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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

APRIL 26, 2021

9:00 AM Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:15 AM Briefing Among Commissioners- Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule
9:30 AM Legislative Update -Zach Kennedy
10:00 AM Loudermill Hearing -Commissioners Hearing or Conference Room
11:00 AM Discussion American Rescue Plan BARS Codes, Annual Report Note-Auditor Hall
1:30 PM Update Planning
3:00 PM Discussion Juvenile Employee Change Request-Judge Culp, Mr. Rabidou
4:30 PM Review Meeting Minutes

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 26, 2021, with; Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jim DeTro and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

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

Commissioner Hover met with Planning Director Palmer and Dude Solutions via Zoom to go over the new land use permitting software. Commissioner Hover said this software purchase would help Building, Planning and Public Health departments coordinate the various approvals for land use permitting that each department has a part to fulfill.

Review Commissioners Agenda and Consent Agenda

Commissioners discussed whether or not the public has an inalienable right to be scheduled before the board to discuss concerns the Board may not be able to anything about. Commissioner Branch stated he's looked into the matter legally and consulted with Chief Civil Deputy David Gecas and if the topic to be scheduled before the board is not appropriate the board doesn't have to waste time listening. It is not illegal to deny someone time before the Board. Commissioner Hover believes anyone has a right to speak to the Board, but the speaker must get to the point.

Commissioners asked the Clerk of the Board to reschedule Mr. Owen to Tuesday, April 27 at 2:30 and to move the Juvenile matter up to an earlier time slot today.

The Clerk of the Board discussed the reoccurring Planning Update currently on the commissioners' calendar. The BOCC agreed the reoccurring update could be taken off the calendar since the Planning Director rarely uses the 2.5 hours set aside for planning update. Instead the Planning Director's update will need to be scheduled individually as needed.

Legislative Update -Zach Kennedy

Zach Kennedy provided a brief legislative update.

52 **Briefing Among Commissioners- Discuss Individual Weekly Meetings and Schedule**
53 Commissioners discussed there would be a quorum of the BOCC attending the WEBEX meeting of
54 the Eastern Washington County Council of Governments in Lincoln County. The Clerk of the Board
55 will provide notice to the public as Commissioner Hover and Commissioner DeTro will attend.
56

57 **Loudermill Hearing -Commissioners Hearing or Conference Room**
58 Naomie Peasley, Tanya Craig
59

60 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)**
61 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) at 10:00 a.m.
62 for 15 minutes inviting Naomie Peasley and Tanya Craig. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
63 motion carried.
64

65 Commissioners extended executive session at 10:10 a.m. for another 10 minutes.
66

67 Executive session was extended at 10:20 for another 5 minutes.
68

69 Executive session ended at 10:30 a.m. no decisions were made.
70

71 **Discussion American Rescue Plan BARS Codes, Annual Report Note-Auditor Hall**
72 Cari Hall, Pam Johnson
73

74 Auditor Hall explained this meeting was called to discuss how the commissioners wished to spend
75 the American Rescue Plan funds. A resolution was previously approved to create the American
76 Rescue fund 170. Did the Board wish to outline a plan?
77

78 Commissioner Hover stated the funds could offset loss of revenue to government entities due to
79 COVID-19 impacts. The Fairgrounds and Jail has had a reduction in revenue due to COVID-19. There
80 is also the Okanogan County PUD and the other two electric Coops who asked the county for funds
81 to offset accounts in arrears. Community Action has access to money for people with utility payments
82 in arrears but people need to apply. Commissioners said depending on what we can legally do with
83 the money, entities will need to meet eligibility requirements. Auditor Hall stated she would create a
84 general professional services line then we can transfer budget to other lines if needed. Commissioner
85 Hover stated he prefers not to commit the money until we know legally what we can do with it and so
86 he proposed the funds be placed in ending fund balance. Auditor Hall said a budget supplemental
87 will be prepared. Use of the funds will be based on what the resolution states.
88

89 Auditor Hall confirmed the BOCC wanted the current expense funds, from the sale of vehicles,
90 deposited to the vehicle reserve fund 197. Yes, that is what the board intended.
91

