

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday August 20, 2024, AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN) – BOCC Chairman, District 3

Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 1

Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2 (*On Zoom, during the speed limit discussion-otherwise not in attendance*)

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:

- No Public Comment
- Central Services: new hire to begin training, considering using grant to purchase new laptops, 2 quotes received for Court Audio/Visual upgrade.
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office Clerical Assistant, Teagen Levine, discusses problems with body cams storage and sharing between agencies.
- Financial Committee: meeting on July financial statement.
- Bid openings for Mazama County Road paving and Public Services Building.
- Public Works Update and Discussion: Angelee Brown regarding safety issues on Johnson Creek Road, and request to reduce the speed and increase enforcement.

(problems with both Zoom, and AV Capture on and off all morning)

9:08

Meeting began.

9:15

There was no Public Comment

9:30

Karen Beatty (KB), Director of Central Services, in for an update, and to troubleshoot the technical problems. KB – We've hired a new person. He'll be starting on Monday, and we'll be training him. There is a program for training that costs \$779 per year, per person for training. This might work out well for us. I'll bring back that information and include it in the budget.

KB – we expect to be using some of our grant for new laptops. Also, for the Court audio/visual upgrade, I have received 2 quotes: Dimensional Communications from Everett for \$255,612 and VIP

Productions of Spokane for \$192,695. If we do all the courtrooms at once, we could get a cost break. JN asks how long the bids are good for? KB – Not sure, but I would expect they could be extended. Quotes per courtroom are \$38,593.

9:42

Teagan Levine (TL), Prosecutors Office Staff, in to discuss with BOCC and Central Services the problem about needing more data storage – keeping in the cloud. We use AXXON but other agencies like Colville Tribe and City of Oroville use a different link to store and send body cam information. TL – Sooner or later, we're going to need to upgrade. For instance, WSP cases take 4 hours to download the bodycam footage. They use a different link. TL -This causes a lot more work for the office staff. CB – So there is a greater need to store data? KB – Getting more storage may be a possibility. How many other agencies use a different system? KB – 3 other agencies; Twisp, Oroville, and the Colville Tribe. G Tach is fairly common. JN notes that when he was mayor in Oroville, the archive fees for body cams were exorbitant.

9:54

JN and CB discuss progress on the Loomis Kiosk.

9:55

Finance Committee Meeting with Treasurer, Pam Johnson (PJ) and Auditor, Cari Hall (CH). PJ distributes the financial statement from July. Cash on hand - \$6.2 Million, and interest on investments remains at 5.50%. However, the Fed is expected to lower rates in September. PJ notes that the revenue and expenditures are about comparable for this time of year. Asks the Board if they have any questions.

JN – Nothing jumps out at me. & the fairgrounds account looks good for now.

CH – I do a special run of checks for the fair. This will come out on Wednesday after the Monday holiday.

JN asks how the Aeneas Valley Irrigation District is doing? PJ – As of now, outstanding warrants for the district is \$203,681.00. I'm not sure if they got the grant, but we're in a holding pattern. We're waiting for more money to come in. We'll get an update from them in September.

JN – How about their assessments? PJ – They have a handful of unpaid assessments.

10:02

CH asks the Board if they have come up with an idea for Munis (new computer program) or not?

CB – Not yet. I'm not really prepared for that yet. CH This is the AP process – putting labels on invoices. And allows for electronic approval. Also, Munis would give us more storage.

10:24

(There is a considerable break time until the 11:00 bid opening. AV Capture continues to have difficulties and LJ has to reboot her computer which takes the County off Zoom a few times)

11:05

Bid Opening for Mazama County Road paving with Shasta Stidman, Public Works

1. CW Asphalt - \$46,612,
2. Granite - \$133,874

Public Works to get back with BOCC on recommendation

11:20

Bid Opening for Public Service Building – Shasta Stidman, Public Works

1. Zaga Roofing, LLC - \$133, 520.00.00.
2. Comfort Zone Services \$119,973.00.

11:27

County Engineer, Josh Thomson (JT) – reporting on maintenance and road conditions; there is some grading happening on the roads that are close to a water source. We are getting ready for the roof and renovation project.

JT – I've received a bid from Erlandsen & Associates to survey the area for the Loomis Kiosk. The bid is under \$5,000.

JT – It is time to renew the snowmobile grooming/sno-park contract. We can move forward with another 5-year contract.

JT – Road crew is working on Boulder Creek and Black Canyon.

JT – Regarding truck purchases, there is a new state law where we purchase them. Beginning next year, they have to sell 1 electric truck, and then they can sell 9 diesel trucks. Board discusses the need for continued fine tuning of the technology for electric vehicles.

11:45 (*AH joins the meeting via Zoom*)

Angelee Brown (AB) and 1 other Johnson Creek Road resident (*I didn't catch the name*) are in to discuss reducing the speed limit on Johnson Creek Road. AB states they just had a dog get run over, by a sheriff – no less, and they didn't even stop. AB lives at 141 Johnson Creek Road. Traffic is pretty fast past Miller Road when the speed limit changes to 50 MPH from 35MPH. AB – Between Miller Road and 293 Johnson Creek Road, there is quite a lot of speeding, and in fact, some drag racing on the road. AB has done considerable research online and found there were 4 hit & runs in Okanogan County in 2024. She has found (online) the percentages of lives that are saved with lower speed.

CB explains how people are able to change the speed limits. AB notes that there have been 4 roads in the Methow Valley that have changed their speed limits in the last 5 years.

JN & CB note that the most recent speed limit change was on Barnholt Loop Road.

JT explains that he looked at how many driveways there are on a stretch of road and reported problems.

AB – That's what worries me, somebody has to get killed before something is done about it.

AH – asks AB why the animosity. He had spoken with AB about the process and that we are here to look into it. AH – We need the County Engineer to do a speed study on that stretch of road.

CB – I'm not arguing about the need on that road. We just need to determine the need. We'll ask JT to look into it. (*Apparently, CB lives on this road and acknowledges the speed of drivers. He, himself, had to hurry to get out of a car's way while going after his mail.*)

JN – We'll definitely have JT look into it.

AH – to AB – Your pets shouldn't be on the road. We will have to decide if it warrants decreasing the speed to 35 MPH or not.

AB – I know it is also about enforcement. Maybe traffic tickets are needed. I just want it to be safe for people and animals.

JT explains there will need to be a public hearing, and everyone gets to have a say.

AH moves to have JT do a speed study on that stretch of road, it is seconded and carried to have County Engineer do a speed study.

12:11

Meeting is adjourned until the PM session.