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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

AUGUST 1, 2023

8 **9:00 AM** **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**
9 **9:15 AM** **Public Comment Period**
10 **9:20 AM** **Review Meeting Minutes July 24th, 25th, 2023**
11 **9:30 AM** **Discussion-Finance Round Table**
12 **10:30 AM** **Update-Communications/Dispatch-Mike Worden**
13 **11:00 AM** **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
14 **1:25 PM** **Set Wednesday' Agenda if needed**
15 **1:30 PM** **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Elections 027**
16 **1:35 PM** **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Sheriff**
17 **1:40 PM** **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Emergency Management**
18 **1:45 PM** **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Noxious Weed**
19 **2:00 PM** **Discussion-Aspect Consulting Okanogan County Water Banking Proposal**
20 **3:00 PM** **Discussion-North Central Washington Diversionary-Commissioner Branch**
21 **4:30 PM** **Approve Commissioners Proceedings July 24th, 25th, 2023**
22 **4:35 PM** **Approve Consent Agenda**

24 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue
25 North, Okanogan, Washington on August 1, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch;
26 Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of
27 the Board, Laleña Johns, present.

28
29 AV Capture and Zoom provided audio and video accessibility for public interaction.

30
31 Commissioner Branch was absent until 10:43 a.m.

32
33 **Executive Session RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)**

34 Commissioner Neal moved to go into executive session at 9:00 until 9:20 am under RCW
35 42.30.110 (1)(i) inviting HR Director Shelley Keitzman and Prosecutor Albert Lin. Motion was
36 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

37
38 **Public Comment Period**

39 Ruth Hall, member of the public via zoom, had no comments.

40
41 **Review Meeting Minutes July 24th, 25th, 2023**

42
43 **Discussion-Finance Round Table**

44 Karen Beatty, Eric Fritts, Auditor Cari Hall, Treasurer Pam Johnson

45
46 Karen Beatty updated the board on the server issues and solutions. Dell has solutions appliance
47 for domain back up extra smart server that uses our back up software with security features. Mr.
48 Fritts does the back up everyday and discussed what the product can do for use. Backing up over
49 60 terabytes per day. He explained what it takes to do the back ups (12-13 hours per day)
50 Commissioner Hover asked why not have three servers working instead of two. The cost of the
51 additional server is. Data Domain backs up with firewalls and protects while backing up. It will
52 reduce what we are storing right now. It will be a more secure appliance, faster back up jobs. 20/1

53 does a better job and provides immunibility. The cost is going around \$60,000. The group
54 discussed where the funds would come from to supplement for this cost. Current Expense
55 Reserve fund 198. Current Expense Non-Departmental has enough to purchase now with a
56 budget supplemental later from the CE Reserve if needed.

57
58 **Motion Dell Server Appliance Purchase Approval**
59 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the Dell Back up Appliance in the amount of \$59,024.09.
60 Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

61
62 Auditor Hall asked how the commissioners envisioned what the Finance Round table is for. Is it
63 to allow departments to come and request and discuss funds. Commissioner Hover stated he
64 envisioned discussion about the county's funds that it needs to spend money on. It is about
65 departments discussing big expenses. No agenda is needed. Time to discuss more overarching
66 policies that are not covered anywhere else.

67
68 Commissioner Hover discussed the Fairgrounds being an expense to be discussed further. Need
69 to discuss all permitting and work on Sheriff's Equipment Coroner Storage building and how to
70 fund that project and the Justice Building and which to fund. Treasurer Johnson discussed
71 reallocation of the budget submitted to the bond council or?? Commissioner Hover stated the
72 original cost of the buildings has gone way up and the bond included all three. The Public Works
73 buildings bid came out \$3 million more. Treasurer Johnson said use our bond allocations we
74 originally planned then supplement with other funds to make up. Commissioner Hover would like
75 to keep reserves high, and hoped the second Local Tribal Consistency Act funds would become
76 available soon (\$6 million). Auditor Hall said we should start by discussing with Bond Council and
77 let that lead us to the next path to consider. Treasurer Johnson discussed money for maintenance
78 and operations for the fairgrounds and frustrates her when there isn't that built into our projects
79 to help keep them in good shape. Commissioner Hover stated that means more maintenance
80 workers or outsourcing the services to keep up. Treasurer will contact bond council on allocation
81 of projects to see how we can spend it on those projects. She will also invite Naomie Peasley to
82 the next discussion to discuss fairgrounds.

