

Board of Health, Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday, July 6th, 2021, 1:30 PM

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Board of Health

(Recording unavailable. Because of technical difficulties, meeting notes incomplete.)

Report on sanitation surveys of Group A water systems by Environmental Health Officer David Hilton ; Commissioner Hover moves to approve an amendment consolidating contracts. For top of pay scale, hourly wages rise from \$29.32 to \$32.26. Most (county ?) wages raised by \$1 to \$1.50/hour. Total increase to County budget : \$771,250. Administrative salaries will go from roughly \$60,000 to \$66,000. AH cites competition with private sector and current high unemployment benefits as reasons for the hike ; Mariann Williams, board member, mentions support from state: It's a good opportunity to do this sort of thing. Lauri Jones reports on "mass vacs" – says a Covid variant has appeared in the county but she doesn't know the symptoms and "Apple Pie Saturday." Says office has been invaded by "a carpet" of elm seed bugs, which resemble box elder beetles, some of them even dropping from the light fixture onto her desk.

Board of Commissioners

Present:

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1

Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2

Jim Detro (JD), BOCC District 3

Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk

Sue Edick (SC), Project Manager, Oroville Housing sewer project, former Housing Authority Executive Director

Time stamps refer to the time on the wall clock. See AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php.

Summary of Important Discussions: *Oroville Housing Authority has completed it's sewer project benefiting farm workers and the homeless, thanks to a block grant. All working great, says project manager; County unable to sign lease agreement right away to enable Economic Alliance to rent the (long empty) Hancock Building because LJ stumbled on state code requiring three weeks of public notice immediately prior to the leasing of county property; Long Term Recovery contract renewed with Fairgrounds; CB has some thoughts on business licenses.*

3:30 - Close-out on Oroville Housing Authority's CDBG grant - LJ: The County applied for a grant to connect the Oroville Housing Authority (housing) to the city's sewer system. CDBG awarded \$194,671. The bids were higher than expected and *(the County Homeless Housing Fund gave)* \$64,326 in gap funding...It was inspected by a consultant hired by the Housing Authority. I did conduct an on-site monitoring prior to its being completed... *(There's)* a kiosk, electric panel, sewage lift pump...all was done in accordance with the grant rules... SC: It was completed June 15 and it's working great. (It serves) seasonal farm workers and the homeless. It's protecting Tonasket Creek. It opens five acres to the north for future development. *CB asks about the grant/loan from Ecology; she says it came*

through fine, they will be submitting their last voucher next week. \$24,000 is left over from the Homeless Housing allocation. Approval of AH's motion to sign the close-out report with the Dept. of Commerce and allow the board to sign.

3:56 - Leasing the Hancock Building -LJ: I came across an RCW regarding leases on county-owned property. I had (*County attorney*) David Gecas review it and give his advice. It says “(*prior to leasing*)... the County must first give notice in a legal newspaper once a week for.. three weeks and must also post a notice... in a conspicuous place in the Courthouse...The board of commissioners shall meet for the purpose of leasing the property...” *LJ says she wanted to mention this before it (the lease agreement allowing the Economic Alliance to rent the Hancock Building) was put on the Consent Agenda.* LJ: David Gecas recommended that we follow the RCW and give notice, even though we've advertised the property for lease already for several years. *AH and CB agree they should follow the law; AH sees the distinction between leasing to county entities and non-county entities: ...It's just a bid process to keep the government from doing a handshake deal and saying “hey, you can get this for just a song and a dance.” CB suggest that AH make a motion to reconsider his decision to lease the property, and to amend the consent agenda. LJ will speak with Economic Alliance and post the notice.*

4:01 - *LJ has drawn up a resolution to extend the contract between Long Term Recovery and the Fairgrounds, thus allowing people to continue storing their things there, and a resolution on revised rental fees, including the Hancock Building. Resolutions approved.*

4:15 - *CB asks LJ which communities require business licenses. She says pawnbrokers, second hand stores and (?) rentals. CB: ...A guy wanting to do business legitimately goes to Tonasket to ask about it, 'cause that's where he lives, and they say “we don't have a business license...go the county.” So the guy drives down to the County, and I go, “Well, we don't really have a business licence, but there are a couple of things you would require a license to do”...he finally came to the conclusion he'd have do some things on internet. CB Says he's seen some people get nailed for not having a license. It would be great to be able to say what towns require them...Because that was so unpopular, in Oroville it's not a license, it's a registration. There's a benefit: they're listed as a business...*

LJ says she'll announce to the Economic Alliance Director tomorrow that the lease agreement will have to wait. CB says that's timely, as she was planning to go then to Wenatchee to get furnishings...

4:20 - Meeting adjourned