masks, disinfecting, local business practices

JD - At noon yesterday in a restaurant: Woman says you don't have a mask. Friend says - I have a medical condition. He says - you have a mask. She says I'm wearing it. He says well, you are protected. Don't worry about me. Patty (DeTro's wife) shopped at Costco and they put it on UPS. I was surprised. Here came a package, and it was from Costco.

CB - A lot of people will be doing that, I think.

LJ - You have to order a few days ahead of time and then pick it up.

CB - It takes 4 hours.

LJ - If all time slots are full, you have to wait until the next day at WalMart.

JD- Have always gotten it on time. A lot of stores will bring it to you now. Will do curbside if you don't want to wear mask. They might have it online, not sure. Just saw an ad - "We will shop for your groceries and....."

LJ - Down here at IGA, they have a pickup area. Some signs in front. They have pickup and delivery.

CB - It's called resilience.

10:00 - Charlene Groomes, Superior Court Clerk Update

CB : (To Charlene Groomes): You got a lot to tell us?

C G - Not really. Have been canceling a lot. Scanning project done. They keep asking if we are ready to pick up boxes. When we were in split shift and court in bare minimum, we had people back scanning. A lot of criminal ones...*very hard to hear*. Trying to make more room in office. All of our desks 6 feet apart, but no way to walk by someone without being close. Some folks go to hallway. Not sure how all this will work - judge has his space, we have our space, I do not have to wear a mask and can't stand to wear one. Need to know the opinion of that "group." First case was going to be Thursday. **I will put in my bid for assessor or treasurers' office. We are one of the offices who have the most in the area where we have to work together. As being one of the people crammed in with other folks - extremely tight. It's a challenge. If you went into any of offices, we are the largest office with the smallest space.**

JD - We are working on it. That's all we can say.

CG - One tough thing with scanning files - My plan is that we can get rid of all file cabinets.

JD - We have not given up.

CG - We all survived the shift for 2 1/2 days. Worked out well.

CB - Did it put you behind?

CG - No, because the court was so slow right now; still able to split up the work. We've gotten about 4 applications for opening, cut off was Friday. Used to getting 20-30, but past few years not that way. Like Tim said, he liked the job but not going in to courtroom. Lots of pressure. Stressful thing going into court for some people, and you can make 5-6 bucks more per hour doing something else.

Unknown voice chips in: Training takes 2 full years.

CB - Takes time. The work it takes to train.

Voice - With work force - by time finished with training, the work (runs out?) Could be federal wages - amount of training. They are paying better.

CB - Hard to make your case. Sometimes showing what efficiency vs wages will be. Person at the latte stand were talking about who they'd vote for if they knew who would pay people better.

Voice - back to gang project. Do we keep checking for \$\$?

LJ - Talk about it during budget project. At least a few thousand \$\$ for things that come up, but project specific needs to come up for you.

CB - Re grants, not sure how it will come up in future.

LJ - Grant you applied for a ew weeks ago - is it available again?

Voice - Will have to look back on e-mails.

LJ - With Covid,Seems like an ongoing process for that entity.

CB - Always be ready. They seem to drop that kind of stuff a week after the deadline.

10:09 - That's all. (Groomes)

CB - Hopefully something in the future for all of us to remedy these issues. Opportunities do arise.

10:10 - Back to ceiling problem on remodel of Agriplex for temporary Court facility (in re covid-19):

CB Was talking with Zoesel. There are 2 contractors there. Used to doing prevailing wage and might be leasing equip I will call Todd and see who they have. How tall is the ceiling?

JD - as tall as this, maybe taller. This is probably 20 feet.

CB - Thinks 14.

JD =- At least 18. Get the tape measure out.

CB - Walking to back. Think you are right. 3 of me stacked up? 18 feet?

JD - Agriplex could be 25 feet.

CB - if there was a ??? They could have one at Thomson Feed.

JD - How about Washington Tractor? Or Rod (Humble?) "

CB - Talks about a "scissor list" somewhere.

10:13 - Has to be 25 feet.

CB - Has she called them?

LJ - Plus they are so light.

CB - I wonder how long it would take our guys to do that with right equip and 2 guys?

LJ - At least 2 people

CB - Wonder if she sent thewondering about a bucket too.

10:15 - silence

LJ - And cable on metal rafters? Must hook on something.