83
84 Auditor Hall updated the board on the state Audit. Down to two items reports submitted by
85 Commissioner Branch to ARPA and need additional documentations. Schedule 6 has come up
86 and we and everyone across the state have been unable to balance it. There is a variance of \$2
87 million that was not caught. Revenue loss of \$8.5 million for public health using the standard
88 deduction under less than \$10 million. Revenue loss is the number one category, said
89 Commissioner Hover, and we can apply that to any service.

90
91 **Update-Communications/Dispatch-Mike Worden**
92 Chief Worden provided his update of the 911 dispatch center and what he has been working on
93 since his last meeting. Permitting through the City of Okanogan for the Sheriff's Equipment and
94 Coroner Storage conditional use permit was approved.

95
96 Dispatch staffing is good but still two open positions with much recruiting resulting in no
97 applications so far.

98
99 Gathering additional media photos for the projects he is involved in. We will need to reengage
100 legislators for funding as he expects first and second quarter to drill down the financial picture to
101 bring it to fruition.

102

103 The Tunk Fire Hardening received one bid response and he is concerned with the numbers. The
104 bid closes on Friday. He wondered if ARPA dollars could help more with the funding gaps.
105 Depending on what the bids come in at, we might consider adjusting the bid and going back out
106 in the spring. Commissioner Hover said no, not after what happened with the PW building bids
107 turned out.

108
109 The Oroville area fires have not impacted our dispatch much. Commissioner Hover asked if the
110 Pilot program is happening for Life Line. The equipment has been ordered and there is about a
111 twelve-week lead. Access to Pitcher Mt may be a challenge if it is later. Those costs should be
112 showing up soon and will be paid from fund 161. Commissioner Neal asked what the budget
113 numbers are for the design. ADCOM and Mr. Worden is working on that right now and will have
114 those completed soon.

115
116 Commissioners discussed recycling of the remaining county electronic surplus and file cabinets
117 and then what to do with the chairs.

118
119 Emergency Manager provided an update of the Eagle Bluff fire near Oroville and explained where
120 the fire is still burning and which roads are closed and reopened in the fire area. The emergency
121 level will be reduced from 2 to 1 later this morning. Teams are in touch with Canada, housing
122 helicopters in Tonasket, had a few social media challenges with different groups claiming to be
123 trapped for attention. EM stated he has investigated each claim and found no one was trapped.
124 State mobilization is active as is FMAG so some funding will become available for damages.
125 Sheriff's department is well aware of evacuation protocol. Type two team took over today.
126 Guardrails on county roads have been burned and damaged over 300 of them. A gathering in
127 Oroville today was organized by the city.

128
129 **Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
130 Kent Kovalenko

131
132 Mr. Kovalenko discussed the non-attainment grant HB1799 to reduce burning of organic material.
133 The grant opens up next Monday. He is looking at purchasing equipment such as a horizontal
134 grinder, Dremel that can be used on a whole bunch of applications such as future composting
135 green waste. Sterilization of green waste has not been figured out yet for public use, so the
136 material will be used on site using this type of equipment. He discussed these grants are usually
137 \$500,000 for salaries and education, Okanogan County was the main focus for the grant, but now
138 it's open across the state. He would like to waive tipping fee for organics and use the grant money
139 to supplement that. It allows us to get a good look at potential residential volume of what we may
140 get.

