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**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**OKANOGAN COUNTY**

**APRIL 24, 2023**

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**9:00 AM** Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda  
**9:05 AM** Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss Weekly Meetings and Schedules  
**9:15 AM** Public Comment Period  
**9:30 AM** Commissioners' Staff Meeting  
**10:00 AM** Continued Discussion Zone Code Revisions-Pete Palmer  
**1:30 PM** Continued Public Hearing- County Surplus Property for Public Auction  
**2:00 PM** Discuss-DNR & Conservation Dist Projects-Ely Loftis, OCD; Will Knowlton, DNR; Maurice Goodall, Emergency Management  
**3:00 PM** Discussion-Oroville EMS Dave Mullins

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The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 24, 2023 with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

**Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda**

The reviewed their agenda and consent agenda.

**Briefing Among Commissioners-Discuss individual Weekly Meetings and Schedules**

The commissioners discussed their weekly meetings and schedules.

**Public Comment Period**

A member from the public, Emily Sisson, was present.

There was no public comment.

**Commissioners' Staff Meeting**

Maintenance Manager, Joe Poulin, Emergency Manager, Maurice Goodall, Planning Director, Pete Palmer, Fairgrounds Manager, Naomie Peasley

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Supervisor, Joe Poulin explained that he received a bid from Divco for RTU replacement and the unit would be about 30-35 weeks out.

Commissioner Hover said that Mr. Poulin had provided several quotes for the portable heat pump last week: Amazon quote was \$15,742.08, plus ceiling tile kit \$297.95 and taxes, Sunbelt quote was in the amount of \$19,915.07 and Airrex \$20,094.64.

Mr. Poulin explained, as of today, Discount Glass never responded to his email he sent on March 17, 2023.

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**Motion- DNR Glass Quote**

Commissioner Hover moved to accept DNR’s Glass quote in the amount of \$46,786.29 and authorize the chairman to sign the contract for the bullet proof glass project. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. After discussion, the motion was carried.

Fairgrounds

Ms. Peasley explained she had three applications for the Fairground’s Administration Assistant Position. Commissioner Hover asked Ms. Peasley to put together interviews for herself, Shelley in Human Resources and Commissioner Hover to interview the applicants.

Ms. Peasley explained she could be losing a maintenance guy and would like to give him a raise. He has lot of qualities that has saved the county money. He is looking at applying for Public Works and would make five dollars more an hour. Commissioner Hover would like more information on creating a new position that fits the fairgrounds maintenance tech qualifications and information on the appropriateness of moving him up a grade.

Planning Department

Planning Director, Pete Palmer explained, the gravel pit owned by Lloyd Logging outside Winthrop has expanded in the last couple of years without renewing their permit. It is to the point now where people can see it from the road. Ms. Palmer explained that conditional use permit was for only 7 acres; the pit is now 11 acres, so they are out of compliance with the county and state. Last week after the Planning Department issued them a notice, the company continued working the pit.

Commissioner Hover said that if the county were to shut them down, it will put a hold on road construction gravel, site preparations, and sewer & water Installations within the county. He also mentioned that he lives across the road from the pit and he has always been able to see it from the road.

Ms. Palmer believed the enforcement code needed to be more straight forward and would like to move forward on making changes to it.

**Continued Discussion Zone Code Revisions-Pete Palmer**

Ms. Palmer reached out to Esther about the public asking for a draft of the zone code revisions. Under RCW 42.56.280, she explained that preliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, and intra-agency memorandums in which opinions are expressed or policies formulated or recommended are exempt under that chapter, except that a specific record is not exempt when publicly cited by an agency in connection with any agency action.

The Commissioners and Ms. Palmer discussed the County code Chapter 17A.360, Enforcement.

Commissioner Hover thought that Chapter 17A150.040 (B2) on nonconforming lots, an accessory dwelling unit for extended family members is allowed only if a demonstrated family hardship exists should be removed.

Commissioner Hover highlighted the following for review:

17A.160.060 Density.  
Density restrictions are as follows:

- A. Single-family: maximum of one dwelling unit per 5,000 square feet;

104 B. Multifamily: maximum of one dwelling unit per 3,600 square feet;  
105

106 Commissioner Branch read the purpose of the district is to provide areas of high-density  
107 development options, near existing commercial areas, which are consistent with Okanogan  
108 County's comprehensive plan, including the Methow Valley More Completely Planned Area Sub-  
109 Unit A.  
110

111 Commissioner Hover read chapter 17A.200.030 minimum area, maximum density, open space,  
112 height and setbacks and discussed some highlighted areas.  
113

114 Ms. Palmer offered to look at a couple other counties planning and development to see how it is  
115 structured.  
116

#### 117 **Discussion- Grant Application- Mike Warden**

118 Chief Deputy of Spec Ops / Communications, Mike Warden, discussed an application for Cops  
119 Violence Grant that he was hoping to apply for. Per policy, he was needing authorization from the  
120 county commissioners to apply for the grant.  
121

