

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**OKANOGAN COUNTY****MAY 27, 2020**

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on May 26, 2020, with Chairman, Commissioner Jim DeTro; Vice Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; and Laleña Johns, Clerk of the Board, present.

Member, Commissioner Andy Hover attending remotely.

Discussion COVID-19 Related Issues

Commissioners discussed the county's Phase II application status.

Chelan and Douglas County was thought to have submitted a lawsuit about their variance because they didn't think they would get a fair trial in western Washington. Commissioner DeTro doesn't believe Okanogan County is very well liked by the Governor. He got word that Road House 97 is closed for good, they are done. We have to do something as we cannot afford to let him ruin our businesses. There is another announcement by the governor scheduled for 2:30 p.m.

Lauri Jones said she has not heard anything from the governor's office. She did speak to the secretary about our variance. She plead our case and shared an email with the Secretary but unfortunately she has not heard anything about it. A lot of what is going on is there are 200 cases in Douglas County and many in Chelan County and she doesn't think that should matter to our variance. They are looking at our partial variance request for a model. She will inform the commissioners as soon as she hears.

Blatant disregard by those coming into our county. Upset about things they tried to put into place that are being blatantly disregarded over the weekend. We are trying to get all businesses going and they were making that very difficult. She is concerned about getting our small businesses going and hoping in less than hour from now we will know more.

Commissioner Hover shared that many are asking questions during citizen comment about where the information is located. He got a call from someone who got kicked off unemployment for not looking for a job, but there are no jobs all the businesses are closed. Being denied is absurd.

Okanogan County has low case count, but that isn't the measure. Commissioner DeTro said his biggest concern is the influx of people over the Memorial Day Weekend.

Several businesses received grants through local funds and 18 received funds through the state. We have the option with the CARES money to help businesses out and so the commissioners need to discuss the prioritization of those dollars. Commissioner Branch wants to ensure Public Health is able to track tracing so we can get to reopening.

Commissioner DeTro stated some businesses qualified for funding, but after reading through the restrictions there isn't going to be many who can comply with the plan. Roni Holder Deifenbach explained some businesses that qualified for the PPP loan. Several applied for the funding and many were enticed into applying. They just announced the guidance for the forgiveness of the loans and she felt it was very straight forward tracking of expenses. She also knows some applied with no intention of forgiveness, and some local businesses chose to take it without the forgiveness because of the low interest rate and two years leeway in making payments.

Commissioner Branch explained that all the new shelter grant opportunities have new criteria

legislation that says that we can no longer opt out of passing through the grant to another entity. Commissioner Branch thought that was federal regulations. They are taking feedback until June 4. He was going to provide some feedback for this. He would like to write an email to disagree with that part. Commissioner DeTro thought that we could argue why they took that option away from us. Commissioner Hover agreed.

There are 29 out of 39 counties allowed to go to phase II. Push it out to the notification system.

The board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.