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8 **RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

9 **OKANOGAN COUNTY**

10 **AUGUST 15, 2023**
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13 **9:00 AM Review Meeting Minutes August 7th, August 8th, 2023**
14 **9:15 AM Public Comment Period**
15 **9:30 AM Update-Central Services-Karen Beatty**
16 **10:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer Pam Johnson**
17 **11:00 AM Update-Public Works-Engineer Josh Thomson**
18 **12:00 PM Discussion-Justice Building Proposal & Review-MJ Neal Architects**
19 **1:30 PM Discussion-WDFW Land Acquisitions-Brock Hoenes, Justin Haug**
20 **2:30 PM Discussion-Methow Water Shed Contract-Pete Palmer**
21 **3:00 PM Commissioners to Set Wednesdays Agenda if Needed**
22 **3:05 PM Approve Consent Agenda**

23
24 The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 123 5th Avenue North,
25 Okanogan, Washington on August 15, 2023 with Chairman, Commissioner Chris Branch; Vice-
26 Chairman, Commissioner Andy Hover; Member, Commissioner Jon Neal; and the Clerk of the Board,
27 Laleña Johns, present.

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

29 Commissioners recited the pledge of allegiance.

30 **Review Meeting Minutes August 7th, August 8th, 2023**

31 Commissioners reviewed their draft meeting minutes and offered corrections.

32 **Public Comment Period**

33 Isabelle Spohn member of the public via zoom, commented on Lahaina’s lack of wildfire community
34 protection plans and wondered about the county’s 2013 updated wildfire protection plan.
35 Commissioner Hover stated it was a terrible event with 97 people perishing. Ms. Spohn then asked
36 about the status of the county’s All Hazards Mitigation Plan and the confusion the press had about
37 those types of plans. She commented on the importance of having updated plans and whether the
38 county was updating its plans on a yearly basis. She assumes the Lahaina’s officials will look into their
39 plan to ensure it addresses these situations. Ms. Spohn said her concern is ensuring alternatives for
40 situations that may occur during fire season. The Community Wildfire Plan she hopes will be
41 completed very soon since we are in wildfire season now and she wants full consideration for an
42 adequate plan. Commissioners will ask Emergency Manager to provide an update on this at the next
43 staff meeting.

44 Ruth Hall member of the public via zoom, asked if the commissioners knew anything more about
45 Monse platted road to be vacated. August 22 is when the public hearing is scheduled and Engineer
46 Thomson will report later today on this.

47
48 **Update-Central Services-Karen Beatty**

49 Director Beatty provided the Central Services update. Items discussed: backup systems were ordered
50 and a kickoff meeting is scheduled. The main switch project had to be postponed due to compatibility
51 issues that needed to be worked out. With fire season upon us they did not want those systems down
52 so December is when this will be picked back up again. Replacement servers for Public Works and
53 the Treasurer were discussed. The Adobe licenses have been deployed to departments that need

54 them. It brings all Adobe products into one place in current expense for cost distribution. The software
55 has some options that users will learn more about in the future for teams, adobe, and Laserfiche. She
56 will be looking at multifactor authentication requirements from the Feds. She'll look at available grants
57 for the needed upgrades and what systems are available with hardware about \$50 a piece. She
58 explained a finger print type access tool.

59

60 **Finance Committee Meeting-Treasurer Pam Johnson**

61 Auditor Cari Hall, Lisa Schreckengost

62

63 Treasurer Johnson provided the committee agenda and discussed the items listed there.

64 The Cash on Hand report for July was discussed. Commissioner Hover mentioned the LTCF portal
65 was opened and application submitted by Commissioner Branch. Commissioner Hover commented
66 that Sales tax revenue report is still looking good with only a few decreases. Fund 173 Opioid Abate
67 funds will be reviewed as the county has received some of those funds.

68

69 Fund 198 Current Expense Reserve funds are invested. Treasurer Johnson explained each fund
70 invested is under its own fund investment. Current investments are at 4.75% but there is concern it
71 will go down. Treasurer Johnson explained how much the county relied on revenue interest in the past
72 then when interest went down to almost nothing it caused a problem. She is conscientious about this
73 now and doesn't want to rely on it being high.

74

75 Commissioner Branch asked about the status of the fairground's revenue. Ms. Schreckengost went
76 over the report.

77

78 Treasurer Johnson explained Lee Marchisio's letter regarding Bond Proceeds questions and what
79 projects the proceeds can be used for. (attached) As long as the proceeds are used for what the
80 county spelled out for the money.