CB - It is upon us....fire season. Where did she.....want to see the directions.et Did you get that from Naomi? Installation directions?

LJ - I got something.

10:18 - CB - Talks about open mic at WRIA 49. You can get up there and talk about their concerns. Joking about Karaoke. Should be at a virtual meeting, if possible. (??)

10:20 - CB Not much about restrictions. Cork screw hangers.

CB - Was thinking. We already got that ordered, right?

LJ - they went with Sonix.

CB - What are they fastening to? Can't tell the cork stew goes in the baffle?

LJ - Then eye ...not much up there. Metal beams, other - probably have to weld the.....

CB - I wonder if when she is given specs - she's probably not getting that big into it. Cable mounts supplied by....

LJ - A similar ceiling.....

CB - Something attacking to beams.

LJ - if there was a hook, rather than an eye,

CB - where is the picture you have in there? Sotype beams.....probalby go on to...

LJ - If a cable, if you strung the cable onto the other.

CB - Cork screw hangers, cable mounts by installer

LJ - Then these get strung onto the cable like.....a shower curtain.

Maybe room to

CB - Express fasteners. Wonder what that look like ? She talks like there was an installation guide? That's what I asked her to send. I could then go to a contractor and say" There. "

LJ - With the Sonix, we.....reads something aloud talking about cork screw and cables. They will run out of wire. Oh, there's

CB - 52 baffles.

LJ - Times 52 = 312.

10:27 - Still on this topic.

JD - Can't hear anything from him.

CB - I also asked for breakdowns on ecology blocks.

10:30 - Tanya Craig (not on agenda)

CB to someone (Tanya Craig?) - are you going to tell us you got a big refund? Joking

Voice (Tanya?) - not today. If you are ready, was going to ask for closed section. Union negotiations. 10-15 minutes.

CB - Closed session for 10 minutes to discuss union negotiations with Tanya Craig

10:42 - CB moves to approve the amendment to contract with Health care authority for CJT #1 and authorize ...to sign. Motion Passes

Voice: Pete says there had been a request - critical areas. Don't know if it will qualify, but....

CB - If it didn't, it would be in anticipation of a challenge. Should hear back quite soon on that.

Anything else, I can come and talk with you?

Voice -thank you.

Interruption: Grizzly Restoration Project Dead

JD - "Chris, here is the answer:" (*Reading. Has been looking on internet for information on a meeting he heard about at coffee shop this AM*)) Omak WA - Sec'y Bernhardt announces Washington DC Dept of Interior will not move forward with the Grizzly Bear restoration plan.

CB - Was it (*the meeting*) here?

JD - We just didn't know about it.

CB - This says it's with community members in Omak.

JD - We are not community members.

CB - I guess the outcome is what you are looking for. Curious who was at the meeting. Pretty interesting. You'd think that with a meeting like that, we'd get a call or something.

JD ?? *Not intelligible.*

10:49 - 11:00 - Nothing but distant side conversation between Lanie and someone discussing financial issues and costs of something. Sounds in the background (people walking.)

11:00: PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

10:56 - Josh Thomson, who has just entered.

JT - Is AH not here today?

JD - Explains he's gone until noon. At a meeting.)

JD - Kent not coming?

JT - No.

Back to baffles on Agriplex; landfill, chip seal, road signs, hauling of eco blocks, Fair-ground maintenance, purchase of water truck,

CB/LJ - side conversation, apparently in re baffles.

CB - Will you reply to her about what the highest point is?

JT - Landfill - end of today/tomorrow, leaky pond will be examined. Looking at 2 spots. Better idea by next week.

Maintenance - all focused on chip seal. Road closed for fire. There is a sign missing on Chesaw road - should be 50 mph sign, which is missing, making it look like 35 limit.

John Hubbard has crane. 20 tons, 90 ft boom.

JD - says he can place those at any place on that room. Difficult to reach him?

JT - Yes, but could.

JD gives him phone number.

JT - Will pass it along. Chip seal on Oroville road. Today. Going well. Will finish this week around Conconully, then salmon creek, etc - reads numerous sites. Draft 6- year plan. Any comments on that/ Okanogan asked question from public about reducing speed limit on rodeo trail. Bike lanes feasible, maybe in future (??) Last year we added a signalment of rodeo trail to our 6-year, so it needs to be addressed anyway.

