

Okanogan County Board of Health
09/15/2020

JD—Jim DeTro
AH—Andy Hover
CB—Chris Branch
LJ—Lauri Jones, Community Health Director
MW—Marianne Williams, BOH
DH—Dave Hilton, Environmental Health Director
JMCC—Dr. John McCarthy, Health Officer

This is a paraphrasing of conversations by one of several volunteer citizen note takers and published on the website of Okanogan County Watch (countywatch.org) Any writer's comments or explanations are 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:

1:45—Introductions

4:00—Additions and approval of agenda.

5:00—Public comment. (None.)

5:50—Administrative reports and approval of minutes

6:15—Treasurer's Report. BOH balances, transferred \$20,000 into the reserve account. Discussion of Covid expenses.

14:20—Resolutions 2020-5, 2020-6 and 2020-7. Public Health wants to reimburse several employees for the large amount of overtime they've worked during the last eight months since Covid started. There's CARES Act money available to pay for it. Commissioner DeTro feels this will set a bad precedent in another emergency when employees again put in many hours of overtime. Resolutions pass with only Commissioner DeTro voting against.

21:30—Community Health update. On Sunday, a firefighter living in the fire camp developed symptoms of Covid (loss of sense of taste and smell) but tested negative. LJ recommended she be sent home. Her co-workers, also testing negative, continue working. Other health issues include the very unhealthy air.

24:10—Dr. McCarthy update. The county is down to 44 cases/100,000. The data has changed because the testing has changed. We need to hear Crystal's update on the data to understand the situation.

28:48—AH asks where we have to be to reopen schools. JMCC says special needs kids are currently at school. There are different recommendations for different types of students.

30:00—Chrystal makes the data presentation. While the county is currently down to 44 cases/100,000, it needs to average that amount for two weeks to meet the school-opening standard. LJ is concerned that Labor Day may raise the number of positive tests.

38:25--LJ announces three more deaths, all under the age of 70, all with underlying conditions.

49:25—Question about school superintendents and whether they are confident with the adequacy of the testing regime. JMcC says almost everyone is concerned with one aspect or another re: opening plans.

42:15—Environmental Health update. There may be budget issues because a source of funding for the department is permit fees and the number of requests for permits is not what it usually is.

45:15—Budget discussion for 2021 is about to begin.

50:10—Meeting adjourned.