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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**APRIL 16, 2024**

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<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Review Meeting Minutes- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Public Comment Period</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer Pam Johnson</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Exit Conference-Methow Valley EMS District Audit w/ Cmr Hover, COB</b>
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Commissioners to set Wednesday Agenda by 1:30 PM, if needed</b>
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Update-Building Department-Dan Higbee</b>
<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>Update-Noxious Weed-Larry Hudson</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Discussion-BECCA Bill-Dennis Rabidou</b>
<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>Approve Consent Agenda</b>

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19 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
20 North, Okanogan, Washington on April 16, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner Jon Neal;  
21 Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Chris Branch; and the  
22 Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

23  
24 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

25  
26 **Review Meeting Minutes- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

27 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes and made some corrections.

28  
29 Commissioner Hover discussed two acquisition projects of RCO's application #24-1823  
30 Pearygin Lake State Park Yockey Property. (attached)

31  
32 **Public Comment Period**

33 Mrs. Jackson via zoom discussed her thoughts that drug users not be able to rent from  
34 Housing Authorities, we need to know who are users of the system and who isn't. Housing  
35 Authority apartments are still being used to make meth. We need more boots on the ground.

36  
37 Ruth Hall had no comment.

38  
39 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

40 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 8 and April 9, 2024 as  
41 corrected. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

42  
43 Commissioners discussed the new SLRF clarifications on obligation of ARPA Funds.  
44 (attached)

45  
46 The Clerk of the Board was asked to contact TD&H about negotiations for civil engineering  
47 for the Fairgrounds water safety project.

51 **Motion Use of County Logo Food Systems Assessment**

52 Commissioner Branch moved to allow Maria Hines with Blue Sky Minds to use the County's  
53 Logo as a partner in the development of the food system assessment and on her website and  
54 report. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

55 Commissioners discussed a fee waiver request from The Support Center for use of the Annex  
56 and kitchen on September 16 & 17, 2024. Commissioner Neal would like clarification of what  
57 the event was for.

58

59 **Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer Pam Johnson**

60 Treasurer Pam Johnson, Finance Manager Lisa Schreckengost

61

62 Treasurer Johnson provided today's agenda and the group discussed the items listed there.

63

64 The group went over the cash on hand report and investments for the month of March.

65

66 Interest rate is about 5.5%, but in September it is expected to drop. The revenue and  
67 expenditure reports were reviewed. The tax statements have gone out and tax revenue is  
68 starting to come in. This time of year, is consistent with the time of year.

69

70 Commissioner Hover asked what the revenue generated by the Jail and Prosecutor's office  
71 was for. It is usually grant billings. The numbers for public defense standards calculator are  
72 being gathered from the public defense office to understand the budget impact.

73

74 Commissioner Hover is concerned about the Public Health's ability to spend their \$1 million-  
75 dollar ARPA allocation. In light of Health we should look at the guidelines to ensure  
76 understanding of the timelines.

77

78 Aeneas Lake Irrigation was discussed, they pulled \$40,000 from savings and had some  
79 revenue come in to help pull down their past due invoice. There are two invoices with 2021  
80 owing, said Treasurer Johnson. The oldest years are paid first. The next meeting with the  
81 district is July 2.

82

83 LATCF investments were discussed.

84

85 **Motion Authorize Commissioner Chris Branch to Sign Janssen Settlement Participation**

86 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Commissioner Branch as the commissioner on the  
87 opioid settlement form to sign exhibit B to participate in the Janssen Opioid settlement lawsuit.  
88 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

89

90 **Motion Authorize Commissioner Jon Neal to Sign OPD Grant**

91 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the Chairman Jon Neal to sign the program funding  
92 agreement between WA ST Office of Public Defense for Simple Possession advocacy and  
93 Representation (SPAR) Program Funding in the amount of \$23, 075. Motion was seconded,  
94 all were in favor, motion carried.

