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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**APRIL 20, 2021**

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9:15 AM Commissioners Staff Meeting  
10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer McCormack  
10:30 AM Discussion Okanogan Regional Humane Request for ARP Funds-Commissioner Branch  
11:00 AM Updated Public Works- Josh Thomson  
1:30 PM Public Comment Period  
2:00 PM Update Building Department-Dan Higbee  
2:30 PM Update Noxious Weed Dept-Larry Hudson  
3:00 PM Public Hearing Petition on Dog Control Zone Oroville W Lake Area  
4:00 PM Approve Commissioner Proceedings April 12 & April 13, 2021  
4:35 PM Approve Consent Agenda

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19 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North,  
20 Okanogan, Washington on April 20, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-  
21 Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the  
22 Board, Laleña Johns, present.

23  
24 AV Capture provided audio and video of the meetings held today, while ZOOM provided best audio  
25 accessibility and public interaction.

26  
27 **Commissioners Staff Meeting**

28 Prosecutor Bailey, Lisa Schreckengost, Karen Beatty, Pete Palmer, Dan Higbee, Naomie Peasley,  
29 Joe Poulin

30  
31 Prosecutor Bailey explained her request was to purchase new laptops for her department. The  
32 current computers have become obsolete, are extremely slow, freeze often and require multiple  
33 restarts throughout the day. They have not been replaced since 2015 are at end of life cycle. The  
34 computers affect productivity both in and out of court. Ms. Beatty said it will take a couple weeks to  
35 order eight of them. The final price would be around \$14,000.

36  
37 **Motion Laptop Purchase Prosecutor's office**

38 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Central Services to purchase the lap top computers for  
39 the Prosecutor's office not to exceed \$15,000 to be paid from the Equipment Reserve fund. Motion  
40 was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

41  
42 A budget supplemental will be needed for Equipment Reserve fund. The laptops will be ordered  
43 today, said Ms. Beatty.

44  
45 Ms. Beatty stated she has been unsuccessful in obtaining additional bids for the UPS project since  
46 most people are too busy. Kruse Electric was the only bid obtained it was for \$8,364.31. She asked  
47 if she could move ahead with the project.

48  
49 **Motion Purchase Approval**

50 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the use of Kruse Electric for the UPS backups to panels  
51 in the amount of \$8,364.31. Motion seconded. Commissioner Branch asked that any additional  
52 evidence supporting who was called and who was unresponsive be given to the Clerk of the Board  
53 for the record. All were in favor, motion carried.

54  
55 Pete Palmer updated the board on the Planning Department. She obtained additional bids from  
56 businesses that provide records retention. Demonstrations are scheduled for Monday and Friday

57 of the various proposed software purchases. Commissioners will be here at 8: a.m. on Monday for  
58 the Dude demo and at 2:00 p.m. on Friday for the water meter demo.

59  
60 Critical Areas ordinance is out for public comment and a public hearing will be scheduled after the  
61 April 26<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission.

62  
63 Commissioner Hover asked about the grading and clearing rules. He commented that he sees many  
64 roads punched into steep hillsides with switchbacks and a fire truck cannot be turned around. He  
65 respects private property rights but find it hard to say build a road that a fire truck cannot use. A  
66 single track becomes the only way in and out. Tearing up the side of hillsides is another thing. He  
67 wants to be careful of the nuances. The zoning code is going to be really important. When the  
68 commissioners get it they would like time to review prior to public hearing.

69  
70 Dan Higbee updated the board on the Building Department. He introduced Cas Robbins as the  
71 newest member of the department. He won't be able to attend his update later today, due to a  
72 personal emergency. Will meet with Winthrop tomorrow regarding their inspection needs as Randy  
73 Taylor is taking on that work.

74  
75 Naomie Peasley updated the board on several items. Video footage on the security Old drive for  
76 the prior security system. Commissioners said follow the retention schedule. Tuesday through  
77 Friday Ms. Peasley will be on vacation. Ms. Cunningham will be filling in for her. Complaints about  
78 the track not being worked lately were relayed. The old water truck needs work before it can be  
79 used and the new water truck must be purchased. There are 59 waivers signed with six different  
80 owners. They are training their horses to prepare for various relay races this year.

