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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

APRIL 30, 2024

9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes- April 22nd, 23rd, 2024
9:15 AM Public Comment Period
9:30 AM Bid Opening-Property Demolition Rail Road Ave-Dave Rodriguez
10:00 AM Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 22nd, 23rd, 2024
11:00 AM Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson
11:55 AM Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda if Necessary
1:30 PM Discussion-DNR-Topics to be Determined-Nichole Fandrey
2:30 PM Approve Consent Agenda

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 30, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner Jon Neal; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

Member, Commissioner Chris Branch, was absent today to prepare the ARPA report that is due today.

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

Review Meeting Minutes- April 22nd, 23rd, 2024

Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes. No corrections were made.

Public Comment Period

Members of the public Mrs. Jackson and Ruth Hall attended via zoom. They had no comment.

Bid Opening-Property Demolition Rail Road Ave-Dave Rodriguez

MJ Neal Luis Rodriguez, Coroner Dave Rodriguez, Deputy Coroner Gene Davis and Wes Hover was present

Mr. Luis Rodriguez stated there was an addendum #1 submitted.

Commissioner Neal stated bids were due April 24, 2024 by 4:00 p.m. The following seven bids were received by the deadline. The following Bids were opened. The board asked that prevailing wage requirement be clarified.

Selland Constructions Inc. Wenatchee

Total Bid was \$335,300

Bid Bond

Acknowledgement of addendum #1.

Cates & Erb Inc Omak

Total base Bid was \$305,646

Acknowledgement of the addendum #1.

Bid Bond

Peak Environmental LLC Vancouver, WA

Total base Bid was \$229,175

54 Acknowledgement of the addendum #1
55 Bid Bond

56
57 Elder Demolition Wilsonville OR

58 Total base Bid was \$162,899
59 Acknowledgement of the addendum #1.
60 Bid Bond

61
62 Groat Brothers Inc, Woodland WA

63 Total Base bid was \$148,432
64 Acknowledgement of the addendum #1.
65 Bid Bond

66
67 Three Kings Environmental Battleground, WA

68 Total Base Bid \$192,314
69 Acknowledgement of the addendum #1.
70 Bid Bond

71
72 Ladd Construction LLC, Liberty Lake, WA

73 Total Base Bid \$54,800
74 Acknowledgement of the addendum #1
75 Bid Bond

76
77 The bids will be reviewed and lowest most responsive bidder will be determined and a
78 recommendation provided to the Board on May 7.

79
80 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

81 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
82 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
83 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
84 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$401,599.51. Warrant numbers as cited on the
85 attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

86
87 **Approve Consent Agenda**

88 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was
89 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 90 1. Letter of Support-WWRP Property Acquisition Grant Application-Town of Twisp
- 91 2. Letter of Support-RCO Grant Application ACQ Pearygin Lake State Park-Yockey Property
- 92 3. Contract-PW Shop Buildings Change Order #1-Halme Builders, Inc.
- 93 4. ARPA Req#3-Professional Engineering Services-City of Okanogan
- 94 5. Acknowledge-Facility Use Rental Contract-Quinceanera, May 11, 2024-Fairgrounds

95
96 **Motion Amendment #1 to the Blake Agreement IAA24025**

97 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign to the Interagency Reimbursement
98 Agreement IAA24025 Amendment #1 between Okanogan County and the Administrative Office of the
99 Courts regarding the Blake Agreement for a maximum of \$383,241. Motion was seconded, all were in
100 favor, motion carried.

101
102 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 22nd, 23rd, 2024**

103 Commissioners did not approve their meeting minutes as Commissioner Branch was absent.

104
105 **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

106 Engineer Thomson started early at 10:23 a.m. He provided his agenda and discussed the listed topics.

107 *Maintenance and Road Conditions*

108 The county is finishing up grading and trying to get going on the pre-level. The information he received
109 from the state on work on the Hwy 97 looking at hauling some chip on Pine Creek. Milling the whole
110 surface and repaving. Hwy 20 is also doing chip seal.

111
112 *USFS Midnight Forest Restoration Project*

113 A public comment was discussed that the Engineer received. The USFS Midnight Forest Restoration
114 project is on a 20-year plan and the person was concerned about the impact on residents such as
115 traffic, dust, etc.... Possible options to mitigate the public concerns. Stabilizing the road would prevent
116 dust but could cost around \$10,000 per mile and the Engineer was not sure if we could take that on or
117 if USFS budget could.

118
119 Commissioner Hover asked about Chiliwist Road. Engineer Thomson replied that a portion of Chiliwist
120 road was paved last year. The next section is problematic and would be very expensive to pave due
121 to the narrowness of the section and the unstable steep slopes on either side. He felt that section
122 could not be paved. There are still complaints about the road from residents further up. The road does
123 connect to Brewster but it is really rough in spots. The part that goes to the Loup has a section in the
124 middle that is private road.

125
126 *Shops*

127 Engineer Thomson updated the board on the new shops. Commissioner Hover asked about the Halme
128 Builders change order to supply and install 1 row of snow break on Twisp and Tonasket Shop building
129 roofs. Engineer Thomson replied that the roof was engineered according to specs for the size and
130 slope. Commissioner Hover would like to double check to see if two rows of the snow break would be
131 better and since the cost is only around \$10,000 for both shops? Engineer will look into it.

132
133 Engineer Thomson stated the contractor is still trying to find a solution for the waste oil pumps.