81

82 Commissioner Branch discussed the ARPA reporting questions the county responded to the State
83 Auditor with. Auditor Hall will be discussing the audit status with the State Auditor's office on Thursday.

84

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

86 Engineer Thomson provide his public works update. City of Omak road work will begin a week later
87 than expected.

88

89 Engineer Thomson explained 340 guardrail posts burned in the Eagle Bluff fire with an estimated cost
90 of \$110,000 to replace. A request for Email quotes will be sent tomorrow for November 10 completion.

91

92 **Motion Authorize Guardrail Bids**

93 Commissioner Hover moved to authorize Public Works to go out for bids for the 2023 Fire Guardrail
94 Repair project. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

95

96 Once bids are received those will be brought to the board for award. Commissioner Hover asked if
97 that was Loomis Oroville road, all of it was.

98

99 Tawls foster bridge repairs project is still in the permitting process. Working toward doing the work
100 this fall but not sure how long the DNR permitting will take and the project is running behind. We also
101 received some SEPA comments from the Yakama Nation with a list of things that are not even
102 necessary. Commissioner Hover stated the Yakama Nation has to go through the county for its
103 permitting even if they are exempt from SEPA.

104

105 Landfill cell project is done except for seeding that will be done in the fall.

106

107 Tonasket metal siding will be placed soon the frame is up now though. Both of the shop's exteriors
108 should be completed in December with some interior work being completed over the winter.

109
110 Engineer Thomson explained the Monse road vacation issues with the property plat and what still
111 needs to be resolved to make sure it all works out. Commissioner Branch how the resulting information
112 will be made available to the public. Engineer Thomson stated a request to him would be sufficient.

113
114 Commissioners adjourned to eat lunch at 11:45 a.m. before their next meeting at noon. Lunch was
115 shared with departments that wanted pizza.

116
117 **Discussion-Justice Building Proposal & Review-MJ Neal Architects**

118 Associates from MJ Neal Luis Rodriguez, Justin Borst and Korine Moushawn

119
120 Judge Rawson, Judge Grim, Clerk Speiker, Sheriff Budrow, Joe Poulin, Tim Meadows, Anna Burica
121 (zoom), Dennis Rabidou, and Karen Harris member of the public.

122
123 Justin Borst stated the original feasibility study was changed a little and he discussed those changes
124 based on meetings with the Sheriff, Judges, Clerk and others who would be using the building for court
125 services.

126
127 Each of the departments commented on the new proposal and asked for additional changes which the
128 architects heard and acknowledged. The drawings are a work in progress so the firm will consider
129 what was discussed today and incorporate for another discussion.

130
131 Mr. Rabidou commented that juveniles and adults cannot enter the same holding areas. The Sheriff
132 noted that the juvenile detention building isn't planned to be built for another 10 years or so, but the
133 idea would be those entries would be separate. The Clerk and administration have been located
134 together but each office has their own work area. There are some shared areas.

135
136 Commissioners' thanked the groups for their time.

137
138 **Discussion-WDFW Land Acquisitions-Brock Hoenes, Justin Haug**

139 Justin Haug provided Lands 20/20 and project updates to the Commissioners. May and June- Lands
140 Agents coordinate process in their regions. Chesaw Unit- Inholding is a prime project area.

141
142 There was land donation to WDFW in the Scotch Creek area.
143 The project they presented last year to the commissioners, ended up having extra money for other
144 projects.

145
146 There hasn't been a conservation easement recently. The conserve value is an interest because it is
147 building a compacity for the unit. The critical habitat is shrub steppe. and the species are mule deer
148 shrub steppe. Species and upland game birds. For the Rendezvous-CE Expansion.

149
150 Balky Hill-DNR-TLT Transfer has over 160 plus acres. The recreation values would be big game
151 hunting opportunities, upland bird hunting. The community finds the 200-acre section has a high
152 interest by the community for public ownership and additional management but there are challenges
153 for WDFW because the land is so rugged, it has multiple users, limited fencing, 5% is used for grazing
154 etc.... Commissioner Hover said he doesn't want them to waste their management dollars. Due to
155 local interest does it outweigh WDFW difficulties. Commissioner Hover stated there is a lot of
156 challenges due to being WRIA 48 rules, terrain, etc...