81  
82 The surplus left overs can be disposed of now that the deadline is past.

83  
84 The Lumbering Trust funds are going to be used for a racehorse barn. Ms. Peasley has been  
85 meeting with the tribe about the race track facilities. Would an interlocal agreement between the  
86 county and tribe for use of the track and facilities be interested in looking into that kind of scenario.  
87 Commissioner Branch and DeTro said yes. Commissioner Hover was encouraged to attend a Tribal  
88 Council meeting regarding such an arrangement. Team Penners and Boots and Saddle club are  
89 also involved. A Safety Grant is being applied for to cover safety costs.

90  
91 Joe Poulin provided his maintenance update.

92  
93 **Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer McCormack**

94 Lisa Schreckengost, Larry Gilman

95  
96 Treasurer McCormack provided her finance committee reports. Cash on Hand reports were  
97 discussed. Expense and revenue summary was reviewed. Tax revenue trends were discussed.  
98 Infrastructure funds are due to distressed county. Our county is getting a lot more sales tax  
99 revenue and how does that get calculated for the distressed county income. There is a threshold  
100 that when reached may take us out of the distressed county category. The county is doing pretty  
101 good, right now. Commissioner Hover said the upfits for the Sheriff vehicles in addition to the  
102 vehicles is in vehicle reserve. Additional funds will need to be transferred to pay for the upfits and  
103 vehicles in the amount of \$224,000 5/10-5/14.

104  
105 **Motion Move Funds Vehicle Reserve**

106 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the treasurer to move \$224,000 from current expense to  
107 vehicle reserve fund 197 specifically for Sheriff. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion  
108 carried.

109  
110 Larry Gilman and Charleen Groomes

111  
112 Larry Gilman discussed the previous request to increase the Chief Deputy salary. A salary study  
113 was provided. The target goal was 85% of the elected official salary for the four chief deputies.  
114 The overall cost to the budget is about \$30,700 per year. The Chief Deputies have the same  
115 responsibilities as the elected official when the elected official is gone. By RCW they would take  
116 assume the responsibilities in the elected official's absence. They do not assume the lawsuits but  
117 they do control the rest and can legally make the same decisions as the elected officials. The  
118 parody is kept between the elected officials and their chief deputies and who they supervise.

119  
120 Commissioner Hover said with the liability those offices take on it is reasonable. The contracts  
121 are pushing up against the wages. There are three other positions involved in the last resolution  
122 that grouped the deputies. The Clerk of the Board does manage the grants and provides a high  
123 level of administration and manages the office.

124  
125 **Motion Chief Deputies Assessor, Auditor, Treasurer and Clerk**  
126 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to create a resolution setting the chief  
127 deputies salary auditor clerk assessor and treasurer at 85% of the elected officials' salary first pay  
128 period in June. Motion was seconded, Commissioner Branch abstained, Commissioner Hover  
129 and Commissioner DeTro were in favor, motion carried.

130  
131 Tanya Craig was updated with the above direction. Can she do a thorough salary survey for Clerk  
132 of the Board Chief Civil Deputy and District Court Administrator. Each county there are differences  
133 between Clerk of the Board and Chief Civil Deputy. Only three counties have grant administrators.

134  
135 **Motion Resolution 47-2021 RCOI Authorization to Apply for Grant Project No 21-1183**  
136 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 47-2021 authorizing the Chairman to act on  
137 behalf of Okanogan County with regards to the Mazama Bridge Habitat Acquisition project 21-  
138 1183. Motion was seconded, Commissioner Branch abstained, Commissioner Hover and  
139 Commissioner DeTro in favor, motion carried.

140  
141 **Discussion Okanogan Regional Humane Request for ARP Funds-Commissioner Branch**  
142 Commissioners discussed the request of the Okanogan Regional Humane for \$500,000 of  
143 American Rescue Plan funds to pay off their mortgage. The board thought it would be best to  
144 direct them to Economic Alliance to learn where the funds needed to support their mortgage could  
145 come from. Commissioners thought a conversation beforehand with Economic Alliance to  
146 understand their program and needs.