141
142 If we purchase a chipper would it be something the orchardists could use to chip orchards that
143 are pulled out versus burning it. Mr. Kovalenko said he thought dept. of Ag said if orchardists are
144 pulling and not replanting they can to chip or if they are replanting they have to burn.

145
146 Engineer Thomson provided his agenda and discussed the items listed there.

147
148 Commissioner Neal discussed the transportation policy issues with GoRail proposal legislators
149 HR3372 that would establish a 10-year "pilot program" to test 91,000-pound trucks, a 14%
150 increase of the current 80,000 limit. Engineer Thomson will look into it.

151
152
153

154 *Maintenance and road conditions*
155 Tonasket shop is cruising along. Twisp river bridge test section is temperature sensitive and
156 needs to be done at night.

157
158 Engineer Thomson stated we got a letter regarding safety project funding and there is more state
159 funding for roads and we were awarded double for ours.

160
161 Road striping was discussed and the new regulations and changes that may or may not affect us.

162
163 *Eagle Bluff Fire*
164 Engineer Thomson briefly discussed the fire status.

165
166 *Guardrail*
167 Lost 100 guardrails with repair costs at \$100,000, approximately.

168
169 *Similkameen Trail*
170 A budget supplemental will be needed at some point.

171
172 *Construction projects*
173 Engineer Thomson provided project updates.

174
175 Mr. Kovalenko stated he will take care of the left-over county surplus electronics at the fairgrounds
176 and will haul to the Methow Recycling. The printers can go in the landfill or we can pay a price to
177 recycle. Commissioners thought the landfill was the most economical and maintenance budget
178 will pay the landfill bill.

179
180 **Set Wednesday' Agenda if needed**
181 No Wednesday meeting was set.

182
183 Commissioners discussed the state of our mental health challenges and the people in that
184 situation. It is compounded even worse when people want to use the facilities to get help and
185 can't. Commissioner Branch said there are a variety of circumstances people are involved in. He
186 discussed the Intercept program that he spoke to Commissioner Kevin Overbey about. It could
187 happen and there is potential there to help. Commissioner Hover asked do we want to bring it to
188 Wenatchee is it all based on the problem to be solved. Yes, Commissioner Branch said the
189 conversation hasn't been around making a community more attractive. Helping people before
190 they get caught up in the system We cannot put everything on Behavioral Health to figure out.
191 Commissioner Hover said he would absolutely say yes to a program like this. Things have been
192 abused so much that now there is a fear about it.

193
194 Adjourned until 1:30 p.m.

195
196 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Elections 027**
197 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Auditor Cari Hall provided that the budget
198 supplemental appropriation was to provide budget to the Elections budget for grant receipting and
199 expending on Elections upgrade equipment.

200
201 Commissioner Branch opened the hearing to the public, seeing no public, he closed the hearing
202 to the public and opened up to commissioners.

203
204

205 **Motion Resolution 94-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Elections**
206 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 94-2023 a budget supplemental appropriation
207 within the Contingency Reserve and Elections fund # 027 in the amount of \$59,000. Motion was
208 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

209
210 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Sheriff**
211 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Beth Barker Chief Civil Deputy, provided
212 that the budget supplemental appropriation was to provide budget for LiveScan Fingerprinting
213 equipment to be reimbursed by SORNA Grant. (Sex Offender Grant)

214
215 Commissioner Branch opened the hearing to the public, seeing no public, he closed the hearing
216 to the public and opened up to commissioners.

217 **Motion Resolution 95-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Sheriff**
218 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 95-2023 a budget supplemental appropriation
219 within the Sheriff's budget in the amount of \$15,576. Motion was seconded, all were in favor,
220 motion carried.

221
222 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Emergency Management**
223 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Lauri Caswell, EM provided that the
224 budget supplemental appropriation was to provide budget expenditures related to Grant E22-
225 230 for emergency vehicle equipment.