95

96 **Motion Directing Clerk of the Board to Draft Letter of Support**

97 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board draft a letter of support for the  
98 Washington State Recreation Commission Grant application #24-1823 ACQ for the Pearygin  
99 Lake state Park acquisition

100 **Motion Directing Clerk of the Board to Draft Letter of Support**  
101 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft a letter of support for the  
102 Town of Twisp application to RCO WWRP grant to purchase of the “Mill Hill”. Motion was  
103 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

104  
105  
106 **Motion Re Appointment Justin Delfino TV District #3**  
107 Commissioner Branch moved to authorize the letter of re appoint Justin Delfino to position #1  
108 on the Television District #1 board of directors. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
109 carried.

110  
111 **Motion Resolution 59-2024 Grounds Keeper**  
112 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 59-2024 increasing the grounds keeper  
113 from .50FTE up to .75FTE. Commissioners discussed the budget impact and how the variable  
114 time would work. Motion was seconded.

115  
116 **Motion Acknowledging David Asia Methow Water**  
117 Commissioner Branch moved to acknowledge David Asia to At-large position #6 on the  
118 Methow Watershed Council.

119  
120 **Motion ARPA A19 Request #11 Equipment**  
121 Commissioner Branch moved to authorize the chairman to sign the ARPA request #11 for  
122 Equipment in the amount of \$827.08. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

123  
124 **Motion ARPA A19 Request #9 Food Crisis**  
125 Commissioner Branch moved to authorize the chairman to sign the ARPA request #9 Food  
126 Crisis in the amount of \$7,539.31. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

127  
128 **Motion CDBG Public Service Grant A19 Request #21**  
129 Commissioner Branch moved to approve CDBG Public Service Grant A19 Request #21 for  
130 February in the amount of \$4,309.75 and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was  
131 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

132  
133 **Motion Methow Valley EMS District Letter of Representations**  
134 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley  
135 EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

136  
137 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow  
138 Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$1,700 for the State Audit costs for  
139 January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
140 carried.

141  
142 Commissioner Branch moved to authorize the Methow Valley EMS District Letter of  
143 Representations for the audit period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Motion  
144 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

145  
146 Commissioner Branch moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene  
147 as the BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

148

149 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**  
150 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and  
151 those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been  
152 recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by  
153 unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$830,965.96 and Payroll  
154 vouchers in the amount of \$1,230,960.22. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket  
155 voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

156  
157 **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

158 Engineer Josh Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

159  
160 Commissioner Branch discussed a location for the informational kiosks at Loomis that were  
161 proposed to be paid from county LTAC funds. A municipality must own or operate the location.  
162 The Loomis community center is leased to the fire department. Engineer Thomson said the  
163 community center is leased to the fire department. He noticed there were some informational  
164 signs focused towards Palmer Lake and the signs are nice and would be good to preserve.  
165 The north side of the road would be a better spot and more visible and offers better access  
166 and parking. Commissioner Branch will discuss with Dale Swedburg for the consideration.  
167 RCW 67.28.1817 was reviewed. A perpetual easement to the county and an agreement to  
168 operate the property for the purpose of maintaining the kiosk was discussed.

169  
170 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

171 Engineer Thomson stated the focus is road grading, with about two weeks of work. The rock  
172 fall on Chesaw creek road was discussed.

173  
174 Road vacation lost river tracks contingent on payment, that has happened so recording will  
175 proceed.

176  
177 *STBG Funds*

178 Met yesterday with DOT and chip seal project signed last week we will hit our OA project limit.  
179 It might be better to use the federal exchange funds for those preservation projects in the  
180 future. He will meet with the cities to identify use of the funds.

181  
182 Engineer Thomson discussed the Durapatcher equipment purchase agreement in the amount  
183 of \$122,000 was on the consent agenda. A budget supplemental will be needed.

