

**OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION 52 -2023**

*A resolution approving the use of Lumbering Employees Trust funds*

**WHEREAS**, the Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners approved Commissioners' Resolution 54-2004 regarding the Lumbering Employees Trust Fund (proceeds from sale of Sawdust Makers Union old union hall around 2001-2002) which allowed the county to accept (with prescribed conditions) \$100,000.00 from the Sawdust Makers Union for the purpose of developing a covered equestrian center on the Okanogan County Fairgrounds, and

**WHEREAS**, Richard Wilcox and Bob Wall, members of the Lumber Employees Trust, (Sawdust Makers Union) met with their members on the redistribution and release of the funds for a purpose other than a covered equestrian center on the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. The Trustees contacted were Anne Fleming, Betty Smith, Gene Gates, Richard Cook, Shag Hauf, Frank Carpenter, Tom Gallagher and Bob Wall as well as the Trust's attorney Rod Reinbold; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result their meeting, the members authorized the release of the funds to the BOCC and Fair Advisory Committee. Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Wall presented the signed authorization to the BOCC on October 3, 2017. The authorization released the restriction of the money as long as the funds are used for a public purpose and not for profit nor to benefit any members financially. The funds must benefit the general public such as for a covered equestrian arena, roof over the grand stands, or horse barn but not a parking lot or restrooms;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Okanogan County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize use of the Lumbering Trust funds for the new Fairgrounds public purpose Race Horse Barns.

DATED at Okanogan, Washington this 25 day of April 2023.

**ATTEST:**



Laleña Johns, CMC, Clerk of the Board

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON**

Approved Remotely  
Chris Branch, Chairman

Andy Hover, Member

Jon Neal, Member

**OKANOGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS'**

**RESOLUTION 54-2004**

**WHEREAS**, in 1921 Biles and Coleman Lumber Company started a sawmill in the area of Cougar Camp on Omak Mountain and a year later began to build another sawmill down on Omak Creek at its present location near Omak, and

**WHEREAS**, this mill and its literally thousands of workers and subcontractors have contributed significantly to the local Community for the past 80 years and became a major part of the economy, culture, and heritage of the Okanogan Valley, and

**WHEREAS**, the workers at the mill organized the Sawdust Makers Union and built a Union Hall on Riverside Drive in Omak around 1950. The Sawdust Makers Union members decided in the early 1960's to become a member of the AFL/CIO Lumber and Sawmill Local 3023 and continued to significantly contribute to the community and the culture of the area, and

**WHEREAS**, the union hall that they built and owned has always been made available for community and youth events and needs through the efforts and graciousness of the union membership, and

**WHEREAS**, the local union membership is currently in a withdrawal status due to the sale of the mill to a non-unionized operator, and

**WHEREAS**, the former trustees of the union organized as the Lumbering Employees for the purpose of caring for and disposing of the assets and the union hall facility, and

**WHEREAS**, the union hall has now been sold to a private party; and with \$100,000 of the proceeds of that sale, the Lumbering Employees' trustees have decided to make a permanent contribution to the quality of life especially for the youngsters in Okanogan County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Okanogan County Board of Commissioners shall accept the \$100,000 donation and hereby create a special fund to be titled the "Lumbering Employee's Trust" and to hold the contribution from the Lumbering Employees in that dedicated account which shall operate under the following conditions and for the following purpose:

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the donation and fund is for the creation of an equestrian center at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. This facility is to be open for public use on a year around basis for primarily equestrian and other agricultural events and pursuits with special emphasis on activities for the youth of Okanogan County. No other use or purpose shall supercede this use unless officially enacted upon by the Parks and Recreation Board.

