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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

APRIL 10, 2023

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Commissioners' Staff Meeting
10:30 AM Discussion Fairgrounds/Lumbering Employees Trust Fund-Lisa Schreckengost
11:00 AM Discussion Bilingual Stipend-Shelley Keitzman
11:30 AM Briefing Among Commissioners
1:30 PM Discussion-Policy/Special Funding Lodging Tax Advisory Committee OCTC
2:30 PM Discussion ARPA Reporting-Commissioners
3:30 PM Discussion Developmental Disabilities-Commissioner Branch

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 10, 2023 with; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Deputy Clerk of the Board, Crystal Hawley, present.

AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch attended via zoom.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

The commissioners reviewed their agenda and consent agenda

Commissioner Hover explained he would like to have an executive session under ongoing litigations at 11:30 with the Planning Director and Tadas Kisielius. Commissioner Branch was concerned that Esther, the county Chief Deputy would not be there for the session, but Commissioner Hover reassured him that she already knew what it was about and she was fine with it.

Commissioner Branch explained that Branda Matson DSHS emailed him and asked if the County would contract directly with Developmental Disabilities Administration.

Typically, Washington state contracts directly with the Counties per RCW 71A.14 who administer Employment & Day services to eligible clients at the local level. They have not approached Okanogan County in a longtime regarding the willingness to contract directly with the state but would like to ask the question now. They would like to know if Okanogan County is interested in directly contracting with the Developmental Disabilities Administration for Employment and Day services that are in the midst expanding? FY 2022 contract in Okanogan was roughly \$368,000 for administration, direct and indirect consumer supports.

With new legislation this year, services targeting students their last year of school are expected to expand statewide. SB 5790 legislation: DSHS must establish a School to Work Program in all counties in the state to connect IDD students who are receiving high school transition services to supported employment services. DSHS must establish regional interagency transition networks and a statewide council to oversee these networks. The statewide council must develop common guidelines and goals across regional interagency transition networks to ensure IDD students Senate Bill Report - 2 - SSB 5790 leaving the school system have equitable access to system

52 navigation and services. The regional interagency transition networks must include
53 representatives from schools, counties, DDA, DVR, service providers, community members, and
54 students and families, and annually report their progress to the statewide council. The statewide
55 council must also establish a referral and information system for connecting IDD students who
56 are transitioning from high school to services and agencies that support the needs of adults with
57 IDD. When establishing the statewide council, DSHS must collaborate with counties administering
58 supported employment services and state agencies working with students with IDD.

59
60 Commissioner Branch asked the other commissioners if they had been receiving these emails
61 regarding the develop and disabilities issue. Commissioners Neal explained that he was and
62 asked if they are wanting the county to be the one to administer. Commissioner Branch thought
63 that is what their approach was.

64
65 Commissioner Branch thought it would be a good idea for the commissioners to have a meeting
66 with them to explain that the county doesn't have the compacity to administer Employment & Day
67 services to eligible clients at the local level. He would be curious to know what the county's option
68 were if they didn't accept it.

69
70 **Public Comment Period**

71 There was no public comment

72
73 Commissioner Branch explained, Washington State's Cannabis Authority has put a handful of
74 marijuana licensees on "administrative hold" as it investigates pesticide contamination in the soil
75 of a specific area of Okanogan County. Cannabis that is concentrated into oils may subsequently
76 concentrate any contamination by five to ten-fold. The Board has also requested lists of all
77 products distributed since August 2022 from all licensees in the affected area.

78 The LCB is acquiring and testing on-shelf products from all 18 licensees in the geographical
79 region, and will request licensee-initiated recalls for any products with DDE levels above
80 actionable limits.

81
82 There have been serval growers that have reached out to commissioner Branch with complaints
83 it is affecting their sales.

84
85 Commissioner Neal thought it was baffling to him that if the soil is contaminated, why it wasn't
86 contaminated in the water supply. Commissioner Branch explained that anything that is in the soil
87 eventually goes in the water.

88
89 Commissioner Neal said that in the north end of the county, the biggest concentrations residuals
90 are nitrates.

91
92 **Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

93 Emergency Management, Maurice Goodall, Maintenance Manager, Joe Poulin were present

94
95 Maintenance Department

96 Joe Poulin provided the commissioners portable heat pump quotes and discussed different
97 options. Mr. Poulin explained the pros and cons of purchasing the units. After discussion the
98 commissioners asked if Mr. Poulin to get more quotes.

99
100 Planning Department

101 Planning director, Pete Palmer, provided the commissioners her department update. Her
102 department had an opportunity to meet with the grow operation tin the county. They have gone

103 through their first trail run of the annual fees that was just implemented this year. The Planning
104 Department held mandatory meetings that was held last fall, through this spring. 62 cannabis
105 growers out of 77 came to the meeting. Which 8 that did not attend and 7 that did not comply to
106 anything.

