

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
August 3, 2020
Via Zoom

Present:

Jim DeTro (JD) - BOCC, Chair District 3
Chris Branch - (CB) BOCC, Vice-Chair District 1
Andy Hover - (AH) BOCC, District 2
Lanie Johns - (LJ) Clerk of the Board
Pete Palmer - (PP) Director of Planning
Citizens Attending Via Zoom

Note: These notes were taken by an Okanogan County Watch volunteer via ZOOM. Every attempt is made to be accurate. Notes are verbatim when possible, and otherwise summarized with note taker comments or clarifications in italics. The notes are published at countywatch.org and are not the official minutes of the meeting. For official county minutes, usually published by the county at a later time, see <https://okanogancounty.org/CommissionersMinutes%202020/2020%20Minutespage.html>.

Pete Palmer: Goes through legal background of the ordinance and relevant dates. Summarizes written comments received so far by Tim Trohimovich (Futurewise), Lorah Super (MVCC), and Kathleen Hirschstein. She is hoping for bullet points from MVCC. Tues (Aug 4) Pete is meeting with MVCC. Thursday Aug 6 Pete is meeting with the Farm Bureau. She's not sure what they want to discuss. Aug 24th is the next Planning Commission meeting. Aug 27th is the hearing at the Hearing Examiner's on Jolley/Ludwig subdivisions. Other topics discussed -- cost of the well-tracking software; discrepancies between the Health Dept. and Planning Dept. on minimum acre sizes; accessory dwellings (the latter raised by Branch.)

Public Testimony: (See Audio Recording)

- 1) Jasmine Minbashian
- 2) Isabelle Spohn

Commissioners' Discussion

CB - I'm fine on making adjustments to the ordinance itself.

AH - Doesn't want to extend the written comments.

CB - Need to do the scope of the work plan to get out as much info as possible

AH - The bullet points were very good data points that we should have. They were good data points.

CB - What I was thinking - we have a few decisions to make:

*What is included in the work plan

*Determination of the potential for additional water.

AH - Moves to close public testimony Motion passes.

(?) What needs to be discussed exhibit as to the work plan. : things needed to be amended before adopted. Could attach

AH - Exemption - Exceptions need to be revised

CB - I had done research on the exemptions, and the way it is written for exempt segregations almost pulls back into (58.17?)

AH - We should be very specific in the exceptions. For example, the idea of condominiums, it was never thought of in regards to the 2 cfs. I don't want that to be allowed without having thought about it. Re binding site plans - needs further attention.

CB - Yes, it needs to be clarified.

AH - I'm rying to verbalize what I'm thinking about the public hearing. Because we've closed public testimony, down the road we need to discuss it further, and I would like to do that publicly now - things that we are thinking of. If that's ok.

JD - That's fine.

AH - We have touched on a few things here. We can definitely calculate in regards to the reserve and what it's used for. Going down those comments and addressing them as to applicability would be important. This is difficult because the way that the entities have put out the comments, it's difficult for the county to do things like affordable housing, etc. Because of the position that's being taken, I think the planning process is more difficult in these times. If we get these right, it can ease a bit of tensions and as we go forward we can address things like the agricultural issue - the Junior users didn't file until 1971, so now they are junior. These are things people don't understand about water law. Like in Tunk , they said their water table s going down - there may be places around here too that are having that problem. It's important that we get this right, that we keep the atmosphere rural. We do see an abundance of people around here now. I don't think we should stop things completely, but the more things are going on in urban areas, the more it affects us. We are experiencing that here in the Methow - we are experiencing this more than the rest of the county. We need to look this over, look at it with the attorneys, revise this ordinance so it does what we are really trying to do. I agree with the comments as to what that reserve should and shouldn't be used for.

CB - Agrees. So that would be a review of the comments. There are still a couple of things that will need to be decided in that light. If you would like to spend some time doing that with the attorneys, I would agree. So I'm not going to make a motion to do anything until we do that.

AH - We have had a public hearing and heard comments. That's what we do...

CB - I move to close the public hearing.

JD - Discussion?

CB - There is still a decision to make in regards to changes to the ordinance, so it's valid to go through the staff report to be in a position as to how to answer questions, especially for landowners who are trying to decide what to do. Moves for Exec Session tomorrow AM with Civil deputy prosecutor. The hearing itself, we can close.

AH - I'd like to see some resolution to this fairly quickly because right now there are some loopholes in the ordinance - would like to put it together quickly and hopefully by next Monday or Tuesday to amend the ordinance as we see fit.

JD = Further discuss? No.

Public hearing ends 5:45.