226
227 Commissioner Branch opened the hearing to the public, seeing no public, he closed the hearing
228 to the public and opened up to commissioners.

229
230 **Motion Resolution 96-2023 Budget Supplemental Emergency Management**
231 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 96-2023 a budget supplemental appropriation
232 within the fund #121 for emergency vehicle costs in the amount of \$14,205. Motion was seconded,
233 all were in favor, motion carried.

234
235 **Public Hearing-Budget Supplemental Appropriation-Noxious Weed**
236 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing. Larry Hudson, Noxious Weed Manager
237 provided that the budget supplemental appropriation was to provide budget for Noxious Weed
238 Uniforms and Additional contract/grant funds anticipated in 2023.

239
240 Commissioner Branch opened the hearing to the public, seeing no public, he closed the hearing
241 to the public and opened up to commissioners.

242
243 **Motion Resolution 97-2023 Budget Supplemental Appropriation Noxious Weed**
244 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 97-2023 a budget supplemental appropriation
245 within the Noxious Weed fund #103 in the amount of \$41,500. Motion was seconded, all were in
246 favor, motion carried.

247
248 **Discussion-Aspect Consulting Okanogan County Water Banking Proposal**
249 Commissioner Branch read from the Aspect Consulting Contract Order #1 for project No. 230319
250 regarding Okanogan County-Water Banking Technical Assistance not to exceed \$11,500.
251 (attached)

252
253 **Motion Aspect Consulting Contract Order**
254 Commissioner Hover moved to approve Aspect Consulting Contract Order #1 for project No.
255 230319 between Okanogan County and Aspect Consulting for described work not to exceed

256 \$11,500 and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
257 carried.

258
259 Director Pete Palmer asked if the Planning budget would be need to be supplemented. We will
260 need to figure out what is needed this year. Ms. Palmer said if she can come up with the funds
261 needed this year in her budget then a budget supplemental won't be needed this year.

262
263 **Motion to Correct a Duplicate Resolution**

264 Commissioner Hover moved to amend the previous motion that approved the consent agenda items
265 1-6 on July 25, 2023 and strike the approval of resolution 91-2023 due to it being a duplicate resolution
266 related to resolution 75-2023 allocating county ARPA funds to Elmer City/Fire District #2. Motion was
267 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

268
269 **Motion Letter of Non-Objection On Point Cellars Added Privileges**

270 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the letter of non-objection regarding James and Dana
271 Divis application for added privileges to their liquor license #427398. Motion was seconded, all
272 were in favor, motion carried.

273
274 **Motion Cedar Creek Fire FMAG Grant**

275 Commissioner Neal moved to approve the FMAG Grant Application for the Cedar Creek Fire
276 declared July 19, 2021. Fire #FM-5401-WA in order to obtain federal and or state emergency or
277 disaster assistance funds. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

278
279 **Motion Bid Acceptance Juvenile Detention and Admin Building Stair Repair Project**

280 Commissioner Hover moved to accept the solitary stair repair bid of Pioneer Waterproofing
281 Company, Inc. dated May 2, 2023 as clarified in the amount of \$57,187. Motion was seconded,
282 all were in favor, motion carried.

283
284 The county requested bids for the project several times but received no other proposals.

285
286 **Discussion-North Central Washington Diversionary-Commissioner Branch**

287
288 **Approve Commissioners Proceedings July 24th, 25th, 2023**

289 Commissioner Neal moved to approved commissioners' proceedings of July 24, and July 25,
290 2023 as corrected. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

291
292 **Approve Consent Agenda**

293 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the consent agenda items 1-7, as presented. Motion
294 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 295 1. **Subrecipient Agreement Amendment #1 CDBG PS Grant New End Date June 30th, 2024-OK**
296 **County & OCCAC**
- 297 2. **Settlement Agreement Darcee Rider**
- 298 3. **Board of Equalization 28-day Regular Session Extension RCW 84.48.010 (4)**
- 299 4. **ARPA Funds Req #6 Tunk Mtn Fire Hardening \$1,230**
- 300 5. **Appointment Letter-Position #10 Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee-Laura Sorenson**
- 301 6. **Special Occasion Liquor License-Classroom in Bloom Garden Winthrop July 24th-Kimberly**
302 **Romain-Bondi**
- 303 7. **Resolution 93-2023-Authorizing Incident Response Pay-Emergency Management Specialist**