147  
148 **Updated Public Works- Josh Thomson**  
149 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there. (attached)

150  
151 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*  
152 Crushing at the Miller Pit is going slow due to the gradation needed. There is a lot of by-product  
153 we can use on the haul road.

154  
155 *Levee Conditions*  
156 Looked at the levees on the Methow river and they look good. Additional levees were looked at  
157 they are holding well. Photos were taken for reference.

158  
159 *Old 97 Driskell to Verestar -Start May 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
160 Granite has a very vigorous schedule and will start May 3<sup>rd</sup> and plan to finish before the end of  
161 June-good for cherry harvest.

162  
163 *Consent Agenda Items.*  
164 Commissioners had no questions on the items listed on the consent agenda.

165 River levels are just above average.

166

167 Commissioners adjourned for lunch at 11:10 a.m.

168

169 **Public Comment Period**

170 Commissioner Branch asked if the public in attendance wished to provide public comments. No  
171 one wished to comment today.

172

173 **CANCELLED Update Building Department-Dan Higbee**

174

175 **Update Noxious Weed Dept-Larry Hudson**

176 Larry Hudson explained the process to fill his open positions. The Department has not received  
177 adequate applications. If more staff is not found, then the hours of the office will need to be  
178 adjusted to 3-4 days per week so staff can be in the field. Commissioner Branch suggested some  
179 placing flyers like at the NRCS office to get the word out.

180

181 There is \$12,000 left of Title II funds to assist land owners with Hoary Alyssum on their property.  
182 Funding from Forest Service to hire applicators to take care of weeds in the forest. Last he heard  
183 it was only \$5,000. A little over \$17,000 from BLM for several riparian areas along the river to  
184 clean it up. Funding for the Palmer Fire \$10,000 to assist landowners with mandatory weed  
185 control. Conservation District has funds too for weed control and reseeding in the fire areas. Tribal  
186 contract for treatments on the reservation \$70,000 this year and next. There is about \$5,000 for  
187 DNR weed control. There is also funding through State Parks for Alta Lake and Bridgeport state  
188 park treatments. Land owner contracts went out for commercial treatments to line up the work  
189 for the applicators.

190

191 An aquatics update was given. Just got permit approved and added Okanogan River and Salmon  
192 Lake to the list. Treatments are contingent upon receiving funding. Met with Lake Osoyoos Lake  
193 Management district about the herbicide chemicals and received information for another  
194 chemical. A Demo will be shown of the Proselecure. One of their concerns was the process for  
195 appealing the assessment. One thing they requested was in stead of a per parcel assessment it  
196 be a per landowner assessment. Commissioner Hover said the board has addressed the appeals  
197 received so far. Sending an email to the Planning Office to appeal/contest the assessment isn't  
198 very onerous. The county holds a public hearing once the appeals period is over to make the  
199 decision and provide time for public comment.

200

201 **Approve Commissioner Proceedings April 12 & April 13, 2021**

202 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the commissioners' proceedings of April 12 and April 13,  
203 2021. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

204

205 **Approve Consent Agenda**

206 Commissioner DeTro moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-7 as presented. Motion was  
207 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

208

1. Agreement-Project Materials-Driskell to Verestar Project-N. Central Testing

209

2. Purchase Approval-Weed Spray Materials-Washington St. Bid

210

3. Interlocal Agreement Building Inspection Services-Town of Winthrop

211

4. Acknowledge Fairgrounds Facility Use Rental Contracts: Moreno 4/10, N. Valley Mechanical 4/1,  
212 Bigwolf 4/3

213

5. Fair Entertainment Contract-Ed Lisenbey ET#2; Derek Howell PS#1; Karen HarrisET#12; Tony  
214 DreherET#5; GavinHooperET#12; Teresa GoodET#11; Jeff EvansET#8; Chris Eric ET#9; Nicole Unser  
215 ET#3;

216

6. Amended Meeting Minutes April 5, 2021

217

7. Resolution 46-2021 Authorizing a Senior Planner Position-Planning

218

219

220 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

221 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those  
222 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a  
223 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to  
224 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$266,556.46 and Payroll vouchers in the amount  
225 of \$1,018,038.21. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded  
226 and carried.