184  
185 **Approve Consent Agenda**

186 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-14 as presented. Motion  
187 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 188 1. Grant Agreement-ARPA Funding Critical Direct Services Program-Room One
- 189 2. Purchase Approval-P2 Durapatcher-Special Asphalt, Sorceland Contract
- 190 3. Project Plans, Provisions, Specifications Approval-Loomis-Oroville Rd Drainage Project
- 191 4. Inadvertent Discovery Plan-Fairgrounds Capital Project
- 192 5. Parcel Consolidation-269 Railroad Ave, Okanogan-City of Okanogan
- 193 6. Letter of Appointment-Board of Equalization-Mikal Thornton
- 194 7. ARPA Req#9-Technical Assistance-Economic Alliance
- 195 8. Photo Release Forms-CGI Digital-Commissioners
- 196 9. Contract-Radio Network Consultant-2<sup>nd</sup> Addendum ADCOMM Engineering
- 197 10. Contract-24-016 LTAC Capital Improvements-Okanogan County Tourism Council

- 198 11. Contract-24-017 LTAC Operations-Okanogan County Tourism Council  
199 12. Contract-24-018 LTAC DMO Amendment 2-Okanogan County Tourism Council  
200 13. Resolution 58-2024-PUD Privilege Tax Payments 2024-Okanogan & Douglas County  
201 PUD  
202 14. Resolution 60-2024-Reclassifying Administrative Secretary Pos.-Commissioners Office  
203

204 The Clerk of the Board asked the commissioners what their thoughts were on officially  
205 adopting the Housing Coalition as the county's Housing Task force. She explained a portion  
206 of the county's recording fees gets peeled off to the Dept of Commerce for disbursement. The  
207 county has access to the funds if it meets its performance measures of its homeless housing  
208 plan goals. She thought it would benefit the county to have the group official and that way  
209 they can adopt guidelines about how they consider their funding recommendations to the  
210 commissioners and be officially involved with the county's 5-year homeless housing plan. The  
211 Clerk said she had already started the conversation with some of the coalition members. The  
212 commissioners felt that the county would be better prepared to accept its portion of the  
213 county's recording fees that are submitted to Commerce once the county meets its  
214 performance goals.

215  
216 Commissioner Neal recessed for lunch.

217  
218 **Exit Conference-Methow Valley EMS District Audit-Commissioner Hover/Clerk of the Board**  
219 Commissioner Hover and the Clerk of the Board met with Kathleen Lince with the State  
220 Auditor's Office at 1:00 p.m. to go over the Methow Valley EMS District audit.

221  
222 **Commissioners to set Wednesday Agenda by 1:30 PM, if needed**  
223 No meeting was set.

224  
225 Commissioner Neal clarified that the Support Center request for waiver for the Agriplex for a  
226 luncheon conference for networking purposes. Commissioner Hover said if they were serving  
227 people in need that would be different. If it was an activity that less fortunate people were  
228 attending that would be an acceptable waiver. Commissioner Branch said if the assumption  
229 was that it was a gathering for people to eat lunch to coordinate services that help  
230 disadvantaged people or a fund raiser. Commissioner Branch would like to understand if it  
231 fits the criteria and will reach out to Margo Amelong.

232  
233 **Motion Sign Proclamation Housing Crisis**  
234 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Proclamation that the homeless crisis in  
235 Okanogan County be elevated to a level of critical proportions and calls for county and  
236 municipal elected officials and community leaders to help address the crisis by joining  
237 together to create and implement a long-term plan for year-round homeless sheltering and  
238 attainable low-income housing in Okanogan County. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,  
239 motion carried.

240  
241 **Call for Bids Loomis-Oroville Drainage Project**  
242 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Call for Bids for the CRP No. 9425-26 for the  
243 Loomis-Oroville Road Drainage Project. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
244 carried.

245  
246

247 **Update-Building Department-Dan Higbee**

248 Building Official Dan Higbee provided the building department update. The quarterly report  
249 for 2024 was handed out. This spring has been busier than usual because of the building  
250 code change. It has slowed down and will level off.

251  
252 Larry plans to end his employment in July once he runs out his annual leave. Jeff is up to  
253 snuff and ready to go for the transition. Larry will be taking on the Town of Twisp. Then the  
254 only full-time town will be Riverside.