JD _ Do we have any trucks coming back from Methow?

JT - Yes. Two

JD - Reads the data on an estimate.

JT - asks about # of blocks, etc .

LJ - \$35 each.

JT -Sure we can do it for less than what was quoted.

CB - Was an urgent timeline, but now no fair.

JD - Wondering if guys renting the track can't use it on that.

LJ - Probably needs repair.

All agreed.

LJ - was it for the fence line and not to repair track?

JD - maybe no timeline. (Sound goes off)

JD - Water truck. Kyle and I went up. That will work. We could get a roll-off box and haul garbage from fair ourselves. How soon can we do it, and is there \$\$ in R&R. Not enough for a water truck.

JT - Would need to come out of solid waste fund.

JT - Yes. Enough there.

JD - buy a used one?

JT - Yes. Won't be on the road that much.

JT - Timeline? ASAP?

CB - Yes. Right now, blowing the track away.

JT - will have to check with Kent about a certain truck.

JD - OK

CB - Otherwise, will have to use you!

JT - Not good that at the sand is blowing away.

JD - Flatbed integrated with the tank. Kyle says it can stay the way it is.

JT - How old is water truck up there?

JD - '53-54, maybe. Tank is good on it. But gravity flow. We need pressure.

JT - OK. Will see.

JD - If we can use in interim, that solves the problem.

CB - Questions about other equipment that people can use if they know about it. IN Conconuly end in re chip seal. Where does it end?

JT - Where the cabins are at upper lake. Only a couple of miles.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES; NEED FOR UPDATED RESOLUTION; NO MASK, NO SERVICE FOR BUSINESSES

Thomson: There is a need for clarification of guidance fo public works employees, in re Covid-19 & need for updated resolution/newest requirement for masks & businesses.

JT - Resolution last week about travel: People come to me with questions. Hesitant to give guidance. If phase 3 in Ferry county - resolution says mask for 14 days but clarification says not really.

CB - Did clarification come through in an e-mail?

JT - Yes. Tanya sent out a clarification.

CB - Guess I missed it.

11:13 - *Silence. CB reading silently.*

CB - I see what you are saying.

JT - I do see why the resolution was written, but I didn't get that it was written. Suggests connecting with Tanya. I don't want to have people go against the resolution.

CB - We could do an updated resolution.

Latest requirement for masks in regards to Public Works. DeTro states law enforcement says they will not enforce.

JT - Newest requirement for masks - and business owners. Only place it affects us is transportation. How do we do that? We are acting as a business. Anybody coming into transfer station without a mask - do we turn them away?

JD - My take: *It's a proclamation, not a law. That's why law enforcement are saying they will not enforce*. It's a big thing in Texas and constitutionality. I don't think the gov't can force you into being an enforcement agency.....*Who will fine us?*

JT - L&I.

JD: L&I cannot fine you on a health issue. They have jurisdiction for on the job stuff, nada that is law. This is not a law, so they do not have jurisdiction on health-related stuff. *My suggestion is to ask Dave Gecas.*

(CB?) - So this will be on the legal side, and you will have to..... *It's law, of course that we follow growth management or all of a sudden a grant app gets denied (?) I would pay attention to that too. That's what we came up against recently.*

JT - A neighboring county brought that up - compliance will be one metric of the phase.

Requirement of masks in businesses, transfer stations in particular:

CB - What I see going on - in the stores there is that requirement and there are still people walking into the store without masks. There has been a request re supplying masks for stores. Kind of inconvenient to haul to a transfer station and they have to go home for mask.

Eventually people can get used to the idea - I have a kerchief on my seat, and they are all gone-like my glasses - always get lost. Transfer stations- interesting to have to wear a mask too. You might check with Lauri and see what her opinion is for pulling into transfer stations.

JT - Only place you are within 6 feet of someone is at the window.

CB - Risk factor is pretty low.

JT - Within 6 feet for 15 minutes is considered to be an exposure. So at window wouldn't be an exposure.

CB - There are things I don't think about, and I get a lot of different info. Let's reply upon our health officer's opinion. Maybe that will keep us in compliance. I always forget the central land-fill is also a transfer station. Not much more (*exposure?*)

JT - At our office, it's closed, so we go outside in the parking lot. We wear a mask when we do that. Road crews, people are separated. One thing L&I is focusing on is 2 people in the same vehicle. In Chelan county, they do not want 2 people in a pickup even with masks. Maybe in the 4 different corners.

