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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

APRIL 27, 2021

9:00 AM Commissioners Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Update Assessor-Larry Gilman
11:00 AM Updated Public Works- Josh Thomson
1:30 PM Public Comment Period
2:00 PM Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation -Central Services
2:05 PM Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation District Court
2:10 PM Approve Commissioners Proceedings April 19 & April 20, 2021
2:35 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 27, 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.

Commissioners Staff Meeting

Maurice Goodall, Joe Poulin

Mr. Goodall updated the board on the river levels, they are pretty normal. Things are dry and fire Chiefs are discussing implementation of a burn ban. The Clerk of the Board explained she received a call from someone very upset there wasn't one specific place a person can go to see if a burn ban is in place since various agencies can authorize their own burn ban. DNR has a burn ban on DNR lands in high fire danger areas.

Mr. Goodall asked if the county's travel policy addressed personal aircraft mileage reimbursement.

The Clerk of the Board read from the travel policy addressing travel by personal aircraft and how reimbursement for travel is applied. He has a county vehicle, but using the plane saves a lot of time. Commissioner Hover asked about insurance coverage since he would be on county time. Commissioner Branch asked Mr. Goodall to check with the risk manager and auditor, then address a policy that covers this situation.

Joe Poulin updated the board on Courthouse Complex maintenance. The Arts and Crafts building light switches operate the lights. Alley lights may be changed out to be a photo cell. There was a leak in the Arts & Crafts roof and the contractor will come out and investigate where the leak is coming from. They did replace all the screws and patched up numerous holes.

Need to address the Geo Thermal System as it has not operated correctly since it was installed. The injection wells are overflowing at the casing and it has been a problem since day one. Adjustments were made last year, but did not solve the problem. Commissioner Hover stated we don't do anything but contact the contractor and have them fix it. A solution is needed before it

52 gets hot. It is the contractor's responsibility to fix it. David Gecas was provided the Bond
53 Resolution, DES contracts and Ameresco Proposal. Commissioners agree Maintenance should
54 leave the situation alone, get the Civil Deputy involved again, then come up with a critical plan to
55 address the temps.

56

57 **Update Assessor-Larry Gilman**

58 Jan Million

59

60 Assessor Larry Gilman provided his quarterly update. The McCleary decision was explained as it
61 changed rules, Assessor Gilman is not sure what will happen this year or what changes will need
62 to be implemented.

63

64 Assessor Gilman explained 25% property value adjustments made on properties within WRIA 48
65 a water restricted area after January 26, 2021, the date the rule came into play. Several parcels
66 sold after that date. Is the 25% value reduction warranted, we don't know. A better analogy will
67 be made later after considering more sales. Unique neighborhoods like Edelweiss, are identified
68 by sales. He will continue the 25% reduction on affected parcels. He will address the closed basins
69 in the future.

70

71 The Assessor's vehicle purchase was discussed as it was ordered, to ensure adequate cash and
72 budget is available when it is time to pay the invoice.

73

74 The Assessor and Treasurer's office document scan projects has started and documents taken
75 to be scanned. The Assessor's original books will be sent to archives and the scanned files will
76 be in the office since those turned out so well.

77

78 iPad Camacloud has been delayed significantly and they reached out and the department will
79 move forward as part of the Beta testing. We are one of seven counties involved.

80

81 Revaluation update timeline was discussed. Last year's valuation mailings were held off and it set
82 us back significantly. Mailings will happen May 31st on the regular schedule. Real Estate sales
83 are setting records here.

84

85 A new rule on annual assessments requires the whole county to be mailed, which was not done
86 until now. He will mail the whole county this year. He isn't sure how that will affect this year's
87 budget. Some area values were adjusted last year and brought up to 96%, but this year based on
88 2020 sales values are down in certain areas. Valley floor is increasing at a heavy rate.
89 Commissioner Hover asked what the home sales look like this year compared to past years.

90

91 Some seniors were not getting the proper tax break on their property.

92

93 Pest District held their public hearing last week to classify lands benefited by assessment, but
94 they have not provided their recommendation to the Board yet.

95

96 Some properties are on the old system and some are on the new, they need to combine all
97 properties on one system to provide equality of the areas. Must be rescored, but now with audit
98 looming, it does need to be addressed now. Discuss with Planning Director to rescore 200 parcels.

99

100 Commissioner Branch asked if Nightly Rentals are valued differently than single family
101 residences? No, but he is addressing those for the first time this year because they are
102 businesses. The Assessor went to VBRO and Airbnb and they are not reporting, but now they

103 must. We have some of the lowest vacancy rates in Washington State. Nightly rentals can really
104 affect residential neighborhoods, said Commissioner Branch.

