

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
November 1, 2021
Monday AM

JD—Jim DeTro, BOCC, District 3
AH—Andy Hover, BOCC, vice-chair, District 1
CB—Chris Branch, BOCC, chair, District 2
LJ—Lalena Johns-clerk to the Commissioners

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 paraphrasing and/or comments is 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://okanogan-county.org/Commissioners/Minutes%202014/March%204,%202014.htm>

Volunteer took the notes via Zoom. AV Capture available next day.

Summary of significant discussions:

Meeting opened with discussion about Watershed Foundation Contract. There was a mention of the Jail, difficult to hear. **Letters to the Editor** discussed, one letter stated that the writers did not feel county Covid Safety protocol was consistent across departments, and that there were negative consequences for our county. An animated discussion ensued about whether the county had a clear policy, whether it was followed, and also about whether information coming from public institutions was reliable. Question was raised about what is reliable information, and also the risk factors to the county in not following the governor's mandates. All commissioners remained civil. **Purchase of building financing** discussed. Motion made to **reimburse** an amount of approx. 900,000 to the **Fair** from the ARCA funds. Motion accepted

9:00: Flag Salute

9:02: Changes to Agenda

9:13 Minutes approved, Vouchers for Payroll approved.

9:17 AH: "Can we look at Watershed Foundation contract.?" *rest of this discussion difficult to hear, I asked if folks could move closer to mikes.* Some mention of the Jail was made, and Commissioners exchanged humorous anecdotes for a bit. **JD:** *about first letter to the editor* "They are saying there is no policy, and there actually is a policy, we follow Public Health guidelines." *Another letter claimed to be from a Health and Fitness group or organization complained that our government has not used the correct protocol to get rid of Covid, that Japan has proved that Ivermectin works.* **CB:** we have a very big problem with misinformation, and disinformation, disinformation being intentional, and misinformation being not intentional. "If we are going to follow a mandate, we need to know where we stand, and people walking in here need to know where we stand. *The discussion that followed was intense but civil. Difficult to catch it all, but here are the highlights and some of the quotes. *Please refer to AV Capture for complete information.*

AH to CB: What would you like to see? **CB:** In this room, since we are the government, we should follow the mandates. *Points out that the county is actually at some risk by not following the Governor's mandates.* **AH:** So what does it say, exactly? **CB:** Masks are to be worn indoors at all times. **AH:** "Let's look it up and read it together." *CB reviewed the mask/mike protocol and remarked that the mike should be sanitized before the next person uses it. Stated that if a person who visited the commissioner's hearing room got sick and later died, it is possible that the county could have some liability if mandates were not being followed.* **AH:** How could they prove that they caught it here?" **CB** said something about the Risk Pool policy in our county might have more information about that scenario. **AH to CB:** "If you go into a public place where they are not masking, do you leave?" *Cmr. Hover prefaced this question with a discussion with CB about how masking policy is not consistently followed in many public places. CB replied that sometimes he leaves, it just depends on circumstances. This discussion went on for a bit, CB made the comment that the more the virus spreads, the more chance it has to create variants. AH made the comment that not every professional believes that. There are the Frontline Drs., who disagree with mask and vaccine protocol. JD made a comment that there are other sources of information and opinion about protocol. AH further described how it is important to read peer-reviewed material so that we don't get led blindly. JD "That's where I come down on it." AH added that Dr. Fauci's actual papers that are online to look at and read. Discussion continued about how to decide what to believe. CB: "I do get my information from health Officials that we are accountable to." Added that as Commissioners they have a responsibility to set rules, and have an accountability to the public. Discussion continued, AH added comment "The County Government existed before the State government." CB "I did not expect to have this discussion." It began to be hard to hear. Someone from the public (not visible on the screen) who had recently moved to Conconully was asking questions, Commissioners were answering him, but LJ and one of the commissioners were in a conversation and it was difficult to hear with 2 conversations going. AH and CB talking about purchase of building possibly needing a budget amendment. AH moved to reimburse the Fair 990,000 (appx) from Fed ARCA funds. CB seconded the motion. Leaves for another meeting. LJ we do not need to do a budget amendment first. AH We will have a discussion later. LJ The soonest we can fit it in is the 17th (Nov.?) AH "No meeting tomorrow." Adjourns meeting. JD "Allrightty"*

10:00 Meeting adjourned.