

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday May 21, 2024, AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chair, District 3

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

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, 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 usually published at a later time, see:

https://okanogancounty.porg/offices/commissioners/commissioners_proceedings.php.

Time stamps below are in real times. 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:

Public Comment: Ms. Jackson reports that she listened to the Planning Commission Meeting last night. She was concerned that for such an important process, Pete was hurrying them along telling them to move quickly. Ms. Jackson suggests that they take their time to educate themselves in this process. She also asked the Board to clarify the process for changing zoning and wondered about the role of “Pete”. CB and AH answered her questions. The board received questions from a constituent in the Oroville/Tonasket area who is wanting to build a USDA approved meat processing facility and needs to know how to deal with waste.

Finance Committee: Looking for funding to fulfill the Becca Bill requirement of the Courts, and for the Water Conservancy Board. Getting ready for the equipment surplus auction.

Solid Waste: Reports on new methane gas laws beginning June 1, and the upcoming apple maggot quarantine for the north county.

Public Works: Working with the Liberty Woodlands (HOA) on their sewer system.

Meeting adjourned 12:11

9:00

Pledge of Allegiance

9:15

Public Comment: Ms. Jackson reports listening to the Planning Commission meeting last night and was disturbed about the Planning Director continuing to move the board forward and go quickly. Ms. Jackson suggests that the Planning Commission not be hurried. She asks questions regarding Planning zoning process and what “Pete's title is”. Both AH and CB answer her questions.

9:35

JN brings up the e-mail he received from Roberto Juarez regarding regulations around the waste water from his proposed meat processing plant. AH asks whether this would be for the Department of Health or Planning Dept. JN believes it is the Health Dept.

9:30

Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation – Contingency Reserve \$1,016,308.
Staff report. AH explains this is about moving money from current expenses (\$250,000) and a budget adjustment. This also pays for the Public Records Request Officer's salary. No public comments.
Resolution 69-2024 Budget Supplemental is approved.

9:43

AH- About the safety project in the Auditor's Office, we will need to authorize administrative leave if staff members are unable to work in the office. JN likens this to a snow day. AH states that it would best if we could get the project done on the weekend. LJ will look into it and find out what the Building Manager has in mind. LJ reports that the weekend of June 22 & 23 might work.

9:50

JN – Back to the Roberto Juarez deal, AH-we can talk with the Health Department. I would really like to support this business in our county.

10:00

Finance Committee Meeting: Pam Johnson (PJ) Treasurer, Cari Hall (CH) Auditor, and Lisa Schreckengast (LS), Finance Manager.

PJ hands out a finance report for the month of April. Cash on hand in current expenses \$4,257,310.00
Investment interest rate is still 5.5%. 59% of property taxes are paid (which is about the normal amount at this time of year). PJ – are there any questions about the revenues and expenditures? Hearing none.
Mike (?) from the Juvenile Department is reporting the need for solid funding to the Becca Bill compliance officer of the court. AH asks some questions about how we get the state monies for this legislative mandate from the State. Kathleen (?) (Juvenile Court) explains that it is an annual contract from July through June each year. This is legislature driven. We got \$60,178 last year. AH – states this is not enough to fund a position. How do we get more money? Kathleen states that in August, we can apply for revenue sharing from unused funding from other counties. CB talks about how to deal with unfunded mandates and how other counties handle this. CH explains that we have these funds in a special purpose fund, and Kathleen would propose not to handle these monies that way. CH- We need a commitment to the program and he feels it is best in current expense. AH looks up the RCW governing this and declares this is not an unfunded mandate. It is to actually help parents, but only with money that is available.

CH suggests that we do a budget supplemental to get us through to the end of the year, and that would buy us time to make changes. AH – we can ask for more money in August. My hope is that we can get this position fully funded.

10:42

It was moved, seconded, and carried to direct the Auditor to prepare a budget supplemental for the BECCA monies 100% for the rest of the year. CB – we'll keep this in the budget discussion in the fall.