227  
228 **Motion Public Health Voucher**

229 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in  
230 the amount of \$19,024.22 and payroll vouchers in the amount of \$41,835.09. Warrant numbers as  
231 cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

232  
233 **Public Hearing Petition on Dog Control Zone Oroville W Lake Area**

234 Undersheriff Aaron Culp, Sheriff Hawley, Laura Wright

235  
236 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to consider Dog Control Zone in the West  
237 Lake Osoyoos asking for comments. A petition was received from Keri Sullivan. There are over  
238 30 signatures on the petition but signatures have not been verified by the auditor's office.  
239 Commissioner Branch read from the code 6.08.050. then opened up the public testimony.

240  
241 Keith Sullivan, West Lake Rd Oroville commented to thank the board for hearing the petition. He  
242 believes it is very necessary, better for the community so dogs are controlled.

243  
244 Keri Sullivan, West Lake Rd Oroville, an incident happened last year and all the deputies  
245 encouraged Ms. Sullivan to submit a petition to create a dog control zone. She would like the  
246 Sheriff to be able to do something.

247  
248 Denise Dhane Hwy 97 Oroville comment that last year she was attacked by two king shepherd  
249 dogs that were not fenced in and the dogs were out when she was walking, she had nerve damage  
250 from the attack they were unrelenting with nothing they could do. She was unconscious due to  
251 hitting the cement. She is not the first one this has happened to it. She was told by the Sheriff's  
252 office if there was a dog control zone they could do something. She did not get stitches because  
253 the Dr. wanted to keep the wound open so the Sheriff could not deem them dangerous dogs.  
254 John Dhane testified and reiterated that there have been many instances with regards to these  
255 dogs attacking people. He said the physical immediately notified the Sheriff but the Sheriff said  
256 this was only the fourth time with these dogs. He would like to eliminate another probability of this  
257 occurring again.

258  
259 Commissioner Hover asked in a dog control zone versus no zone, what does that do for the  
260 Sheriff's office. Tony Hawley stated it can allow them the ability to act on animals out at large in  
261 restricted areas. Currently there isn't a way to deal with animals at large such as dogs. The  
262 dangerous dog notifications don't allow fines unless they violate a dangerous dog notice.  
263 Commissioner DeTro said if a dog control zone the dogs would have to commit another act before  
264 the Sheriff can enforce. Yes, because the code wouldn't have been in effect at the time of the  
265 incident. If the dog is at large, it can open up a conversation. At large rules will be important in the  
266 code. Commissioner Hover asked how strict the Sheriff would be in the dog control zones. There  
267 are nice dogs that go to the end of a driveway and don't bother anyone then there are other dogs.  
268 Most deputies have a starting point with particular dogs and will establish a repertoire as time  
269 goes by as the dog issues occur.

270  
271 Laura Wright commented that the Methow dog control zone could be updated as the fines are out  
272 of date. She stated licensing or dog tags have not been addressed in the current dog control zone.

273  
274  
275  
276

277 **Motion**

278 Commissioner Hover moved to prepare an ordinance to create a dog control zone north of the  
279 city of Oroville as described in the petition received on July 2, 2020 be created pursuant to the  
280 auditor review of the petitioners voting registration status within the zone. Motion was seconded,  
281 all were in favor, motion carried.

282

283 **Motion Draft Ordinance**

284 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft the ordinance. The Clerk of  
285 the Board stated she is unable to draft an ordinance due to her current work load. Commissioner  
286 Branch stated he will draft the ordinance, prepare the findings of fact and conclusions of law that  
287 refer to the steps the board took to address the dog control zone. Motion was seconded, all were  
288 in favor, motion carried.

289

290 If there are not sufficient signatures, can Ms. Sullivan obtain additional signatures later?  
291 Commissioners said they would address that later if that is the case. Ms. Dhane said there were  
292 so many people who wanted to sign the petition but the group could not tackle it all.

293

294 The board adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

295

296