

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday AM, December 10, 2024, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1 (*Off and On Zoom*)

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 1

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

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 or paraphrased. Note taker comments or clarifications are in italics. These notes are published at <https://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/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php.

Time stamps below are in real time. To locate specific topics, a clock on the AV Capture video screen at <https://okanogancounty.org/avcapture.html> can assist in finding the correct spot on the video recording.

Summary of Significant Discussions or Actions:

- 5-minute closed session for union negotiations
- Public Comment: Isabelle Spohn (IS) commented on extending the Methow Review District to Pateros, suggests the entire Methow Valley be included in 1 unit – because it is the same ecosystem. She points out a name discrepancy between the currently proposed District Use Chart (which uses the term "Methow Review District") and Resolution #098-2022 (which uses the term "Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area") and believes it is causing confusion. IS reminded the BOCC to respond to those who applied to the Planning Commission for the MVMCPA Subunit B and C committee positions. She says these applications need at least a response from the County as a courtesy to the people who applied.
- Auditor and Treasurer in Budgeting session for 2025. There will be a week to look at the final draft and comment.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:46

9:00

Pledge of Allegiance

9:01

Closed session for union negotiations for 5 minutes.

9:05

JN reports that he has been looking up any codes/ordinances that might apply to use of exhaust brakes, jake brakes (*due to complaints of noise associated with Ag trucks*) He has not found anything that covers that.

9:15

Public Comment: Isabelle Spohn (IS) referred to Resolution # 098-2022 (*approval of the current Comprehensive Plan*) and its included map, which she had e-mailed to the Commissioners this morning. The extension of the Methow Review District has been advocated for since 1976 by residents of the Methow, including the recent hearing now being discussed. She states that the whole Methow Valley should be included as part of the Methow Review District to the Zone of Columbia River influence, as shown on this Comp Plan map because the Methow Valley is all part of the same ecosystem - as stated by citizen letters, committees, and testimony over the years.

She stated that due to confusion between the currently proposed District Use Chart (which uses the term "Methow Review District") and Resolution #098-2022 (which uses the term "Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area") the interactive map now being used by the County to demonstrate zoning and the map attached to the Resolution on the Comp Plan do not agree with each other.

She reminded the Commissioners that the citizens who applied to the Planning Commission for positions on Subunits B and C of the MVMCPA map over a year ago still have not had any response to their applications. She says these applications need at least a response from the County as a courtesy to the people who applied. Not doing so discourages future citizen applicants for committees such as those just suggested by the Commissioners to work on future lighting and ridgetop building issues.

9:30

County Auditor, Cari Hall (CH) and County Treasurer, Pam Johnson (PJ) in for budget consideration/work session with the BOCC. They are working on a to-do list on wrapping up the budget process for 2025.

(They shared the budget through Zoom as they went through their line items and completed them in readiness for the completed budget for 2025. This budget session covered the newly created SAR position, Maintenance Coordinator increase, technology upgrades for the courthouse, the funding of Public Defense and creating an actual district with no tax associated. CH and PJ let the BOCC know that Resolutions are needed for this.)

10:15

(Discussion includes the Fairgrounds budget.) AH notes that he is unsure where the Fairgrounds Safety grant is at this time.

(Discussion further on the investments, cash on hand, etc).

11:00

JN and AH discussed the price tag on a county executive that would negotiate union contracts, other contract management which free up the BOCC for other duties. This position would be upward of \$160,000 per year. *(It seemed to be agreed upon, at this time, not to go through with that.)*

AH – we need to use \$1.31 million in reserve monies to move to the current fund budget. All but one union contract is signed off.

PJ notes that they will need a week to look at the final budget.

11:46

Meeting is adjourned