**CONDITIONS OF THE DONATION:**

The donation of the funds from the Lumbering Employees group is predicated upon the acceptance of the following conditions:




1. That the equestrian center built shall be a namesake building of the donors and bear the name of the benefactors group;
2. That should the Lumber and Sawmill Union ever be reconstituted locally that the membership would be given a free monthly meeting place in an appropriate County building (like Jones Hall);
3. That the citizens of Okanogan County shall be benefited by the opportunities which would exist from the construction of this center;
4. That this building shall belong to and be the legal responsibility of Okanogan County; and that the Lumbering Employees Trust group shall bear no ownership, liability, or legal responsibility for its use or maintenance or any additional costs.
5. The Parks and Recreation Board shall appoint a committee of 3 members; 1-Parks and Recreation member, 1-Lumbering Employees Trust Group member and 1-community member. This committee will review, advise, and consult with the Parks and Recreation Board on the purpose, conditions and annual operation of the facility.
6. The funds shall be solely used for purpose and conditions as stated in this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Okanogan County Fairgrounds under the management of the Parks and Recreation Board and its employees shall be responsible to operate and maintain the facility as above described once the facility is created.

DATED at Okanogan, Washington this 7th day of June 2004.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKANOGAN, WASHINGTON

  
Craig L. Vejraska, Chairman

  
Mary Lou Peterson, Member

  
Dave Schulz, Member

ATTEST:

  
Brenda J. Crowell, Clerk of the Board

The board adjourned for lunch at 12:05 p.m.

Commissioners reconvened at 1:33 p.m.

### **Citizens Comment Period**

Richard Wilcox and Bob Wall from the Lumbering Employees Trust (Sawdust Makers Union) came in to discuss the 20 year old Lumbering Employees Trust donation of \$100,000 to the Fairgrounds for an indoor riding arena. Mr. Wilcox explained he contacted several of the union members discussed with them the release of the funds. The attached declaration of those members was submitted. He said not all of the 7 remaining members were available by he did have several signatures from: Betty Smith, Richard Cook, Tom Gallagher, and Bob Wall plus he checked with attorney Ted Reinbold about a letter Rob Reinbold drafted about release the fund restrictions. The letter stated the funds were to be used for public purpose and not for profit only and not benefit any members financially. However, the letter burned when Frank Carpenter's house burned.

When the members were contacted, most members thought the best use of the funds would be a new cover for the grandstands, but they would like to release the money to the commissioners and fair board. Mr. Wilcox called the original members and spoke to most of them. The members are Anne Fleming, Betty Smith, Richard Cook, Frank Carpenter, Shag Hauf, Tom Gallagher, and Gene Gates. There was a question about whether or not Ted Olson was a member.

The commissioners explained the county's Civil Deputy would need to be consulted with on this matter. The commissioners reviewed resolution 54-2004 which originally accepted the donation and outlined the Statement of Purpose and Conditions of the Donation. We need to ensure the funds entrusted to the county are handled properly.

Commissioner Hover stated the cover over the grandstands would be wonderful use of the money. However, we do need new grandstands first. The commissioners thanked the men for coming in and discussing this.

### **Public Hearing – Road Vacation Portion of Hanford Cutoff Road –Josh Thompson, Verlene Hughes, Perry Huston,**

Jon Wyss and Jean Olson members of the public present.

The county audio recorder was started.

Commissioner DeTro opened the hearing to staff. Verlene Hughes provided her staff report. She provided the history of the road. It originally was referred to as OCC No. 196

RICHARD W. and KAREN K. COOK

**Summer**

409 S. Birch  
P.O. Box 447  
Omak, WA 98841  
509-826-7188

**Winter**

4871 Kayenta Drive  
P.O. Box 1636  
Topock, AZ 86436  
928-768-2240

Gone after  
Oct 20  
at AZ address



~~VERINT~~

Frank Carpenter 826-6308

Ted Reinbolt 422-3610

Gene Gotes 826-2474

INORED.

