**PEND OREILLE COUNTY**

**HEARING EXAMINER**

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| **IN RE**:  DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE |  | DECLARATION OF ROBERT ALLEN RUMSEY |

I, ROBERT ALLEN RUMSEY, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and make this declaration based on my personal knowledge.
2. I reside at 534 South Newport Avenue, in Newport Washington.
3. I have been attending the Pend Oreille County Commissioners’ meetings regularly during the last four years. For the last two years, because of Covid, I have been attending via Zoom. I always take detailed notes of what was discussed and keep time with my watch.
4. The December 6, 2021 Pend Oreille County Commissioners meeting began at 9:05:22 AM.
5. Present were Commissioners John Gentle, Robert Rosencrantz, Brian Smiley, and Clerk of the Board Crystal Zieski.
6. Ms. Zieski gave the Invocation, then all said the Pledge of Allegiance.
7. At 9:06:57 AM all were seated and discussed regular County business until about 11:05 AM.
8. At about 11:05AM Greg Snow began his report to the commissioners beginning with the hearing with the Hearing Examiner on December 2nd.
9. Greg Snow told the Commissioners: “RG-NEW had so much evidence and witnesses to present that the hearing examiner wanted to cut them short and not take more than one day, and they talked from 9:30 to 3:30, then we got to talk from 3:30 to 5:30. But it was just Ben (Floyd) and me.”
10. Then John Gentle interrupted Greg and said: "Oh, so they got to talk as much as they wanted, but we got cut short on time.”
11. Greg Snow replied: “Uh, yeah.”
12. There was a discussion about the Hearing Examiner retiring at the end of January, and he’s clearing his docket.
13. John Gentle said: “If the decision goes our way, the Planning Commission will recommend signing the Comp Plan, possibly in January.”
14. Greg Snow said: “If they have time to advertise the meeting.”
15. Greg Snow went on to report: “there were 1,500 new building permit applications, including 44 new homes, not including manufactured homes. Also, we've had our best year ever with building application fees, over $250,000.”
16. Greg Snow also stated: “the average age in the county is 58 years old, people 50–70 years old are moving here in droves because they are the only ones who can afford the real estate.”
17. John Gentle, laughing, said: “they’re not moving here for jobs!”
18. John Gentle then said: “we’ve got developers waiting to put shovels in the ground right now and they’re being held up by the system, waiting for the blanket rezone.” As an afterthought he added: “And these are local contractors, they’re not from out of town.”
19. John Gentle then asked Greg Snow if he could get the Planning Commission ready to move quickly.
20. Greg Snow said that he would get the Planning Commission ready to move quickly.
21. Greg Snow left the meeting at 11:26:05.
22. After Greg Snow left the meeting, there was a discussion of county business, a break for lunch, and more discussion of county business after lunch.
23. At approximately 2:28 PM, Robert Rosencrantz said to John Gentle: “When the Comp Plan is in place, it will significantly increase the County’s finances.”
24. John Gentle said: “I want to treat the Comp Plan as a living document, and revise it as situations arise.”
25. Then Brian Smiley said: “We need to start right away on revising the next Comp Plan, so it doesn’t take years like this time.”
26. The Commissioners were very animated and excited during this exchange, as if they already knew the outcome of the appeal before the Hearing Examiner and were celebrating.
27. At 2:59 PM, county attorney Dolly Hunt joined the Zoom meeting to give her report, followed by  more various county business.
28. From 3:30 PM to 4:03 PM there was a discussion with the Sheriff about adding cameras in county buildings.
29. John Gentle said that he wanted to revise the retention time for public records.
30. At 4:14:40 PM the Commissioners’ meeting recessed until the following day.
31. Snow’s report to the Commissioners on December 6 was not the same as his testimony at the hearing on December 2. On December 2, to the best of my recollection, Greg Snow claimed there were no projects planned in the county that were waiting on the blanket rezone.
32. The smelter has been waiting since November 2017 for the blanket rezone.
33. Allrise, from California, is planning a bitcoin mining operation at the papermill site in Usk and waiting on the blanket rezone.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2021, at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Washington.

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ROBERT ALLEN RUMSEY