

Board of Okanogan County Commissioners
Tuesday July 23, 2024, AM

Present:

Jon Neal (JN)- BOCC Chair, District 3
Andy Hover (AH) – BOCC Vice Chair, District 2
Chris Branch (CB) – BOCC, District 3

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:

- Public Comment: Ruth Hall asks if the recent Supreme Court decision affects the Opioid Settlement monies for the Counties. CB: Those monies are already distributed to the Counties. BOCC in contact with the contractor, Carolane, for the Opioid Settlement monies.
- Budget Supplemental Hearing for \$301.530 to go to Community Action Council for Operating Crisis Response – Homeless grant.
- HR/Risk Management: Upcoming changes for exempt employees, vision coverage will need to be purchased separately.
- Two Executive Sessions regarding possible litigation.
- Public Works: County chip seal project nearing completion, heat systems in new shops may need to go out for new bids, will start advertising for reconstruction on Public Works building, 6 year plan list to be scheduled for public hearing, a lot of fires the last couple of days, Peter Dan Road closed due to fire. Board recessed at 11:45; Board of Health in the PM.

9:00

Pledge of Allegiance

CB asks JN about the agreement with Carolane (*contractor for Opioid settlement monies*) JN tells CB that Carolane will guide us with the process. No need to go to the Attorney General's office. JN - a candidate for Commissioner is apparently criticizing their handling of the Opioid Settlement monies.

9:15

Public Comment

Ruth Hall asks whether the Supreme Court decision on companies' liability will affect the Opioid Settlement monies our County is entitled to receive. CB – No, we've already gotten our allotment.

CB and JN discuss the County right of way in Loomis. CB expects that in the future, this will be an issue. They are having a problem finding a place for a fire hall. (*Board looks at different pictures of the area.*)

9:30

Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation non-Dept Consolidated Homeless Grant
This is a distribution to Community Action Council in the amount of \$301,150, with the County retaining \$30,000. This money is for operating the crisis response – homelessness. No public comments. AH suggests that this goes into contingency reserve fund. LJ will make this adjustment. Board approves Resolution 97-2024.

9:41

Update from HR/Risk Management – Shelley Keitzman(SK)
SK gives information to the Board regarding salary changes of exempt employees. There is a new schedule in preparation for the upcoming budget process.
SK also reports that vision care will not be offered on current healthcare coverage and will need to be purchased separately. SK – I will know by October what the options are. I'll be looking for the option that includes Costco.

9:43

BOCC, Esther Milner (Civil Deputy), SK, and undersheriff to into Executive Session under 42.30.100(i)(i) – possible litigation. *****

10:04

(They go back into executive session. This time until 10:35)

10:35

(BOCC goes into another Executive Session until 11:00)

11:00

Public Hearing Utility Franchise – Colville Tribes IT -Fiber Lines. Public Works, Jo Ann Stansbury. (JAS)

(Hearing is continued until 11:10 due to executive session going over.)

11:13

JAS explains this utility franchise is for the Colville Confederated Tribes to repair fiber lines along the County right of way.

No Public Comment. BOCC approves this Franchise with Resolution 96-2024, This is the agreement between the County and the Colville Confederated Tribes.

11:16

County Engineer, Josh Thomson (JT) updates Board on Public Works. JT reports that they are finishing up with the chip seal project.

JT- Peter Dan Road is closed due to fire. That fire is moving north.

JT – Regarding work on the county shops: There is still no action on the ground for the heating systems. This was supposed to be completed by the middle of January this year. It will probably be around \$100,000 to fix the system – diesel to oil. We will be taking this against the contractor's bond.

JT – I will be working with the Civil Deputy on this.

JT – There is also some unfinished work on the sewer systems to deal with. AH – We want to divest

ourselves from these sewer systems.

JT – I am adding the Rodeo Trail Drive project to the 6-year road list. I'm also moving forward with a Public Hearing to approve the 6-year list.

JT – We have a retirement of a long-time employee and are wanting to overlap hiring so as to have a new employee trained by the outgoing employee, who has a lot of knowledge about the job.

JT – I would like approval from the BOCC to advertise for the reconstruction of the Public Works building roof.

JT also reports there is a DOT project that will be closing highway 97 for a week, and route traffic out Johnson Creek Road.

JT will be attending the County Leaders Conference in Vancouver, WA. I have signed up for this.

JT also notes there have been a lot of fires the last couple of days.

11:45

BOCC recesses for lunch. Dept of Health in the PM, also more business after that.