

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
October 18, 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 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 not available right now.

Summary of significant discussions:

Meeting began with **Executive Session** to discuss Union Negotiations. **Commissioners discussed** issues related to the **Building Moratorium**, **Watershed Foundation's** proposed budget, **Forest Advisory Committee's** proposed meetings are on Monday, creating difficulty for BOCC. **Superior Court** representative asking for resolution to authorize use of sick leave to accommodate those requesting Vaccination exemptions. **Commissioner Branch** discussed **Economic Development Retreat**, **Commissioner Hover** Initiated discussion of upcoming agenda items needing to be prioritized

9:11: Meeting began with Executive Session to discuss Union Negotiations.

9:30: Commissioners Briefing: Discussion about Building Moratorium issues; (difficult to hear the first part of the discussion) **AH: Watershed foundation** has come up with 1650.00 per month budget item. **CB: The Forest Advisory (Group, Council?)** has invited us to meetings, but they are scheduled for Mondays. If they want Commissioners from any county to attend, it needs to be a different day. **JD:** Needed help understanding some aspect of info on his screen. **CB: Building Moratorium:** There are more than 2400 building projects that cannot be started. How to conduct upcoming public hearing. **LJ** was helping **JD** with some tech issues; two conversations going; hard to hear.

10:08: Superior Court (Tanya?), Re: Vaccination Mandate: We have approved the exemption request, but we don't have accommodations for that. Some counties allow leave of absence, as well as allowing sick leave and other leave to be used. **AH** "We can't provide them with the option of working from home in many cases, it's not possible." We need to make a resolution authorizing the use of sick leave for reasonable accommodations regarding the vaccine mandate. **Person from Superior Court:** "There is no vaccine mandate for District Court." **CB** report on **Economic Development District Retreat**; a lot of material about grant writing, and the competition for Small Business Startups has been very successful. Many businesses won cash prizes which helped them go forward with their businesses. **AH:** "Can we brainstorm things that we need to keep track of?" *Wasn't*

there for a budget meeting but will meet with Josh Friday. Pete Palmer will come in with an agreement today or tomorrow. A water budget issue was brought up but not clear about who, what. Need to come up with a plan for how much to bond-maybe 9 or 10 million? **CB** Need priority list, and have Dennis, Charlene on plan. Question about Fiber Optics. **AH** How often can you roll over a bond? Need to make a timeline, a ten-year plan. **LJ** (non-bargaining?) employees talking about minimum wage, feel commissioners are not addressing the disparities in wage scale between grades. Cost of Living is really being felt. **AH** Strategic Planning: lots there. One level is physical buildings, parking lots. **LJ** One item is Water District, need to meet with them. **LJ** posted meeting notices in various north county locations, including Chesaw. **AH**: This coming year need to look at Zoning Code. Still have one acre zoning, should be five. Watershed Foundation should get done today. Asks **LJ**: Project proposals involving capital facilities need to be submitted by Nov. 15. Need Capital Facilities Plans from everybody. County is trying to update Capital Facilities Program. Any city etc. projects related to county or urban expansion we need to know about. **CB** Tonasket has a road project. Oroville has fire hydrants with underground pipes in need of repair. City of Okanogan has sewer water issue. **AH** can we get (Melanie, four people) in a room with us? What is the best course of action? **LJ** Kari Hall (sp?) redistricting coming in Mon. AM.

10:49 Meeting Adjourned.