

**RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OKANOGAN COUNTY
APRIL 9, 2024**

1
2
3
4
5
6 **9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes- April 1st, 2nd, 2024**
7 **9:15 AM Public Comment Period**
8 **9:30 AM Update-Okanogan Behavioral Health Care-David McClay**
9 **10:00 AM Discussion-Janssen WA Opioid Settlement Agreement-Commissioners**
10 **10:30 AM Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**
11 **11:00 AM Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
12 **11:45 AM Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 1st, 2nd, 2024**
13 **11:50 AM Approve Consent Agenda**
14 **1:30 PM Board of Health-1234 S. 2nd Ave, Okanogan**
15

16 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th
17 Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on April 9, 2024 with Chairman, Commissioner
18 Jon Neal; Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Chris
19 Branch; and the Clerk of the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

20
21 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

22
23 **Review Meeting Minutes- April 1st, 2nd, 2024**

24 Commissioners didn't make revisions of their meeting minutes during this time.
25

26 **Public Comment Period**

27 Planning Commission member, Salley Bull, commented that she is concerned about her
28 personal email being shared. She doesn't want to jeopardize her relationships with
29 hospitals and schools should public records be requested. She believes the county should
30 provide a county email to board members especially Board of Equalization. The Planning
31 Commission members provided their email address information exchanges between staff
32 and the commission and therefore became public record. Commissioners discussed how
33 the county could provide email addresses for committee members to use for county
34 business.
35

36 Ms. Bull also would like the zoom chats turned off during zoom public meetings because
37 the chats have been very inappropriate and contained threatening comments directed at
38 the commission members during Planning Commission meetings. She would like chats
39 turned off. Planning Director Pete Palmer said it was her plan to turn off the chats in the
40 future.
41

42 Raven Aae provided a public comment. She thanked the BOCC for recently granting
43 funds to Room One. She commented on the recent Firearm Prevention Grant the Sheriff's
44 office applied for hand asked if that was a county program grant or some other grant. It is
45 a grant through the state, replied Commissioner Neal. Ms. Aae explained her concern
46 that stalking crimes and violations of protection orders are not being enforced in the courts
47 or by the sheriff. She said stalking crimes is a number one risk for women. She provided

48 statistics and her personal motivation for commenting on this because she and her
49 daughter is stalked continually by someone who has many violations which the sheriff's
50 office fails to address. These are Protection order violations and she is a walking risk for
51 gun violence. Women in Okanogan County need the BOCC's help, not another grant for
52 the sheriff's office for firearms. Ms. Aae offered to help work on the county administrator
53 job descriptions. Commissioner Branch stated the HR Director is currently reviewing the
54 ones we have. He asked about the protection orders and asked if the Judge has a role
55 ensuring enforcements are carried out. Ms. Aae replied, on her protection orders, she has
56 requested this type of clarification and asked District Court how these are enforced. The
57 judge issues the order but the Sheriff's office is confused about how to enforce the order.
58 She explained the prosecutor and sheriff's office are both the problem and they are
59 refusing to enforce the protection orders. She asked the Board what action they will take
60 on these issues. Commissioner Neal said the board would follow up and asked her to
61 send her information to the Board. She stated she is transitioning her role at the state to
62 help rewrite state law stalking laws.

63
64 Mrs. Jackson commented, "My public comment... We have lost a houseless elderly
65 disabled woman this Sunday... The system has failed her. We need help and housing for
66 these people... she died outside. Thank you for your time..." "My daughter's stalker has
67 broken protection order like 7 or more times in less than two years... nothing has been
68 done... it's terrible!"

69
70 Ruth Hall commented on Raven's comment and encouraged the BOCC to make changes.
71 She asked about Dennis Rabidou's resignation and when it was affective because she
72 saw on the BOCC Consent Agenda the resolution separating his position into two
73 positions. Commissioner Hover stated the position separation was requested by Superior
74 Court judges because the work was too much for one person. Mr. Rabidou's resignation
75 is effective June 3, 2024.