107
108 Ms. Palmer explained 53 out of 77 growers paid their yearly fees. 24 cannabis growers that didn't
109 return their annual registrations and 17 were at the mandatory meeting. Ms. Palmer would like to
110 get permission to move forward to give them another opportunity to come meet with the Planning
111 Department and pay the annual registration fee. And then move forward to pull their license if
112 they don't comply.

113
114 Ms. Palmer looked through the SEPA handbook to see if the county would need SEPA on all of
115 the CODE changes. After review, the county would only need to use SEPA if the changes that
116 reflect the environment.

117
118 Emergency Management
119 Emergency manager, Maurice Goodall, provided his department update. There will be a pre-fire
120 conference/meeting that he will be heading to later that day.

121
122 Emergency Management Specialist, Lori Caswell and Mr. Goodall will be going to Yakima this
123 coming Thursday to discussed the news alert system. They will be going over different notification
124 processes, including by-lingual notifications.

125
126 April 14, 2023 at 7:00 A.M. will be the first Fire Advisory Committee meeting. After discussion,
127 Commissioner Neal will start joining these meetings.

128
129 Mr. Goodall explained there will be a flood meeting next week.

130
131 Fairgrounds
132 Commissioner Hover informed Fairground's Manager, Naomie Peasley of all that was all on the
133 agenda during the FAC meeting last Thursday. Esther looked over the queen's draft contract and
134 everything looked legal. Brock will be looking at the details the signer wanted and Esther will be
135 reviewing the contract.

136
137 Ms. Peasley asked the commissioners if they have any more thoughts into the school discounts
138 or if there was a resolution drafted.

139
140 Commissioner Hover thought it would be nice to have all of the schools have a reduction of 50%
141 of the current rate when renting the fairgrounds. After discussion, Commissioner Neal wanted to
142 make sure it would be okay with the auditor before making anything final.

143
144 All of the trees have been planted at the Fairgrounds.

145
146 Ms. Peasley explained that she has 18 events this month at the fairgrounds and 21 next month.

147
148 Commissioner Neal asked if they were able to get the extra coating on the floors. Ms. Peasley
149 said yes and that the floors look great!

150
151 Commissioner Hover read Resolution 47.2023 to the other commissioners

152
153

154 **Motion- Resolution 47.2023**

155 Commissioner Hover moved to approve Resolution 47-2023 replacing the Okanogan Public
156 Health District charter adopted by Resolution 100-2022 and in accordance with the Revised Code
157 of Washington State 70.46.031. Motion was seconded. All were not in favor. After discussion,
158 motion failed.

159

160 **Fairgrounds/Lumbering Employees Trust Fund-Lisa Schreckengost**

161 Lisa Schreckengost, explained that Naomie was looking money for stalls. Fairgrounds/Lumbering
162 Employees Trust Fund \$126,371 and Boots and Saddle is donating \$30,000. Ms. Hall and Ms.
163 Schreckengost was looking into the local assistance and tribal consistency fund 172 and thought
164 the county could take some money out of that fund or another one would be the investment budget
165 in current expense. They had budgeted \$500,000 for the year, but the county has already received
166 \$540,000.

167 Commissioner Hover said that when he talked to Cari, she thought that the commissioners should
168 create a resolution showing how the Lumbering Employees Trust Fund was formed and the
169 history of the fund to utilize the funds appropriately.

170

171 After discussion, the commissioners would like to see the projected interest amount of the
172 Contingency Fund form the auditor's office.

173

174 The commissioners asked if Ms. Schreckengost to look into Okanogan County Schools getting a
175 discount of 50% of the fee schedule, outside of the poor and infirm and let the commissioners
176 know.

177

178 **Motion- Resolution 47.2023**

179 Commissioner Hover moved to approve Resolution 47-2023 replacing the Okanogan Public
180 Health District charter adopted by Resolution 100-2022 and in accordance with the Revised Code
181 of Washington State 70.46.031. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. After discussion, motion
182 was carried.

183

184 **Discussion Bilingual Stipend-Shelley Keitzman**

185 Risk Manager/HR Director, Shelley Keitzman explained that Arturo Ramirez Ramos, a Probation
186 Counselor for District Court has obtained the necessary certification and providing bilingual
187 services is necessary to carry out his job duties. Ms. Keitzman would like him to receive the
188 \$125.00 per month for Bilingual Stipend Pay.

189

190 Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Keitzman to do a MOA with ASME to add the bilingual stipend
191 pay for District Court employees.