157
158 Mr. Haug discussed other projects including Spectacle Lake water access improvement replacing
159 vaulted toilet, additional launch, and address the erosion issue on the bank and signage that were

160 funded, Sidley lake did not get funded. Other projects that are moving forward were Green Lake,
161 Patterson lake, Forest Treatments in upper Rendezvous, Golden Doe closing this fall, seeking funding
162 for Texas Creek in holding, Potential winter closures on Methow Wildlife area with public meetings to
163 be scheduled in September, WCC crew (6) to assist with WLA and water access areas for two weeks,
164 and assessing Eagle Bluff Fire on Ellemeham Mt with grazing leases that are now displaced. Brock
165 Hoenes wants to keep an open line of communication should the BOCC hear from the public about
166 the things WDFW is doing or plan to do. He is open to having that open discussion and finds them
167 very beneficial.

168
169 Commissioners thanked Brock and Justin for the discussion.

170
171 **Discussion-Methow Water Shed Contract-Pete Palmer**

172 Cancelled.

173
174 Commissioners discussed funding the race horse barn installation.

175
176 **Motion**

177 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the Comancheros WSLCB Special Occasion Liquor License
178 for beer garden at the fair and authorized the chairman to sign. Motion was seconded all were in favor,
179 motion carried.

180
181 **Motion resolution 110-2023 Over time Authorization Fair**

182 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 110-2023 authorizing overtime for employees who
183 work extra hours on the fairgrounds for 2023 fair. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
184 carried.

185
186 **Motion resolution 109-2023 Step Increase Administrative Secretary Commissioners Office**

187 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 109-2023 authorizing step increase for the
188 Administrative Secretary in the commissioners' office. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion
189 carried.

190
191 **Motion Healthcare Authority Agreement K099**

192 Commissioner Hover moved to approve and authorized the chairman to sign the Healthcare Authority
193 Agreement K099. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

194
195 **Commissioners to Set Wednesdays Agenda if Needed**

196 No meeting was scheduled.

197
198 **Approve Consent Agenda**

199 Commissioner Hover moved to approved the consent agenda items as presented. Motion was
200 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

- 201 1. Professional Services Agreement-Juvenile & Admin Stair Repair-OK County & Pioneer
- 202 Waterproofing
- 203 2. Resolution 108-2023-Authorizing Sheriff's Office to Install Fire Hardening Improvements
- 204 Tunk Mtn.

205
206 **Motion - Voucher Approval - Commissioners**

207 Vouchers certified and audited by the Auditing Officer as required by RCW 42.24.080 and those
208 expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090 have been recorded on a list,
209 and made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board did vote, by unanimous vote, to approve
210 the regular vouchers in the amount of \$1,181,438.10. Warrant numbers as cited on the attached blanket
211 voucher list. Motion seconded and carried.

212

213 Commissioner Hover discussed a contract with Carol Sivak who is a member of the FAC that looks
214 like the county is paying her \$20,000, but the money is actually to pay for race staffing and to pay out
215 the purse money for the fair races. Commissioner Branch has discussed the process with Ms. Sivak
216 and is assured the funds will be used for the horse races and those types of expenses to prepare and
217 pay out for the help.
218

219 Joe Poulin, Tim Meadows, and Roy Wadkins provided an assessment of what fairground repairs are
220 needed to be done before the fair. Mr. Meadows explained several items he felt needed to be
221 addressed. Commissioner Branch wanted to know what the status was prior to the Fairgrounds
222 manager leaving. New restrooms need some toilets replaced. RV park showers and restrooms need
223 attention. A list was provided to the maintenance staff by the fairground's manager. Commissioner
224 Branch stated prioritization is needed. Mr. Meadows said public safety repairs are a priority.
225 Commissioners agreed those items be addressed first and coordinate the help with Norm.
226

227 Mr. Poulin asked about the amount of time to be spent on fairgrounds versus the courthouse complex.
228 Commissioner Hover stated courthouse maintenance staff make the fair work a priority to get through
229 the fair the courthouse maintenance can wait. He said the board approved overtime for the extra hours
230 worked at the fairgrounds. He said there should be no problem getting an extra set of keys from
231 fairgrounds staff. Commissioner Branch stated he will be the maintenance staff's number one contact
232 should anything come up. Mr. Poulin asked if his maintenance staff are to work during the fair work
233 and after the fair? Lets just get through the fair for now, said Commissioner Hover, we'll figure out the
234 rest afterward.
235

236 **Motion Approve Proceedings of August 7 and August 8, 2023**

237 Commissioner Hover moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 7 and August 8, 2023. Motion
238 was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
239

240 The board adjourned at 3:42 p.m.