76
77 **Update-Okanogan Behavioral Health Care-David McClay**
78 OBHC CEO Mr. McClay, County Chief Civile Attorney Esther Milner

79
80 Mr. McClay discussed the DCR model and what that model looked like. The model they
81 are transitioning to was discussed. More people are being ITA'd now at 9 people per
82 month. Mobile crisis is fairly new in Okanogan County and he thinks it takes time getting
83 used to. Commissioner Hover asked what the pathways the people have during the
84 process. You can go voluntary, or involuntary and if they meet criteria then bed needs
85 happen and we do not have beds here. They usually wind up in a different county and
86 they do come back. Is the 9 people getting ITA the same people over time. Mr. McClay
87 said it can happen, but he doesn't know those numbers. Commissioner Hover stated if it
88 is happening over and over again expecting a different result we need to figure out why
89 and fix that. Mr. McClay said it is something that needs to be worked on. There is a
90 population that does fit, but does require a tight cohesive relationship with the
91 prosecutor's office. Commissioner Neal said those getting ITA'd are gone four days. They
92 typically come back with the same issues. They are released on a Friday when services
93 are closed. Better coordination for people should happen.

94 Mr. McClay said they hired someone to push out survey's to staff and partners and that
95 information will be part of OBHC strategic plan and will use that knowledge.
96 Commissioner Hover said there are many county committees, but we do not have a
97 behavioral health committee and might be something to start. Because OBHC receives
98 money from the county it might be beneficial for the county and city offices to meet and
99 go over what is working and what is not. This could help us all work cohesively with one
100 another. This could be a sounding board to identify and communicate the needs and
101 resources needed to address those needs and issues. Mr. McClay agreed. The
102 misconceptions people have is that it is voluntary until it is an ITA. Sometimes it is hard
103 to talk people in. Relationships are built on trust, but OBHC is limited. Commissioner
104 Branch said there are different people with different problems and one size doesn't fit all.
105 It is a broad issue, but he sees people with a variety of issues and some take medications
106 that help, but in the intercept model it addresses this at a community level willing to accept
107 certain behaviors and not others. At the community level people notice drug issues, and
108 as long as they aren't doing anything that hurts themselves or anyone else then it is
109 accepted, but when it is a threat, like is someone going to get killed, then it is a real
110 concern and the tension is high in the community.

111
112 Commissioner Hover discussed a holistic approach to address these issues and provide
113 efficiency and not siloed thought processes. Mr. McClay said another push of OBHC's is
114 to serve by providing a handout that doesn't create dependency. Commissioner Branch
115 said people with severe mental health issues go somewhere else, where is that? Prison
116 or hospitals institutionalized. We should do the best we can to keep them here and figure
117 out how to deal with them here. Commissioner Hover discussed when the same people
118 are continuously ITA'd, and what do we do with those people. He is talking about the
119 dangerous people that we know are dangerous. Commissioner Branch discussed his
120 experience with these people who need help before something happens. Commissioner
121 Hover discussed the will to get better being a huge part of how they can be helped.
122 Commissioner Neal discussed those that continually commit minor crimes. Blame
123 happens when people do not understand the situation and making sure the lines of
124 communication is the best thing for making everyone aware of what is going on, and be
125 out there understanding what is going on.

126

127 **Discussion-Janssen WA Opioid Settlement Agreement-Commissioners**

128 There wasn't time to go over this topic.

129

130 County Chief Civil Attorney Esther Milner

131

132 **Motion Executive Session RCW 42.110.30 (1)(iii) Risk of a Proposed Action**

133 Commissioner Hover moved to go into executive session at 10:32 a.m. until 10:50 a.m.
134 inviting Esther Milner and Pete Palmer to discuss legal risks of a proposed action. Motion
135 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

136

137 At 10:50 a.m. Executive session was extended until 11:00 a.m. Commissioners exited at
138 11:00 a.m. no decisions were made.

139

140 **CANCELLED Update-County Auditor-Cari Hall**

141

142 **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**

143 Engineer Josh Thomson, and Solid Waste Manager Kent Kovalenko

144

145 Mr. Kovalenko provided his solid waste update. Commissioner Hover asked about the
146 animal renderings from meat processors. HB1799 was the organic bill. Mr. Kovalenko
147 said we have six years to reduce organic waste material from the landfill, it is still on our
148 materials list and so the landfill is still taking that waste, but we do have to figure out how
149 to reduce. Organic digesters are expensive and mostly used by dairy farmers and has a
150 threshold mix. Divergence is focused on post-consumer waste and will be able to take a
151 lot of that stuff to break it down into compost. Commissioner Hover is concerned and
152 wants the county to be self-sufficient and be able to produce and process its own meat.
153 Not being able to handle our own rendering waste is unacceptable. Mr. Kovalenko shared
154 that an individual wants to get involved and has the land to do it. We could come up with
155 some kind of co op to do this. The county should figure this out so people are not
156 compelled to dump along the road. Has the Board been notified by Ecology about
157 reductions of 2.5?