Sanitization in Commissioners' Hearing Room

CB - Most people would agree a lot of exposure is at home with people going out of house and the coming back. Depends upon size of family - lots of people contract disease at their own home. When I am here, I am here. I got to thinking - there are other meetings that go on here, other people here where I sit.

LJ - I do sanitize your area, table, here, mics, door handles and edges, etc.

CB - So I should take my stuff with me.....

LJ - If Fair Advisory Committee comes in and they have 50 people, and they leave without doing that.....

CB - Depends on how well the environment is controlled. The experiment goes on across the country.

JT - Cases started increasing when masks were required.....

Rambling discussion of Covid-19 issues, anecdotes,

JD - Kind of funny, because the WHO completely reversed its thoughts on Corona virus here a few days ago - don't need to social distance, no masks, don't need vaccination....

JT - REALLY? That's interesting. Odd.

JD - Someone showed it to me, on their phone Think it was a newscast about WHO and he gives a speech about that. I'm thinking all of these guys say one thing one week, one thing the next week. How confusing is that from the general public? My docs say do not take a vaccine. It's experimental. Will not be proven until after a 2 year cycle. Others say it's ok. Amazing how many variations. Last night, watching TV and Dr. Someone comes on there, says there is documented

evidence that Hydroxychloroquin works. They've been going on about that for 2 months. He had the data from people in the hospital situation and it said absolutely all-out cure rate of 60%

JT - Yeah. Doc in Texas treated 500 people with aspirin, hydroxychloroquin & Other things and had 100% rate treating, but 575 tests (?) 100% cure. Too late if you are on a ventilator.

JD - I got one of my own smoke jump docs who sent me (*JD worked with them when they were smoke jumpers*)- I have just been taking D-3, Zinc, (??) K-2, and um ..B-3 and (*lost track*) One doc says every morning put in 4 drops of household hydrogen peroxide - morning or night - and it will kill on contact. These are all home remedies. I was talking about hydroxychloroquin - the doc says I'd use that Remdecivir - Which is \$3,000 a dose. *Laughter* .

There are so many varying opinions, *like the gal from WHO. One days they say one thing, the next day something totally different.*

JT - They might define that.

JD - I think it was Art Lecture (??) Showed it to me, I think it was on CNN. That's what Art said. It wasn't FOX news, it was CNN.

JT - IN 5 years, we might know the answer.

JD - Corona Virus in cattle has been around 50 - 60 years.

JT - It's like the common cold.

JD - What do you treat it with in cattle? (*He said Zinc.*)

CB - I go with whatever a County Commissioner says. They are the authority. (*Apparently joking.*)

JD - It just depends upon whom you talk to. There is no consensus.

Branch philosophy on what to believe, oath as county commissioner, people are led to the information they want to hear:

CB - A type of niacin - "Texas sharp-shooter." It's where you go when you get the info you want to hear. (*Unclear.*) People are subconsciously led to places where they get the info they want. I can go on the internet, and I am driven to my own bias by the search words I use. When it comes to this stuff, I have to focus on someone. If I want to hear there is a conspiracy among health officials or they are just damn stupid, since we are getting these from our state and I took oath to ...I am going with the science we get. Like everything else, I'm bombarded with opinion. I don't watch the news because it is sensationalized.....it gets very confusing. The rise and fall of

civilizations - the more complex they become, and the more confusing..... the more likely they are to fail. In some way, shape or form we as a country need to get a handle on that. The only way you can simplify is you are on this side..... I am not on that side.

Getting 2nd and 3rd opinions as medical advice

JD - What I do is get at least 2 opinions. I have 2 people I jumped with (*he was a smokejumper*) who are very successful doctors. So they know more than I do.

CB - I did that with a surgery issue - the first one was wrong and the second 2 were right. I got 2nd and 3rd opinion from orthopedic doctors who were well-known and had (?)... that's the way science goes. The doc who did the best diagnosis was "notoriously" wrong.

JD - I lost a good friend, but if he had gotten a 2nd or 3rd opinion...When they actually opened him up, they were totally wrong. They had to replace 5 valves and (*something on one artery.*)

CB - Often the insurance company will go with a 3rd opinion. They are gambling too. And sometimes the opinion is by all of them - that they don't know.