192

193 **Briefing Among Commissioners**

194 The commissioners discussed the pros and cons of allowing ATVs on the county roads.

195 Commissioner Branch explained that there has been a lot of comments and thinks they need to
196 look at discussing

197 Preform SEPA

198

199 **Executive Session**

200 Commissioner Hover moved to go into Executive Session under 42.30.110 1(i) for potential
201 litigations for 30 minutes at 11:30 inviting Planning Director, Pete Palmer and Tadas Kisielius.

202 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

203 Commissioners extended executive session at 12:00 for another 10 minutes.

204 Commissioners extended executive session at 12:10 p.m. for another 10 minutes.

205 Commissioners extended executive session at 12:20 for another 10 minutes.

206

207 Executive session ended at 12:24 p.m. no decisions were made.

208

209 Commissioners recessed for lunch at 12:25 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

210

211 **Discussion-Policy/Special Funding Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Okanogan County**
212 **Tourism Council**

213

214 Don explained that fundamentally LTAC to address these four issues:

215

216 • Okanogan County LTAC receives very poor or no data on visitors to VICs in the county.

217

218 • VIC Staff and Volunteers feel like they must interrogate visitors to try to collect information
219 required for reporting visitor numbers to LTAC. Often, it's the only part of the job they
220 don't do because it's uncomfortable.

221

222 • VICs have a wide range of online presence from good to very bad and there is an
223 inconsistency in how VICs credit LTAC or promote unincorporated lodging and events in
224 the entire county

225

226 • The VICs only capture a small and yet undetermined percentage of the visitors to each
227 town. We are missing out on the majority of the visitor data and cannot make wise
228 investment decisions without this critical information.

229

230 Commissioner Hover read the following RCW 67.28 and explained that the LTAC meeting talked
231 about having the VICs get computers.

232

233 Commissioner Branch would like to make sure that the LTAC funds can be used for computers
234 so down the road it becoming a problem.

235

236 Commissioner Hover asked Jen to explain what her thoughts with working with the VICs. She
237 explained that the LTAC will purchase appropriate tablets and stands, with "Kiosk control"
238 software from an LTAC-approved local vendor and enter into an annual maintenance agreement
239 with said vendor to install and maintain the computer kiosks. At the time of purchase, an expected
240 life expectancy for the hardware and software will be noted and appropriate upgrade schedules
241 will be identified for needs for future years. Life expectancy expected to be between 4 and 6 years
242 per Kiosk Tablet. They would use a program called Datafy.

243 Datafy is a program that takes real-time visitor data based off of cell phone location, that is
244 anonymized and available to allow us to see visitors to specific places (POIs) or by clusters (all
245 hotels, for example, or all parks, or all VICs) and let us understand what people are doing and
246 where they are going. We can also see where they come from (their 'home towns') and where
247 else they like to visit (for example, people from Bellingham that also have visited Mt Rainier in the
248 last three year). This data also uses onboard data (if available) from leased or owned vehicles
249 traveling to our county, as well as credit card spending data in-county.

250 With Datafy, OCTC can see when and where people are visiting, where they are coming from and
251 where else they like to travel. They can also see state-level data because of the SWT partnership.

252

253 Once they are using Datafy, they can quickly derive data-driven audiences for events by season,
254 points of interest, specific dates and/or specific stakeholders. They can also easily do hyper-
255 targeted ad campaigns that reach the right markets precisely, which means spending less money
256 to reach the right people. They can then measure campaign success by optimizing performance
257 over time and tracking in-market attribution with clear ROI.

258
259 The commissioners explained that the LTAC does not have a midpoint season application in their
260 policy. The DMO would have to submit a proposal to the LTAC and then they would purpose it to
261 the commissioners for the computers.

262
263 The State Auditor's Office interprets the law to mean that all users of lodging tax funds, including
264 municipalities, are considered applicants and must follow the relevant application procedures. So,
265 if cities or counties are seeking to use the funds directly, the city/county should submit applications
266 for their own projects to the legislative body or LTAC for consideration.

267
268 Commissioner Hover explained that it would be nice if the DMO could reach out to all the VICs
269 and asking them to ask for funds for the computers. The LTAC committee has taking a huge
270 interest in promoting and there has been too much promoting in the Methow area, but not in the
271 center and north part of the county.

272
273 **Discussion ARPA Reporting-Commissioners**

274 The commissioners discussed the process for the ARPA reporting and went over the request that
275 was allocated money.

276 Commissioner Branch was having website issues and explained that they would have to revisit
277 the site at a later date.

278 The commissioners would like they county's contractor and

279

280

281 The board adjourned at 3:35 p.m.