92 Auditor Hall explained a new note is required in the financial statements of ongoing concerns. This is
93 an evaluation of the government's ability to meet its obligations. Does the board have concerns about
94 that in the next 15 months? Public Health is their own entity. Commissioner Hover and Commissioner
95 Branch stated no they do not have any ongoing concerns about meeting the county's financial
96 obligations. Auditor Hall said the can easily meet its financial obligations in the next 15 months. Is
97 there any discontinuance of operations within the next 15 months, no. Has there been contingency
98 plans discussed? Commissioner Branch stated the fairgrounds revenue is impacted due to Superior
99 Court using the Agriplex for court services and the space not being available to rent for events. The
100 affected revenue may not meet expenses of the grounds. We have no reason to believe we will have
101 any issues especially when we anticipate receipt of the American Rescue Plan funds.
102

103 Commissioner Hover said he met with several people on the utilization of the Mazama Water Quality
104 Fund. Ecology has ongoing water quality monitoring in the Methow.

105

106 **Update Planning**

107 Director of Planning Pete Palmer

108

109 Director Palmer provided a brief update. The permit software costs \$54,477 annually then after that
110 it would be around \$22,000 annually.

111

112 The Critical areas ordinance is out for comment and so those are being collected. The senior planner
113 position is being advertised.

114

115 Commissioner Hover said he received many inquiries for details of the Copperstone project. He would
116 like an overview of the project presented to the board so when the public has questions they have
117 some information about the project. Commissioner Branch replied that because the BOCC will be
118 making a decision on the project, it is considered quasi-judicial situation. The commissioners do not
119 wish to partake in ex parte discussion. It is important to ask the question at the hearing and whoever
120 cannot participate can disclose why at the beginning of the hearing.

121

122 **Discussion Juvenile Employee Change Request-Judge Culp, Mr. Rabidou**

123 Mr. Rabidou explained the proposed resolution would move the person filling the Treatment Services
124 Manager/Therapeutic Courts Coordinator to Dependency Manager/Therapeutic Courts Coordinator..
125 Commissioners noted the change is budget neutral if the vacated position is filled at step one. The
126 Treatment Services Manager position will be vacated and the position advertised to be filled. Some
127 additional changes to the draft resolution will be made before BOCC consideration.

128

129 Commissioners discussed the Forest Service building and the high cost to renovate it in order for
130 Juvenile and Superior Courts Services to be able to relocate there. Commissioner Hover stated the
131 feasibility study showed costs around \$40-\$50 million. Is this the best use of our money? Judge Culp
132 said, yes, it is a significant amount of money. Mr. Rabidou said there isn't enough court rooms for
133 both District and Superior Court needs. Currently there are five court rooms which includes the
134 Juvenile courtroom and the Jail courtroom. Judge Culp said until recently District Court was using
135 both their courtrooms as all their jail matters were via Zoom. Commissioner Hover proposed a
136 meeting between District Court, Superior Court and the Finance Committee to discuss the feasibility
137 of the proposals.

138

139 Commissioner DeTro reminded the group about the original \$19 million project to reconfigure the two
140 Juvenile buildings and the courthouse entrance. Judge Culp believes those plans would not need
141 many changes to update. The group thought a meeting between elected officials to discuss these
142 options would be best.

143

144 Commissioners discussed various options such as placing kids temporarily in another detention
145 center while the building was remodeled. Mr. Rabidou said the cost to temporarily place the kids in
146 another facility exceeded the benefits.

147

148 **Review Meeting Minutes**

149 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

150

151 Commissioners discussed marijuana operations and the possibility of placing a moratorium on the
152 operations which would provide the needed time to figure out which rules to iron out. The growers
153 purchase from local stores, employee workers and so what does that mean to our economic stability.

154 Commissioner Hover would like to examine the cost to benefit ratio. Commissioner Branch said
155 Jeremy Moberg would like to discuss marijuana operations with the board.

156
157 Commissioner Hover explained he and Naomie Peasley will meeting with the Tribal Council on May
158 5 regarding a potential partnership for use of the fairgrounds for Indian Relay races. The tribe would
159 be able to invest in the grounds and race track, but will not be able to control the grounds. There
160 would need to be MOU's in place to lay out the understanding between the parties and what in-kind
161 services can be exchanged for use of the facilities.

162
163 Commissioner Branch shared what happened to the Infrastructure projects that were submitted to
164 Congressman Newhouse. There were three projects in Okanogan County on the list: the North end
165 water project for Oroville, the Omak water tower project at the Wildwood development and the Health
166 Science Center. Commissioners were alright with those.

167
168 The board adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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170