JD - A friend went to a doc who said stop drinking, so he just got a 2nd opinion.

CB - Went to the bartender - the one I call Doc? (*joking.*)

JD - I agree with Chris. Take the ambiguity out of that proclamation (the one JT asked about.)

JT - A lot of people were very upset.

CB - Easy for people to get upset....I tell them it's to protect others. Especially coming back from weddings, etc.

JT - My mom's funeral was in early April and..... (*it was canceled?*)

CB - A sensitive area.

JD - It's how people perceive things - people are so sensitive. A friend got upset - his wife said we have to go to that wedding, he didn't want to because of Corona. He said, "Call them and say 'I'll go to the next one'."

Back to Public Works issues

JD - Glad the chip seal is going well. How is the rock?

JT - We have to use the central landfill more than we thought. We were hoping to have the Miller pit by the end of year.

JD - That would be great.

CB - Trying to think if there is anything else we should talk about. What was it? Fairground was talking about different things you had offered to do.....

JD - Like when done with track, dress it up ...

JT - He must have talked with Gary. If they want to put to bed for the winter? Pack it down.....?

JD - A couple or 3 things Kyle had mentioned.

JT - Ok.

CB - Hauling of blocks was not one.

JT - Will look into it.

CB - Thanks you for moving the

JT - No problem.

CB - Keeps things humming.

JD - Lots of comments on Salmon Crk bridge. A lot of people at coffee said they drove up there just to go across it.

JT - Nice bridge. I like it. Shouldn't have to worry for awhile. *(Gives anecdote about another bridge.)*

CB - I'd hate to ride a bike with that situation

LJ - Passing on bridge only. *Laughter.*

CB - Paved roadway 24 feet on Rodeo trail.

JT - 60 feet. 4-5 years ago we were looking at something. Old survey, where road was supposed to have been, didn't coincide at all. Someone wanted to draw a line - probably how some goat trail went. BIA was agreeable and did a swap. I know what it was....it was from Fairgrounds access north when they put in the casino.

CB - So there was motivation to straighten all that out. I don't suppose 60 feet is a very common width for roads in our county?

JT -Yes, it is common. It went back to territorial laws.

CB - We have some that are 180 feet right of way.

JT - That's a lot. Sometimes on our main street they were wider so you could drive a team down it.

CB - Had comical meetings about it : "must have been for a reason, so we won't change it" - the reason was a long time ago.

JT - When we did Conconully, I had to write a justification for....When Haeberle's drove their cows....it was reality....someone must have laughed. Cattle drive in late June, then hunting season.

CB - Long ago, cattle drive*(something about being nervous. Something about someone driving a house down the road.)*

Chit - chat continues, - past anecdotes etc.

Current situation with Covid 19 to be addressed? I. Spohn sends chat over Zoom that we now have 152 cases (not aware BOCC has left) and wonders if Covid will be addressed this week by BOCC. Chat session says BOCC is adjourned for lunch. CB and LJ see the question, since they are still there:

LJ - Board of health has that same number.

CB - What does Okanogan County health say? (Seems to be looking.)

11: 51 - CB - Last Public Health Announcement was July 4th. (*Reading*) Bend has 140+ cases and 85 deaths. Yakima.....

LJ: WOW!

CB - Franklin 33 deaths and (?? Douglas - 3 deaths. (?? *hospitalized - couldn't keep up.*)

CB - There's so much info that people are throwing around. Have to go the place that is (?) News agencies, speculation, people reporting on what people say.....that's the way it is .

Transmission cuts out (*apparently for lunch? Still no adjournment.*)

Lunch

1: 30 PM: Public Comment Session

AH - (*re the meeting he was attending this morning*): The US Secretary of the Interior was actually there. *For security reasons, it wasn't made known publicly.....*

JD - Dennis Rabidou is available any time after citizen comment for update.

Covid-19: Isabelle Spohn (*reading comment*)

*Thanks to Lanie for pursuing the issue of disinfecting of the Commissioners' hearing room (*after large meetings other than BOCC meetings are held there - such as Fair Committee with maybe 50 attendees.*)

*Thanks to Josh Thomson for attempting to clarify guidance that affects PW employees in vehicles and the public at transfer stations.