122 Mr. Warden explained the goal of the School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) is to improve  
123 security at schools and on school grounds through the implementation of evidence-based school  
124 safety programs and technology. SVPP awards will contribute to this goal by funding projects  
125 which include funding of civilian personnel to serve as coordinators with local law enforcement,  
126 training for local law enforcement officers, purchase and installation of certain allowable  
127 equipment and technology, and other measures to significantly improve school security.  
128 Anticipated outcomes of SVPP awards include: improved information sharing with local law  
129 enforcement; increased interaction and improved communications between law enforcement and  
130 school officials; reduced notification times to law enforcement; improved response time to threats  
131 and events; accurate identification of danger and follow-up; increased knowledge of and use of  
132 community policing principles; and increased school safety and sustainability planning efforts. All  
133 of these outcomes should be achieved without resorting to discriminatory stereotypes or violating  
134 privacy.  
135

#### 136 **Motion- Cops Violence Grant**

137 Commissioner Hover moved to approve authorize the Chief Deputy of Spec Ops /  
138 Communications to apply for Cops Violence Grant with a match up to 125K to fund 161. Motion  
139 was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.  
140

#### 141 **Continued Public Hearing- County Surplus Property for Public Auction**

142 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to the public, seeing no public present or on  
143 ZOOM he asked for staff comment. Clerk of the Board, Lanie Johns explained in accordance with  
144 RCW 36.34 legal notice postings and advertisements have been made and published for two  
145 consecutive weeks in the April 5-6, and April 12-13, 2023, editions of the Gazette Tribune/Methow  
146 Valley News, which are the county's legal newspaper of record, with publication setting forth the  
147 hearing date of April 18, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The BOCC held the hearing at that time and then  
148 continued to April 24, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., to provide time for both written and verbal testimony to  
149 be taken from the public on whether or not the property proposed for sale is surplus to the  
150 County's needs to be sold at public surplus auction. Once the items have been declared surplus  
151 to the needs of Okanogan County it is the intention of Okanogan County to sell the items via  
152 public surplus auction sale by either electronic media or by physical public auction.  
153

154 Commissioner Branch closed the public hearing to staff and opened to the public. There was no  
155 public comment. Commissioner Branch closed the public hearing to the public and opened the  
156 public hearing to the county commissioners.

157

158 **Motion- Resolution 2023-050**

159 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 2023-050. A resolution in the matter of  
160 declaring certain county-owned property surplus to the needs of the county and ordering the sale  
161 thereof via public auction sale by either electronic media or by physical auction sale to be located  
162 at the county fairgrounds. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

163

164 **Motion- Executive Session**

165 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for 10  
166 minutes at 1:55 to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review  
167 the performance of a public employee. Motion was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried.

168

169 **Discussion-DNR & Conservation District Projects-Ely Loftis & Craig Nelson OCD; Will  
170 Knowlton, DNR; Maurice Goodall**

171 Will Knowlton from DNR wanted to inform the commissioners about Western Washington Wildfire  
172 Program. DNR is working with the conservation district closely with the Fire Wise Programs.

173 DNR is adding free home inspections at Community Events to get peoples input for programs and  
174 things they would like to see.

175

176 DNR Resiliency Plan that lays out steps the DNR will take to reduce the agency's carbon footprint  
177 and ensure Washington's public lands are managed with climate change in mind. Over the next  
178 several months, DNR will hold community conversations throughout the state to discuss how to  
179 implement the actions in the plan in ways that are just and equitable.

180

181 The Forest Resilience Division works across all lands to ensure forested ecosystems retain their  
182 resilience against disturbance mechanisms such as fire, insects, and diseases. Forest Resilience  
183 also monitors Washington forests to see how they are adapting to climate change, increasing  
184 drought severity, and more severe heat waves.

185

186 From helping public and private landowners care for their trees to leading the state's efforts to  
187 reduce uncharacteristically severe wildfires, the Forest Resilience Division works to manage,  
188 sustain and protect the health of Washington's forests to meet the needs of present and future  
189 generations.

190

191 Mr. Nelson explained the importance of when a fire is close, people need to leave the area.  
192 Recognizing that fires happen often in Okanogan County, he thinks having the conversation with  
193 the public and how and where to look for resources on fire prevention would be great. There are  
194 also tons of Wild Fire Defense Grants that would be useful.

195

196 The Community Wildfire Defense Program, or CWDG, is intended to help at-risk local  
197 communities and Tribes; plan for and reduce the risk of wildfire and Okanogan County would  
198 qualify. Mr. Knowlton would like to get a Fire Marshall for Okanogan County to help with  
199 enforcement, which the grant would cover.

200

201 Mr. Knowlton further explained that the program prioritizes at-risk communities in an area  
202 identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, or have been  
203 impacted by a severe disaster that affects the risk of wildfire.

204

205 The program provides funding to communities for two primary purposes:  
206     • Develop and revise Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).  
207     • Implement projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten  
208         years old.

209  
210 **Discussion-Oroville EMS Dave Mullins**

211 Dave Mullins explained to the commissioners that the response time with Lifeline was terrible. He  
212 was concerned, because these response times are very important when there is an emergency.  
213 He doesn't understand why there can't be 24-hour service in the north end of the county.

214  
215 Mr. Mullins also thought, if the county were to put an ambulance station back in Oroville or  
216 Tonasket area, it would help with a quicker response time.

217  
218 After further discussion, Mr. Mullins provided the commissioners ten different solutions that might  
219 help with his concerns.

220  
221 Commissioner Branch thanked Mr. Mullins for expressing his concerns and told him that the  
222 County Commissioners would consider his solutions when the contract ends in June of this year.

223  
224 The board adjourned at 3:55 p.m.  
225