304
305
306

307 **Motion – Special Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

308 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
309 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a
310 list, and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to
311 approve the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,099. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached
312 blanket voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

313

314 **Motion Resolution 98-2023 Noxious Weed Dept Uniforms**

315 Commissioner Neal moved to approve resolution 98-2023 a resolution to create a Noxious Weed
316 Department Uniforms BARS Code in the Noxious Weed Department Budget. Motion was
317 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

318

319 **Discussion-North Central Washington Diversionary-Commissioner Branch**

320 Dennis Rabidou, Stefan Wolak, Sheriff Budrow, Shelley Keitzman, Dave McClay, Albert Lin

321

322 The group discussed a regional solution for mental health and drug abuse disorders that would
323 take the pressure off local jails that are not set up legally to deal with these types of challenges.

324

325 The group discussed the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) The proposal would include the region
326 of Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas and Grant counties to collaborate solutions for the crisis
327 continuum in this region for mental and substance use disorders in the criminal justice system.
328 (attached) the group provided their thoughts on the concept and the challenges people are facing
329 and how it intertwines with all the county services.

330

331 It would be easier for the region to come together with a plan that can be brought to the legislators
332 and then pool needed resources for the regional facility for the region. Commissioner Branch said
333 a regional conversation is difficult and sometimes not everyone comes together. Commissioner
334 Branch said it is about crisis services and keeping people from committing suicide and committing
335 crimes. It costs. There is a difference between those who volunteer to receive the service and use
336 OBHC and those who refuse to receive the service but really need the service and don't
337 participate unless they are court ordered to and those are the people we are talking about.

338

339 This is an assessment, a gathering of information, said Commissioner Branch. Mr. Rabidou said
340 UW is getting a grant to do the pilot project. Okanogan County is a pilot county and the study is
341 focused on substance abuse. Commissioners would like a more detailed overview of this
342 program. Ms. Keitzman said it is good that someone outside our situation and area is conducting
343 the assessment.

344

345 Mr. McClay commented that this will take collaboration and that doesn't happen very well. If there
346 is no commitment to collaborate this model does not work. There could be some things that come
347 out of it that we don't know, but the commitment to collaborate is key. Commissioner Branch said
348 this is a local and regional collaboration.

349

350 Chief Wolak said jail standards act is going into effect next year and the mental health piece is
351 going to be a challenge for us to meet. The jail is doing a phased reopening we had a max of 54
352 people during COVID, but now there are 114ish. The problem is where to put highly problematic
353 people safely.

354

355 Commissioner Branch said there is an opportunity to share resources. If it helps us build a regional
356 mental health facility then Sheriff Budrow is all for this. Mr. Rabidou said Rep Shelly Short and
357 other legislators should be pulled into the conversation along the way to prepare for legislative

358 session. Commissioner Hover suggested pulling in other legislators from around the state to help
359 pull a regional mental health facility together. Commissioner Branch said a study was conducted
360 on several areas. Prosecutor Lin explained we put them in, they get out, and then they get put
361 back in. Commissioner Hover said we are talking about a facility that is secured where they would
362 go and we just received \$50,447.58 for the Opioids Abatement.

363

364 **Motion ARPA Reg #7 Tunk Mtn Fire Hardening**

365 Commissioner Hover moved to approve ARPA req #7 in the amount \$23,547.14. Motion was
366 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

367

368 **Motion**

369 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize the chairman to sign said Req #7. Motion was
370 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

371

372 The board adjourned at 4:46 p.m.