*Speaking for myself, I am getting very tired of hearing anecdotes and 3rd- hand information on Covid -19 during commissioners' meetings. **I'd suggest the 3 of you come to some sort of agreement on what type of information is given out to the public by each of you during public meetings. I'd like to make one suggestion to start out with. If one of you is going to quote a source, quote directly from that source.**

For example, this morning, Jim Detro said that Labor and Industry had no jurisdiction over enforcement of health issues. But I checked the Washington State L&I website, and this is what it said: [L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health \(DOSHA\) administers the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act \(WISHA\) law by developing and enforcing rules that protect workers from hazardous job conditions.](#)

He (*JD*) then stated that WHO was changing its mind every other day or week masks, drugs that work, etc, but I checked their website and this is not the case. Jim, if you want to know what WHO is saying, don't go by what an unidentified acquaintance shows you on his cell phone. Go directly to the WHO website. It's not that hard. *Quoting directly from the source, rather than 2nd and 3rd hand information would be a good starting point for an agreement.*

Finally, today was the deadline for guidance for customers wearing masks in businesses. The Governor's dashboard says that now Okanogan County has 152 cases with 7 hospitalizations. **I don't hear much support going from this board for our Public Health officials' guidances. They are burning the midnight oil on our behalf, but what I'm hearing from this board is that everyone should do what they think is right, or what their friends say is right.**

Is there any enforcement? If so, who does it? People are counting on you. False information and lack of action on your part could cost lives.

So that is my personal opinion.

DeTro's response: Isabelle, I read that because a senator put it out - the L&I stuff. Also, I told Josh to check with Gecas.

Spohn: I have no further comment.

Possible Cannabis Moratorium: 3 speakers

"Kelsey": (Summarized)- Discussion of District Use Chart. We spent hours on meeting on how to do this When I hear about another moratorium on Cannabis grows, very frustrating for me. I plan to invest millions of dollars and much time getting necessary permits. I cannot invest that \$\$ if there is another moratorium. You should work with good faith with businesses, I would be glad to work as a liars on with you especially if it preserves property rights.

AH - would like to have some of you come and visit with us.

Kelsey - Glad to have conversations. This is not the way to help businesses follow rules. We have always wanted to be good neighbors.

AH - good comment

CB - When these problems arise, we have to communicate about them before communicating with someone else. When the word "moratorium" is used, it may not refer to everyone. It may apply to one sort of zoning district, etc.

Kelsey -The history of moratoriums in this county has hampered individuals in this group. It's mostly been used to hurt industry folks.

CB - Thank you. I acknowledge that comment.

Joshua Gonzalez: Is there some sort of formal acknowledgement?

First: In regards to moratorium also, I consult with a businesses in the area. I would highly recommend nothing that is onerous to prevent consolidation. I'm working on this right now. There have been bad actors along the way, and the framework of the system does not reward those people. Licenses are consolidated and doing quality operations. By observations from being within the industry . don't let this happen - a lot of them are exiting because it's not worth it right now.

Secondly: Re a comment I heard during the lunchtime portion (*yesterday?*): "**The Chinese growers are possibly a part of the Chinese mafia.**" I help these people because people are rude to them and don't help them out - and it's mostly a language barrier. I can tell you they are nice guys. I haven't sniffed out anything other than that they are a hard-working group trying to get a leg up in the industry. They have their legal work done and they are above-board. I want to put an actual comment forward from someone who is in touch with them.

CB - That is a comment I repeated that was made to me by another grower (*not a comment made by CB himself.*)

JG - I don't want those guys to be mischaracterized and this flippantly passed around like that.

CB - It was during lunch, not meant for the public to hear. I appreciate your comment.

Anders Taylor. I wasn't able to listen in on the meeting last week when the moratorium was initially discussed. Maybe it's a way of dealing with some of the issues discussed last week. Not clear on what the concerns are. Having spoken with Pete, one of the big concerns is the that the actual locations being put through with the liquor (*board?*) and Cannabis (*Board?*) are not mapped correctly. I wanted to say that I don't know what precise problem we are trying to solve that wasn't addressed in previous sessions when we came together....with the Planning Dept and the working crew of citizens to hash out and resolve the issues being raised by the community. I want to be sure we are not wanting to use other processes to solve these issues more effectively. In the past, we have reacted very quickly and overly broadly with the moratorium in (*2017???*)) We'd like to expand to be competitive in the industry. Want to be sure we respond appropriately and not in a way that would (*inhibit*) those who are doing things appropriately.

