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RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OKANOGAN COUNTY

AUGUST 16, 2021

9:00 AM Discussion- Methow Watershed Council Administration Services-Cmrs
9:15 AM Review Commissioners' Agenda and Consent Agenda
9:30 AM Briefing Among the Commissioners
10:00 AM Discussion Infrastructure Prioritization -Roni Holder-Diefenbach
11:00 AM Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation Jail Improvement Fund 193
11:30 AM Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley
1:30 PM Discussion Meadowlark Senior Housing Request-Housing Authority
2:00 PM Review Meeting Minutes

The Okanogan County Board of Commissioners met in Regular session at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington on August 16, 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.

Member of the public, Stephanie Clark present taking notes.

Discussion Fire Update-Muckamuck Fire

Emergency Manager Maurice Goodall; Tonasket Fire Ranger Kathleen Johnson; Methow Ranger Chris Furr; Forest Service Deputy Incident Leader Bea Day; Section Manager for DNR, