

BOARD OF OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
08/17/2019

In Attendance at Meeting:

Jim DeTro- JD (BOCC)

Andy Hover - AH (BOCC)

Chris Branch – CB (BOCC)

Lanie Johns – LJ (Clerk of the Board)

Angie Hubbard – AHu (Interim Planning Director)

Char Schumaker – CS (Planner)

These notes have been taken by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Okanogan County Watch. The notes have been taken as close to verbatim as possible, with any writer's comments or explanations in italics. For officially approved minutes of Board of Commissioner meetings, normally published at a later date, see www.okanogancounty.org.

Summary of significant discussions

WRIA 49 Planning Unit

AH notes a discrepancy between what the RCW (Revised Code of Washington) says compared to what the Washington Department of Ecology ("Ecology") is saying and expresses the desire that everyone should be "on the same page". Then the availability of 200 acre-ft. of water – potentially for mitigating for future development – was discussed. AHu notes the importance of being prepared to acquire the water when it becomes available. The commissioners wondered why Ecology had not notified the planning unit of the available water. AH directs AHu to find out when the next round of grant funding for mitigation projects will happen.

Interim Control regarding pulling back the Neighborhood Commercial Zone around unincorporated towns.

At the direction of the commissioners, the planning department is developing an ordinance for interim controls that would reduce the size of neighborhood commercial zones around unincorporated towns, on the basis that some zones are far too large to be served by town infrastructure. AHu reports that the map is finished and the language is under development.

Planning Update

1:30 JD absent. LJ provides paperwork to the commissioners. After reading, AH makes a motion to transfer Public Works funds from one fund to another; CB seconds; motion passes.

Lake Management District - Lake Osoyoos treatment invoice

AHu – First invoice. Need to convene as board of Lake Management District

Commissioners reconvene.

AH – Are we paying this to noxious weeds?

AHu – Yes. It was explained to me as being similar to Tonasket EMS.

AH – Lanie – would you look up 684.1000.(???)

Lanie looks up requested information.

CB (*inaudible*) I looked at message from January (*reads from it*). I am thinking somewhere... (*inaudible, reads from his computer*)

LJ – County approved the agreement.... with the noxious weed board. The agreement has \$40,680 (?) to be collected for 2019.

AH – Do you want to look into it more?

CB (*Inaudible. Takes the document from AH*) Yep. That's what I read in the email.

LJ reads the initial budget, expenditure and balance (\$46,885?)

UCSRB Contract

CS – This will be on your consent agenda tomorrow. Wanted to make sure I could answer any questions today.

AH – For Commissioner Branch – UCSRB had a budget shortfall. We looked through budget for place to make that up.

CS provides more explanation, too rapid to record

VSP

AHu – They have not signed interlocal agreement yet. The board will meet on Monday and sign it then.

WRIA 49 Planning Unit

JD arrives.

AHu – RFQ went out this week. Just want to keep the ball rolling.

AH – Some discussion about what the RCW says, compared to what Ecology is saying. Want to make sure everyone is on the same page. There is a chunk of water out there now for sale (OCR).

CB – That water is one of the best kept secrets in the Columbia system. What I see that is problematic is that you have to really work to get the information out from everyone at the table.

AH – To me, it seems odd that if Ecology knew about that water, they did not tell the planning unit.

AHu – It will be very important to jump on that water when it becomes available.

CB – Can we use the funding for that?

AHu – My understanding is that it is a separate thing.

CB – Do you think it will be an issue, that the planning effort has to reach a certain point before they could act on that?

AHu – I don't think so; I think it could just be factored in.

CB – Because I don't understand why Vanessa (*Ecology*) didn't tell us about it, otherwise.

AHu – I am just getting up to speed.

CB – One grant round has already gone through; another coming up, is that right?

AHu – I believe so. I have a call with Vanessa this afternoon. Will check.

JD – The growers at the meeting ask what is the question? Just buy that water and mitigate with it.

AH – Why, if we have identified 200 acre-ft. of water...

JD – Right. Dick told me in his report that if we don't do it this way it will be a red flag (*to state government*). That is a sign for me to go full bore.

AH – (*Too rapid to record.*)

CB – (*reads from letter requesting funding for an extra \$250,00 for assistance for a technical assessment*)

AH – Where did they come up with the basis?

CB – It says we should...

(*multiple overlapping conversations*)

CB – She (*Vanessa*) is advising (*inaudible*). So that is a good time to have a discussion about jumping up and buying a water right.

AH – We are coming up on a grant round for money to allocate for projects. You (*AHu*) find out when we can apply. I think the county can be a proponent.

AHu – Dick called and left me a message that the first night of the fair is the date of the next meeting (*of the planning unit?*). He asked if we could reschedule. I have reached out to ask.

AH – Do they respond to email?

AHu – Yes and no. Had a hard time with the VSP to get them to respond. The other item I want to keep on your radar is filling those vacancies (*Nicole Kuchenbuch and Jon Wyss*).

AH – Has anybody sent in a letter of interest?

AHu – No. I was waiting to see what you had in mind. Don't need an immediate decision; just want to keep it on your radar.

Interim Control regarding pulling back the Neighborhood Commercial Zone around unincorporated towns.

AHu - Last item. You wanted to put an interim control on. The map is finished; we are working on the language. Before, some of the commercial zones went way beyond the old town plat (*e.g., Chesaw,*

thousands of acres). There is no way they are going to have services for that. Interim control regarding pulling back the Neighborhood Commercial Zone around unincorporated towns.

CB – Where did that (*the large neighborhood commercial zones*) come from?

AHu – Don't know; before my time.

BC – Am curious to know: who might be unhappy (*about proposed interim controls*).

AHu – Right. Goal is to establish parcel sizes consistent with surrounding area.

CB – Did the same thing happen around Malotte?

CS - (inaudible)

AHu – First you pass an interim control. Then you will have a public hearing. That is pretty much all I have.

AH – Just saw a letter from Jim Brown, Regional Director WDFW. He would like a letter expressing our interest in partnering on the pit – for their Lands 2020. It could just mirror of what they put in their letter to us, but consistent with the contingencies in the purchase agreement.

AHu – Right. No problem.

2:10 end of Planning Update

3:00 Public Hearing – Budget Supplemental Appropriation – District and Superior Court Judges – Salary Increase - \$26,136

JD – Open to staff. No staff. Open it to public. No public comment. Close public comment.

AH – This is state mandated.

CB - This is our share of it?

AH – Yes. (*Goes through the details of state/county split.*) Unfortunately, move to approve.

Seconded. JD directs LJ to make sure the public understands that this is a state-mandated increase.

Commissioners approve.

End of public hearing; CB brings other routine business for approval.