CH – On to the Water Conservation Board (*Lisa De Vera on Zoom, but did not provide any input this time*) PJ reached out to the other counties to see how they handle this. Only Chelan County does like

we do...or we do like them. The other counties do not do the bookkeeping for the Water Conservation Board. Mike Fort (*from the Water Conservancy Board*) states that a lot of our work is covered by a fee. AH declares that when we first started with this, I was in favor of the \$10,000 we authorized for the Water Conservancy Board. Otherwise, people would have to go to the Dept of Ecology, which would take a lot longer. Now, I feel the fees should cover the costs. I would like to change the fund for Water Conservancy. We could close the fund (139) and do a budget supplemental. Then, we can change into a non-departmental fund.

AH asks Mike Fort – Are you strictly reviewing applications for water changes? Mike – Yes, any changes people want to make with their water rights. For instance, we just transferred water rights from Gold Digger area to the Wells Road area for the Gebbers.

11:00

Public Hearing declaring County Equipment surplus Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer provided a list of the Public Works old replaced equipment. No public comment. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve Resolution 68-2024 declaring various properties surplus.

11:05

(*back to Mr Juarez's question*) JN reports that Mr. Juarez has already talked to the cities. He wants to do a meat processing plant in the Oroville/Tonasket area, but wants to know how to handle the wastewater that has blood and other material.

AH asks Ken Kovalchenko (KK), solid waste manager, what his experience was when he was working on the other side of the mountains.

KK – usually it just goes through the sewer/septic system or goes through a treatment plant. The blood will coagulate and become a solid. It's definitely compostable, but you need a Tier 5 Air Quality permit for the aroma from composting.

11:13

CB suggests that we talk to DOE – have them come to meet with us.

KK – Compost is treated as solid waste. AH wants to look at the advantages of having this USDA facility here. CB also suggests the Economic Alliance. AH – We can cut down emissions by keeping things local.

11:18

Ken Kovalchenko (KK), Solid Waste Manager reports there are new methane gas laws around removing organics that begin June 1st. The funding is through the Climate Commitment Act. KK- I will be testifying and my comments will be in favor of small, rural community-based projects.

KK- secondly, the apple maggot quarantine in the north county. We have finally gotten the line out of Oroville. KK-Not sure what the USDA will do – make it a bigger quarantine or go with our lines. I expect something by September.

KK- we're doing well with our organics management, following the grant.

11:22

Josh Thomson (JT), County Engineer report.

I'm working on the Liberty Woodlands Sewer System project (HOA). The HOA may be taking full responsibility for it. Then, we will get the County out of it, but they want their rates cut in half. I have been doing some research on previous resolutions when the rules changed. Right now, the rate is

\$44.00 per month or \$22 per month for undeveloped.

JN- my only concern is if they come up with a money problem in the future. We just need to protect the County. JT – I will be working with the HOA.

JT – On the maintenance and road condition side. Things are going as normal.

The Colville Confederated Tribe is working on replacement of dam at Owhi Lake. They're doing some drilling. They should be done about the time we are scheduled to do chip seal there.

JT – I'm also working with the Methow Beaver Project. We're hoping to get some funding through the Conservation District.

JT – The Health District is interested in utilizing some of their ARPA money to help with building repairs. I've been speaking to Laurie, the Director.

11:32

JT explains that the purchasing system seems to be going to the MRSC system. We usually have our own system.

JT also reports that Bonaparte has not been too much trouble this year.

11:58

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. ARPA Funds Request #4 Engineering Services, Gray & Osborne Project, \$23,878 -Invoice #5
2. Emergency Management Performance Grant – Okanogan County -E24-342
3. Award Recommendation for the CRP#9425-26 Loomis-Oroville Drainage Project
4. Okanogan County Marketing & Promotion Contract -Winthrop Chamber of Commerce -LTAC #24033
5. Ok County Capital Improvements Contract -Winthrop Chamber of Commerce -LTAC #24-034
6. Agreement -Reimbursable work -Ok Co & City of Oroville

11:59

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Homeless Housing agreement between Room One and Okanogan County.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Interagency Sharing agreement with the Tonasket EMS District.

12:11

Meeting adjourned.