

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday June 18, 2024, AM

Present:

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1

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

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 3 (not in attendance today)

Lanie Johns (LJ) – Clerk of the Board

Josh Thompson(JT)-County Engineer

Shelley Kreitzman(SK)- Human Resources

Mike Beaver(MB)-Admin. Juvenile Dept.

Lauri Jones- Public Health Director

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 clarification 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 published 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:

- The Board discusses whether to do background checks on appointed committee and board members. Who do they want to have the background checks, and what is the reason.
- Public Comment: Ms. Jackson states that background checks are a good idea, but some states/departments shred them.
- Received one bid for the Courthouse exterior/window project \$549,737 to a Wenatchee based company- Jessup.
- Juvenile Probation Department: Mike Beaver discusses program to help juveniles that are going through the court system. Also, discusses difficulties getting positions filled.
- Public Works: County Engineer & HR, report on raising wages in accordance with other counties' comparisons. Creating a part time Engineering Tech position. Ordering a new grader and reconditioning the old compactor.
- Public Health Department Director: in to discuss upgrades to the Public Works/Public Health buildings with possible use of ARPA funds. More planning regarding changes with the Departments and the new Justice Center. Will coordinate with architects.
- Clerk forwards a draft of the water safety project for fairgrounds, and also received e-mail regarding a couple of county parcels that needs to be sprayed per Noxious Weed Board.

Meeting adjourned at 11:14

9:10 Pledge of Allegiance

AH and CB discuss whether to do background checks on committee members, appointees.

CB – What do we want the background check for? What is the reason? AH – for good measure & not being willy nilly on applying this rule. CB – I don't think elected officials get a background check. AH – I don't know about that. CB – I've had one done due to permitting. AH states that he needs a full background check because of his access to the Sheriff's Office, It is needed due to access.

LJ asks whether the Board wants to define who and what they want on the background check?

CB moved to have LJ work with HR to produce a resolution to have background checks on appointed board members. (*I missed whether this actually was approved.*)

LJ notes that the BOCC appoints the Cemetery Boards, and Irrigation Districts.

09:25

Public Comment: Ms. Jackson thinks that background checks are a good idea. Unfortunately, some states and departments destroy or shed files. I would question why they would have something to hide.

09:30

Bid opening for the courthouse exterior renovation window project. There is only one bid.

The company – 'Jessup' bids \$594,737 with some alternate items bid also; flashing – 11,006 & flashing \$400 per cubic yard.

As this was the only bid received, and the contractor was in the BOCC meeting, (*there was considerable discussion between the contractor and the BOCC*).

The contractor stressed the need to remain with historical specifications.

AH asks LJ if she remembers how much the grant was to do this work. LJ - \$670,000 with an in-kind match of \$80,000. AH asks if the clock tower windows are included in the bid. Yes, & the exterior and annex windows.

AH – We have to call the Office of Historic Preservation because we can't do everything in this bid. AH -We have to come up with \$100,000 more if we want everything done. LJ – I'm looking at about \$134,000. AH – We will have to see what we can do to add that amount.

LJ – I will schedule the bid award for next week. AH asks whether we'll have (contractor) Pioneer's numbers by then for their work. LJ – Yes, this job should finish in October. LJ -We should award as soon as we can.

9:52

Contractor tells BOCC to let them know if they have other questions. They are based in Wenatchee and do commercial art. I look for these tricky jobs that are complex. That's what we do. My name is Matthew Black, I live in Entiat.

AH states that at first, the amount scared me but when I think about it, it's not that out of line. & they are paying prevailing wage.

9:57

Mike Beaver (MB), Administrator of Juvenile Dept has an update for the Board on their Probation Manager position that is being advertised. No applications yet.

They have a program, contracting with the YMCA, that helps youth going through court with housing issues, food, and other resources. Also, there is Community Action and FYRE.

MB – We have 3 probation officers.

10:03

AH – We've been having this budget issue with Probation. Can you work with Probation/Courts/State to help us get more funding?

MB – The costs of things are up about 30%

AH – The Legislature is always about recidivism, keeping youth out of jail.

AH – I want to make sure it doesn't go down like District Court,

MB – It's hard to get positions filled.

LJ – This is the Resolution for the HSYNC Navigator. *(didn't get much information on this)*

AH report to LJ that on July 16th, he will only be at work ½ of the day due to an afternoon doctor appointment.

(Lots of conversation regarding how many things have changed in their lifetimes)

10:25

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer and Shelley Kreitzman (SK), HR/Risk Manager in to talk about the new salary schedule they have come up with after comparing with other counties. SK – the Engineering Tech part time position has been sent to the union representative for approval. This is good as long as it comes back from the union. I don't know why it wouldn't.

AH asks what did you come up with once you compared other wages? JT – a 3% increase for Admin Tech, 10% raise for Finance, 15% increase for Engineering Tech, and 8% for the County Engineer.

10:29

JT reports on maintenance and road conditions – started chip sealing projects. There have been a couple of complaints about people getting oil on their car.

JT – We are ordering a new grader, which we expect to receive by March 25, 2025, if it is ordered now. Rather than buying a new compactor for the landfill, we are having our reconditioned. This costs \$350,000 with a 5-year warranty. New graders are about \$360,000.

10:34

JT – I am still working on the new purchasing policy. We are scheduled with the Civil Deputy in July to go over these changes. JT – We need to make a database with the small works roster.

JT reports that they are looking into some repairs/upgrades to the Public Works/Public Health Dept building.

10:45

Lauri Jones (L Jones), Public Health District Director states that some of the old infrastructure is making people sick. When the heat pump comes on, it puts stuff in the air.

Lauri J- We don't have money to purchase a building. We've looked into it and it didn't work out.

AH – states upgrading the current building is a good idea, but I just want to make sure it meets long term goals.

L Jones -AH discuss other options; moving Public Health, Public Works, Planning and Building staff to be housed together.

L Jones-How many Planning Staff & Building Staff are there? CB & AH – There are 7 Planning Staff and 6 Building Staff.

AH – If we did this right, we could move everyone together. This would be one stop shopping for permits.

L Jones- I was hoping we could be temporarily across the way. *(the old Forest Service Building)* That is something we should pursue.

AH to L Jones – We have an architect on call. We could have them meet with you. L Jones – Yes, but I

will be back to you if we are not on the same page. AH notes these architects have listening capabilities and we've found them willing to figure things out based on our wants/needs. JT also notes how easy they were to work with. The presentation on the Courthouse went well.

LJ- I feel Public Health has been fairly innovative. We do all work together. We distribute masks and work with Emergency Management well.

11:06

JT – We need to put a bid packet together. We need gutters and will do some flashing too.

11:10

AH to LJ – Do we have anything else before we break for lunch? LJ – I forwarded a letter about the water safety project at the fairgrounds. Also, I received an e-mail from the Noxious Weed Board regarding some County parcels that need spray AH – We probably need to find where the parcels are at, and coordinate with the fair spraying.

AH to LJ – Can you get us the parcel numbers?

11:14

Meeting adjourned. Will reconvene in the afternoon.