255  
256 We are getting closer to going live with the new program on the building side. Still working on  
257 the coding and data migration. Sounded like planning is already there, but it is hard to say  
258 right now if more work is needed once it goes live to the public or in house. The company  
259 was sold again still using the Smart Gov program, but his understanding through the different  
260 companies, the part we liked about the company disappeared with Planning working on  
261 getting that part back.

262  
263 Commissioner Hover asked about the budget and got an answer regarding costs. There will  
264 be some savings due to retirement.

265 The board discussed nightly rental rules versus residential rules regarding swimming pools  
266 and barrier requirements. A scenario discussed was a residential home is later rented out on  
267 a nightly basis and the standard has to be upgraded to meet the nightly rental requirements  
268 because of a change in use.

269  
270 The 180-day thing is that if the home is available to rent for more than 180 days they required  
271 to have a sprinkler system. The state building code council provided an interpretation that it  
272 can go either way.

273  
274 **Update-Noxious Weed-Larry Hudson**

275 Noxious Weed Office Manager Larry Hudson provided the noxious weed department update.

276  
277 The Okanogan County Weed Area Management meeting with all the agencies in the county  
278 and they came up with a few ideas to incorporate in the county. Cheat grass control ideas in  
279 landscapes was discussed. Chemicals were discussed that do not affect annual grasses that  
280 are designed for areas that start getting invaded with Cheat grass, and do not affect perennial  
281 grasses. These treatments are good for fire impacted areas. Hoping to get grants to assist  
282 with public and private lands.

283  
284 Another thing is the idea for certified weed free gravel in Okanogan County. Currently no  
285 requirements for this and much of the gravel has weed seeds in it. The weed board would  
286 like to set something up with the support of the county for this for public agency road projects  
287 in the county. Commissioner Hover discussed Pig weed and how that would be certified when  
288 the seeds are in the dirt. It would take observation to see it growing there. Commissioner  
289 Hover said for him to buy in on it he would like to see data that the gravel is creating a weed  
290 issue. He would also like to know how much it's going to cost the county and private sector.  
291 He doesn't see many weeds right now growing on gravel piles and pits. Commissioner Branch  
292 said conceptually we treat the gravel at the pit instead of miles and miles of road. He agrees  
293 with Commissioner Hover and would be interested in where this is already implemented.

294

295 Hoping to start a drone program that would entail a licensed drone flyer to survey for weeds,  
296 and another that would treat weeds in rugged terrain. It would be more of an assistance to  
297 landowners that request this option not used to discover weeds. Mr. Hudson said he can see  
298 weed spraying with drones going in this direction. A private company would be preferred, but  
299 land applicators are very few. Grants would be used to purchase the spray drones. Thermal  
300 technology is being used elsewhere to identify and survey for weeds.

301  
302 Osoyoos Lake Management District surveying prior to treatment in late June with treatments  
303 to follow in July. Looking at a community meeting the week following in July to provide  
304 information to the landowners. There will also be Aquatic plant identification training will be  
305 scheduled as well. It will be about a six-hour training with three hours inside and three in the  
306 field.

307  
308 Spectacle lake is looking at a different application in the lake for milfoil and Mr. Hudson will  
309 meet with their lake management people. Commissioner Neal would like to attend the  
310 meeting. Bureau of Rec is working on a contract to provide \$25,000 cash assistance to help  
311 the lake weed management and they plan to do some surveying of waters in the county.  
312 Conconully Lake and the reservoir will be provided \$15,000 each and \$10,000 on the mouth  
313 of the river and want to provide the same level of funding each year after and may increase  
314 as needed.

315  
316 Pesticide calibration training for sprayers and will be free of charge May 16 at the fairgrounds  
317 parking lot.

318  
319 **CANCELLED Discussion-BECCA Bill-Dennis Rabidou**

320  
321  
322 The board adjourned at 2:58 p.m.