158

159 *Maintenance & Road Conditions*

160

161 *Chesaw Rd Rockfall*

162

163 *Durapatcher*

164 Engineer Thomson stated the department would like to purchase this equipment because
165 it is used to fix holes and cracks and provides a good effective overlay. He will be looking
166 for one to purchase. Commissioner Hover asked why we don't buy a new one.

167

168 *D-6 Dozer*

169 Engineer Thomson discussed the need for a D-6 Dozer.

170

171 *Public Works Building*

172 Engineer Thomson discussed signage for the public works building. Commissioner Hover
173 would like consideration of materials that look good and are long lasting.

174

175 Good news STP chip seal project was approved and the prospectus was presented for
176 commissioners' approval.

177

178 **Motion STP Funds Prospectus and Local Agency Agreement**

179 Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the
180 Countywide Pavement Preservation Prospectus checklist and local agency agreement
181 for STP federal funds in the amount of \$1,003,600. Motion was seconded, all were in
182 favor, motion carried.

183

184 WDFW is interested in the little property along the river that belongs to the county and will
185 approach the county again about purchasing it.

186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210
211
212
213
214
215
216
217
218
219
220
221
222
223
224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232

Approve Commissioners Proceedings- April 1st, 2nd, 2024

Commissioner Branch moved to approve April 1, 2024 and April 2, 2024 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-7 excluding item #6. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

1. Re-Appointment Letter-Okanogan County Housing Authority-Dr. Brendan Smith
2. Re-Appointment Letter-Okanogan County Housing Authority-Ms. Andrist
3. ARPA REQ#1-Indigent Defense Costs-Indigent Defense Attorney's Trust
4. Survey Services Consultant Agreement-Tawlks Foster Bridge-Erlandsen & Associates, Inc.
5. Contract #24-006-2024 LTAC \$30,000-Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber
6. Resolution 54-2024-Seperating Juvenile Services Director/Superior Court Admin
7. Resolution 55-2024-Allocation of ARPA Funds to Direct Services Program-Room One

Motion

Commissioner Hover moved to acknowledge a corrected payroll amount or \$1,128,128.17 from the previously approved county voucher certification approved on March 27 2024 that was in error at that time. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners

Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$477,612.41. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

Motion Methow Valley EMS District

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the BOCC and reconvene as the Methow Valley EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Methow Valley EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$89,449.43 for April Services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Methow Valley EMS District and Reconvene as the Oroville Rural EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

Motion Oroville Rural EMS District

Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the Oroville Rural EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$18,445 to Life Line for March Services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

233 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Oroville Rural EMS District and Reconvene
234 as the Tonasket EMS District. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

235

236 **Motion Tonasket EMS District**

237 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Voucher certification and authorize the
238 Tonasket EMS District vouchers to be paid in the amount of \$16,200 to Life Line for March
239 Services. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

240

241 Commissioner Hover moved to adjourn as the Tonasket EMS District and Reconvene as
242 the BOCC. Motion was seconded all were in favor, motion carried.

243

244 **Motion Resolution 57-2024 ARPA Emergency Management**

245 Commissioner Branch moved to approve resolution 57-2024 allocating ARPA funds to
246 Emergency management for their equipment storage unit in the amount of \$6,184.50.
247 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

248

249 **Motion ARPA A19 Emergency Management**

250 Commissioner Branch moved to approve the A19 for the purchase of the equipment to
251 be paid from ARPA Funds in the amount of \$6,184.50. Motion was seconded, all were in
252 favor, motion carried.

253

254 **Board of Health-1234 S. 2nd Ave, Okanogan**

255 Commissioners attended the Board of Health meeting.

256

257 The board adjourned at 12:23 p.m.