134
135 *Wildlife Council Access Easement*

136 Buck Workman with the Wildlife Council explained he and Mike Farrens had discussed their request
137 for legal access to the the legal easement has been prepared for the access easement requested a
138 few weeks ago. (attached) Commissioner Hover asked if it was reviewed? The attorney would need
139 to look it over and commissioners approve. Engineer Thomson will work with Esther Milner on the
140 particulars and will call Mr. Workman once the process is approved by the BOCC.

141
142 *Open Positions*

143 Engineer Thomson stated Walla Walla county advertised almost the very same position but they are
144 paying almost \$50,000 more and they are on the top end of our comparable counties. Commissioner
145 Hover commented that Okanogan County wages are less. Comparable used to come from our
146 communities from people who stay here, but with cost of living being higher and people coming from
147 other areas.

148
149 Engineer Thomson explained two vacant positions Engineer Tech is union, but we might need to think
150 about a different arrangement or propose an increase to that wage. Assistant Tech is also open and
151 it has applicants, but the technical positions are hard to fill and have been open for quite some time.

152
153 Getting applicants for the mechanic positions, but not a lot with experience.

154
155 *Consent Agenda*

156 Shops snow break change order.

157
158 **Commissioners to set Wednesday's Agenda if Necessary**

159 Commissioners did not schedule a meeting on Wednesday.

160
161 **Discussion-Wildfire, Natural Preservation, Timber Sales-DNR Pat Ryan & Tim Love**
162 Pat Ryan NW Region Manager and Tim Love Assistant Region Manager introduced themselves and
163 explained the items to be discussed.

164
165 Mr. Love said they looked at fire timelines and readiness dates and moved up to June in Okanogan
166 County since many fires start early here. The 195 fire fighters were prepared to be online one month
167 earlier. Staffing shuffles happened with permanent leaderships moving around. Type II AI is below the
168 Top shot crew. Type I Blackhawk dedicated in Electric City. Shuffled some heavier tankers with
169 retardant and will stay in Moses Lake and scoopers will be in Pangborn Wenatchee.
170 21 Engines partnering with Okanogan Douglas County Fire District for one engine. A list of prepared
171 equipment was relayed that will be stationed in Okanogan County.

172
173 HB 1498 Asotin County sponsored bill SE regional bill where they have grass to protect not trees.
174 This arrangement was explained to relay how DNR gets paid and mobilizes for rangeland. It
175 created a mechanism that requires resources to be prioritized and paid for without going to state
176 mobilization. Agreements with all fire districts are in place.

177
178 Mr. Ryan discussed conservation lands Methow Rapids Natural Area Preserve which will square
179 up their own parcels. (attached) He explained there will be about 40 acres more than before. Put
180 in as all DNR lands.

181
182 Mr. Ryan discussed the Timber sales program in Okanogan County. They sold about 15 million
183 board feet so far with several other sales happening this year around 5 Million board feet. These
184 sales help keep the mills going. 69% goes to schools and DNR works on the other 31%. They
185 cannot manage our stands on 31% so 21Q account was created and funds are distributed to the
186 trust account and for future management strategies.

187
188 There was further discussion about various DNR objectives and routine functions planned for
189 Okanogan County's preservation projects.

190
191 Stephanie Downey was invited to talk to the Board about Central Entry for High School rodeo and
192 put rodeos on across the state with about 300 kids across the state. People like to come to
193 Okanogan County, but it isn't affordable for them to come here. The stock costs and it isn't a
194 money maker spot, they need to go to affordable locations. Different places all over put on the
195 rodeo.

196
197 When she got on the fairgrounds website she saw a 50% discount could be given. They do not
198 have a commercial applicator license to spray for weeds. The fairgrounds weeds were so bad last
199 year. They thought as an in-kind benefit they could spray the weeds and receive a discount. But
200 it didn't work out because they do not have a commercial spray applicator license. The cost for
201 the rodeo will cost over \$900. She hopes the Board looks at the bigger picture that this benefits
202 kids who are trying to be good productive people. Other fairgrounds give waivers, why cannot
203 Okanogan County. The county can set a rate by resolution. The just cannot give a discount
204 because they do not meet the qualifications for one. It is not a final rodeo, but they would love to
205 have the finals here. She explained what other counties do just to bring people in. They just don't
206 charge and they donate their grounds and groom, supply water truck etc.... Commissioner Hover
207 said the reason the county grounds are dilapidated is because no one was paying to use the
208 grounds over the years. How do we justify even doing anything over there? It is a community
209 service. If we charge a two-day rate it would be \$500. Commissioners would have to set a specific
210 rate for high school rodeo. The rodeo is May 17, 18, & 19. Commissioner Hover would like to wait

211 until Commissioner Branch is here. This is only for kids who turn in grades that are at least 2.2
212 gpa or have signed progress reports from the principal and must meet the same criteria to play
213 basketball. Who sponsor's the rodeo? If it is comparable to basket ball and they wanted to do a
214 fund raiser they would be allowed a 50% discount.

215
216 The national high school rodeo takes the profits and put the money into high school scholarships
217 to seniors to go to college. You can also go to national high school and they give over \$1 million
218 in scholarships or support for kids to go to trade schools. Stuff gets paid for with entry fees,
219 insurance is paid for by the association. Admin fees and money for stock is from entry fees and
220 anything after that goes into the scholarship funds. Commissioners will consider setting a fee for
221 high school rodeo or for high school clubs such as FFA, FHA, FSA etc....A discount for events
222 that benefit groups from accredited schools. If more vendors are secured then the group can
223 charge them for being there and make up the cost or the county reduces the fee 50% and no
224 vendors allowed. Everyone pays online and all the money goes directly to the state and the state
225 reimburses them for their expenses the rest of the money goes towards the scholarship fund.

226
227 The board adjourned at 2:47 p.m.
228