105
106 **Updated Public Works- Josh Thomson**

107 Kent Kovalenko

108
109 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

110
111 *Solid Waste*

112 *Ecology LSWFA Grant Update*

113 Mr. Kovalenko updated the board on the LSWFA grant. In 2019 & 2020 Solid Waste received
114 \$168,000, but right now it is sitting at \$324,000 and Ecology splits that between Solid Waste and
115 Public Health which is about \$124,000 increase, but doesn't fully restore what was received in
116 2013.

117
118 *Operation Update*

119 Tonnage update was around 15% increase over pre COVID-19 which is attributed to the increase
120 in personal income. The Landfill is doing well income wise.

121
122 Leachate levels were discussed. This year we should be good across the board.

123
124 Equipment maintenance issues have been wrapped up. One laborer down at the landfill.

125
126 *Cold Springs Fire Debris Tipping Fee*

127 The resolution expires at the end of April. Some still haven't had time to dump their debris or hire a
128 contractor to clean up. Commissioners said the expiration date should be extended via resolution.

129
130 Sheriff will participate in the Litter Grant, but Mr. Kovalenko will administer the grant.

131
132 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

133 Mag Chloride application is starting today. Commissioner Hover asked how priorities are
134 determined? Don't do dust control and not based on that. It is based on maintenance costs on
135 roads that need to be bladed and watered often. There is a list of roads that are done every year.

136
137 Projections are well below flood stage on the several rivers. Peak on the Methow is calculated
138 this weekend and on the Okanogan River a couple days later.

139
140 Issues getting paint to stripe roads this year. Dupont factory experienced freezing damage and
141 they are not producing it and another company jacked up their prices. We may have dull stripes
142 in certain areas. At least the chip sealed roads are going to get striped.

143
144 A tree hanging over near Sa Teekh-wa Park was thought to be on the HOA property not the
145 county's property. If it falls it could damage the bridge and the bridge may have been installed by
146 the HOA. Some research of the matter is needed to be certain.

147
148 *Local Road Safety Plan and Grant Application*

149
150 *Old 97 Driskell to Verestar Start May 3rd*

151 The project construction will start next week.

152
153 *Consent Agenda*

154 Next week the Parametrix contracts will be submitted for the consent agenda. It will include 8
155 supplementals for the year.

156

157 **Update HR/Risk Manager-Tanya Craig**

158 Ms. Craig updated the board on the Chief Deputy Clerk resolution she drafted for the Assessor,
159 Treasurer, Auditor, and Clerk Chief Deputies. In the past

160

161 A salary survey is being conducted for the remaining three Deputy Clerks including Clerk of the
162 Board, Chief Civil Deputy, and District Court Administrator.

163

164 **Motion Resolution 48-2021 Chief Clerks Salary Increase**

165 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 48-2021 which sets the Assessor, Treasurer,
166 Auditor and Clerk's office Chief Deputy Salaries at 85% of the elected officials. Motion was
167 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

168

169 For use of POV the county does pay a mileage rate set by the state and that includes costs of
170 insurance, fuel, and maintenance to operate the vehicle. Nautical miles are used for airplanes
171 which is \$1.26. The current county policy doesn't specifically state airplanes as a POV, it is
172 generally included.

173

174 **Public Comment Period**

175 Isabelle Spohn commented regarding the status of the advisory groups. She is impressed by the
176 Planning Director's direction on updating the various plans. There are some hiccups in finding the
177 people involved in the previous neighborhood groups who worked on the 1976 plan. Standards
178 should be developed on how people are sought to fill appointments.

179

180 Open government: Meetings by law should be noticed to the public. The Planning Commission
181 meeting was not advertised with the WEBEX info until Monday. She complained that significant
182 meetings of the Planning Commission are not being noticed and the means by which the public
183 can attend doesn't work. It happens too often and it undermines the public's impression of the
184 county government. Awareness of the newspaper deadlines for publishing public notices is
185 needed. Encouraged the commissioners to be aware and ensure proper notice.

186

187 Commissioners moved Mr. Quinn Owen's discussion from 2:30 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. Mr. Owen he
188 provided his background then explained what he was here to discuss. He had a mine lease above
189 the Enloe dam on the Similkameen for seven years. He got black listed by the Forest Service in
190 1994. He sued the Forest Service so he could understand government and found out a lot of
191 information about how it works and who controls the government. Three or four years ago he
192 made a claim in southern Washington. Commissioner Hover said every single person should be
193 able to talk to the commissioners, but what does Mr. Owen want the commissioners to do.

