

Okanogan County Board of Health
10/13/2020

JD—Jim DeTro, BOH
AH—Andy Hover, BOH--absent
CB—Chris Branch, BOH
MW—Marianne Williams, BOH
PS—Patricia Stanton, BOH
JW—James Wright, BOH
LJ—Lauri Jones, Community Health
JMc—John McCarthy,
DH—Dave Hilton, Environmental Health

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/> and are not the official county record of the meeting. For officially approved minutes, which are normally published at a later time, see <https://okanogancounty.org/ocph/BOHMinutes.htm>

The time stamps refer to the times on the audio recording of the meeting on this date at <https://www.countywatch.org/>

Summary of significant discussions:

00:35—Meeting begins. Introductions. Dave Hilton, James Wright, Chris Branch, Jim DeTro, Lauri Jones, John McCarthy, Emily Sisson, Heather Finley.

02:20—Additions to Agenda. Public Health wants to set a date for a public meeting concerning a supplemental. They agree to a special meeting on October 29 at 9 AM.

06:40—Approve the Agenda. No public comments.

07:50—Administrative reports and actions. Minutes approved.

09:00—Treasurer's report. Questions about vouchers. Treasurer's report approved. Also minutes approved for special meeting September 25.

13:10—Agreement of Okanogan County Public Health grant funding from CARES Act. Discussion about who is authorized to sign the agreement. LJ, DH and JMc, along with MW, the vice-chair of BOH will be the signers.

18:10—Budget and fee schedule annual discussion.

DH says because of Covid, this year does not remotely reflect Environmental Health's budget for a year. Lots of fees were not received because events couldn't happen. But the department also spent less.

Right now, Environmental Health is not considering raising fees.

LJ says fees for vital records will increase by \$5.00 due to state law. Birth and Death certificates will now cost \$25 each.

MW—Did fires have a significant impact on the county budgets?

CB—Not too big.

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JD—And fuel tax is coming in at about 85% of what would be expected, and that's more than was originally feared when Covid began. The road budget won't be greatly impacted.

DH—Fires affected transmission poles.

JD—Many poles were over 50 years old, so should have been replaced anyway. Utilities are being encouraged to put as much underground as possible.

26:00—Public Health update. LJ—we sent a press release concerning the Covid tests for Gebbers' employees. With 3,200 tests, only .7% positivity rate, so transmission was community spread and not H2A workers or Gebbers' spread.

LJ—Also, we're working on a multi-tiered plan to help schools. We need good screening to make sure schools aren't closed if the students are sick with flu.

LJ—We're part of a state group using CARES Act funds to buy rapid antigen testing kits. They work well if you've got symptoms, but don't work so well if you're just screening.

LJ—We're in the middle of doing flu shots and scheduling county employees for their shots. Discussion of what strains are in the vaccine.

LJ—Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires testing for all care home residents and employees every two weeks if the county positivity rate goes above 5%.

LJ—Several Counties are being moved to Phase 2. And if we keep our rates down, we'll be moving forward.

34:40—Environmental Health update. DH—Field work is starting to slow. Most of work load is people out of county wanting to buy land in the county. Seeing more of "ugly things" arise. People have bought postage stamp sized lots (less than an acre) and want to build houses on them. But the lots are too small to build on. Can't get a permit. Lost River, Winthrop, all over. Some are bought on-line and never actually seen by the buyer. But there's great demand and prices are very high.

45:35—Meeting adjourned.