Albert 2,000 / 826-1249

Betty Smith

From Ted to

Frank Carpenter

Pres of Suedast Mares

Union - only 7 members left

~~APUC.~~

OK WITH TED REINBOLT  
Re letter Referring to

use of Proceeds from

Sale of Union Bldg -

~~SAID~~ NOT AVAILABLE

SAID JUST DO IT -

Could Be Used For Any

Purpose for use of

General Public

NO MTO Fair For ARENA

Post - SPICE - these ARENA -

SPLIT 7 ways + EACH MEMBER  
GAVE THEIR PORTION TO NO PROFIT -

422-7100  
COMMISSIONERS-

1	ANNE FLEMING
2	Betty SMITH
3	GENE GATES
4	RICHARD COOK
5	SHAG HANE
6	FRANK CARPENTER
7	TOM - GALLINGER
8	BOB WALL -

EMIL BOATRIGHT - DROPPED -

QUESTIONABLE

SHE THEN HIT A  
WENT TO UNION REP +  
WANTED THE HENNA.  
FOR HORSE GAMSETT



Letter from Rod Reibert

STATING FUNDS FOR SALE

OF UNION HALL

TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO

Now Profits Only And

NO MEMBER OF AD SAUDIST

MAKES UNION TO PROFIT

FROM THE SALE

Said we're to union rep +

water 100% to go to

the Board for use for

Area Only - On His Own

Other members object, but

he had contacted the

Board + Commissioners

with that stipulation

Richard Cook was authorized

By the members to monitor

the use of the funds

Bell & Gene



...  
Then Allen further Research  
I found the letter from  
Rod Reubart to Frank  
Re Distribution of  
the funds, which burned  
when Frances House burned,  
which stated funds  
could be used for any  
purpose that benefited  
the General Public.

Such as a roof over  
the Grand Stand. which  
is one of the uses  
discussed at our meeting  
of our members where  
Councils to monitor use  
of funds.

Betty Smith said her +  
Shirley met with Council members

Who said No Room on

grounds for arena

except across tracks

Not recommended - for

Parking Rooms etc -

Indian tribe from coast

may be interested



WE AS MEMBERS OF THE OLD  
SAWDUST MAKERS UNION SOLD THE  
OLD UNION HALL AROUND 2001-OR 2002

100,000 WAS GIVEN TO THE COUNTY FAIR  
FOR USE ON AN ENCLOSED ARENA -  
WHICH WAS LATER DETERMINED  
NOT TO BE PRACTICAL FOR LACK OF  
SPACE - ON FAIRGROUNDS PROPERTY.

FURTHER RESEARCH FOUND A LETTER  
FROM ROD REINBOLT THAT STATED  
THE FUND FROM THE SALE OF THE BLDG  
WAS TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC USE  
ONLY & NON PROFITS, AND MEMBERS WERE  
NOT TO RECIEVE FINANTIAL GAIN FROM THE  
FUNDS.

THIS LETTER WAS GIVEN TO FRANK  
CARPENTER THE PRESIDENT OF OUR GROUP  
AND WAS DESTROYED WHEN HIS HOUSE  
BURNED IN 19-14-15-

NOW AFTER ALMOST 20 YEARS

WE THE UNDER SIGNED MEMBERS  
OF THE OLD SAWDUST MAKERS UNION



Do hereby Release the RESTRICTION  
 FOR USE OF THE FUNDS FOR AN AREA

AND AUTHORIZED THE USE OF THEM  
 TO THE COUNTY FAIR BOARD FOR  
 THE USE OF A COVER FOR THE  
 PUBLIC BLEACHERS AND OR ANY  
 OTHER USE THE FAIR BOARD  
 DETERMINES FOR THE USE OF FOR  
 THE GENERAL PUBLIC

MARY 826-0909

ANNE LEWING	to buy 826 1801	4 BENTHAM RD	NA	826-5323
BETTY SMITH	Betty Smith			826-1249
GENE GATES	called - OK		NA	826-2474
RICHARD COOK				826-7188
SHAG HAUF			ION NA	826-0419
FRANK CARPENTER	VERNA SAYS	HAPP STROKE		826-6308
TOM GALLAGHER	Tom Gallagher	not home - LEONARD		826-5526
BOB WHEAT	BOB WHEAT			

with Ted Ossen

Prepared By

RICHARD COOK - THE AUTHORIZED PERSON  
 TO OVERSEE THE DISTRIBUTION  
 OF THE FUNDS FROM THE SALE