Wednesday, 7/8/2020 - 1:30 Zoom call-in session with Commissioners

Present:

JD - in person
CB - remotely
AH - remotely
LJ - in person

INTERIM LAND USE CONTROL HEARINGS

AH - wants to know how to put up a virtual background over Zoom. Says he will find out later.
JD - What did we want to do?

Setting Dates for hearings; new ordinance considered "renewal."

AH - Did the Interim Land use controls get finished?

LJ - 2020-5 dates are verified.

AH - I did see it. A date on here that I was wondering about. **Public hearing on August 3. There is a hearing for interim land use controls on subdivision moratorium.**

LJ - Checking. You are right. 2020-4, WRIA 48. (August 3)

AH - Need to change date.

LJ - Could have it on the 4th at 2 PM.

JD - Do you want to split them up?

AH - This one, (2020-5) within 60 days if in following week. August 3rd one (2020-4), or last one, was the 60 day mark. We can move this one (2020-5) out a week.

New ordinance considered "renewal"

CB - I used word "renewal" (*in the ordinance*) because it's the language in the statute. In the recital, it's a renewal under the statute even though there was a lapse. We adopted a new ordinance.

AH - Still need a public hearing on a renewal? So following week after August 3, a public hearing on this?

CB - Might be convenient for the public to have both WRIA hearings over here?

AH - I am ok with 2 public hearings. Only thing is that you never know how long a hearing might go.

CB - You may be right, but 2nd question - should the other one be over "there" as well?

AH - Yes, we could have it in Twisp.

LJ - What about the fact that we are not allowed to have it physically yet?

CB - Good point.

AH - Best point. Let's do it the following week then.

LJ - Recommends a Monday at 2:00 because Board of Health on Tuesday. August 10th at 2:00.

CB - Looks like it works.

AH - I am reading this. You wrote it expires in 6 months because we need a work plan (?)

LJ - Also chosen to be 6 months from the date you signed, not from the public hearing (*date.*)

2020-5: Amending official zone map and setting a public hearing. Which sets a public hearing for August 10th, 2:00.

AH - Discussion. Before we have a public hearing with this, can we transmit this doc to the PC for review so they have time to look at it also? (Prior to it going to public hearing.)

LJ _ Yes.

CB - Do you want them to provide input?

AH - Yes. If this is going to be adopted into zone code permanently, have to go through a public hearing also, right? If they have this for the period of time it takes us for our public hearing, can make sure they are reviewing this also.

C B - additional value is that they can consider provisions in the Comp Plan. No problem with that (for me.)

Motion passes.

AH - Can you forward to Pete and let her know it needs to be looked at by the PC - or Chris, if you want to do that.

CB - I may talk to her also, expand on the issue if necessary.

LJ- one other item for board to consider CBDG request for 4,,000+ that Chair needs to sign.

AH - So moves

Passes.

JD - Before we go, I had an extended conversation with a constituent today that does on-line rodeo sign up all over the world. Asked me if they had considered that the Okanogan county fair, being situational on the reservation, that you could probably run your fair? Rodeos all over America are moving to reservations so they can have their events.

AH - I think the Colville regulations is probably stricter or the same as the state's.

JD _ You see those signs when you enter the res, they are under the same or more stringent shut-down rules than we are.

AH - Still county property, and we are still in charge of their health and safety.

CB - Those rodeos are not government events.

JD - usually a rodeo club or whatever.....

AH - If we are changed with health and safety for people of this county, can't bring myself to do something like that which could endanger a bunch of people. Good to look at different points of view - this one is...not a matter of whether we could do it. We are a government agency, and it's a lot different from us.

Discussion of Branch's picture as representing Okanogan County on Zoom.

Anything else?

CB - We talked yesterday about the masks through Covid funds. Talked with Roni today - she is working on the distribution system. Also a call from Oroille from someone making masks - inundated also

AH - Will we have economic level folks distribute?

JD - we did discuss we got that big order of PPE. From what I saw, the building is almost full.

CB - if he has enough....fades.

Nothing else.