194

195 Mr. Owen said he is setting up the scenario in order to ask the commissioners to accept a deposit
196 to the county's account from the federal government for reparations and agree that he is the
197 director of the funds but not in control of it. Commissioner Hover said in government they don't do
198 things like that. US Justice Department is involved, the county is involved because $\frac{3}{4}$ of the funds
199 belong to the population. The other reason is there is a core gold deposit that Mary's up to this
200 gold and this is a unique place to store the values. 90 billion to partner up in Colorado under the
201 table. The White House and CIA offered \$500 billion to buy him out. The gold is already extracted
202 by Paperclip Nazis. He has the right to money.

203

204 Commissioner Branch said it would be important for the board to read the information to get a
205 better idea of what they want to do. If the board agrees, they should read the materials prepared
206 by Mr. Owen. If the county doesn't file a claim, they will only deal with him. Federal reserve are
207 the ones that administered the theft and have possession of the gold through American Express
208 and he is counter claiming to hold them accountable. Commissioner Branch said the board would
209 like to read the material in order to decide if they wish to continue considering the input of Mr.
210 Owen.

211
212 This is Iridium gold a special gold that cannot be used for electronics and you cannot do what you
213 can do with regular gold. It is sitting in New York. It is not marketable gold, it can be used to create
214 a super conductor, he wants the gold not the reparations money. The Germans stole the gold
215 because it was free milling. It doesn't matter where it came from. He has claims in both counties.
216 The county would have to put a claim in with him to receive the troubled damages. He would like
217 to see all the counties involved. If the county isn't involved he doesn't get the gold, if the county
218 is involved then he can get the gold and the county gets the reparations money. If the other county
219 participates, then Commissioner Hover may consider. Mr. Owen doesn't care about the money
220 he wants the gold for a super conductor. Commissioner Branch stated a prefix on the objectives
221 would explain what he is after because the information gives people a shock and they
222 automatically think it is a politically charged. He advised a better way to relay his request and
223 objectives over the one used.

224
225 The Prosecutor has the same information, but he has been unable to meet with her.
226 Commissioners said they will review the information.

227
228 **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation -Central Services**
229 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to staff. The Clerk of the Board stated the
230 supplemental was for purchases previously approved by the board for which budget was needed.

231
232 **Motion Resolution 49-2021 Budget Supplemental**
233 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 49-2021 authorizing a budget supplemental
234 appropriation within Equipment Reserve fund 196 and Current Expense Non-Departmental.
235 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

236
237 **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation District Court**
238 Commissioner Branch opened up the hearing to staff and the public. No staff or public provided
239 comments. It appeared the funds were AOC CARES Act funds to be allocated.

240
241 **Motion Resolution 50-2021 Budget Supplemental Appropriation District Court**
242 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 50-2021 a budget supplemental appropriation
243 within Current Expense District Court to budget received Administration of the Courts CARES Act
244 funds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

245
246 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings April 19 & April 20, 2021**
247 Commissioners would like more time to review and edit their meeting minutes before approval.

248
249 **Motion Workforce Development Appointment**
250 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Zach Williams and Sarah Thomson Tweedy to the
251 Workforce Development Board. Motion seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

252
253
254

255 **Motion Resolution 51-2021 Land Fill Tipping Waiver Cold Springs Fire**
256 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 51-2021 extending the land fill tipping fee
257 waiver for those affected by the Cold Springs Fire debris. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
258 motion carried.

259
260 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**
261 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
262 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
263 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
264 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$438,838.16. Warrant numbers as cited on the
265 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

266
267 **Motion Public Health Voucher**
268 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Public Health Vouchers including regular vouchers in
269 the amount of \$7,476.04. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion
270 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

271
272 **Approve Consent Agenda**
273 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-2, as presented. Motion was
274 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 275
276 1. Purchase Approval-Mobile Column Lifts-NW Lift & Equipment Inc
277 2. CDBG Public Services Grant-20-62210-011 -Request #4 Supplemental

278
279 Commissioner Branch explained he is almost finished drafting the Dog Ordinance. He has also
280 drafted a resolution to close out the Lake Osoyoos water district.

281
282 Commissioner Branch discussed testing the fairgrounds water systems by State Board of Health
283 for other contaminants other than nitrates. He thinks about consumer confidence. Group A
284 systems are tested annually, said Commissioner Hover. Commissioner Branch said it is more
285 complicated than that and would ask State Health to ensure we are covered.

286
287 The board adjourned at 3:10 p.m. till next Monday.

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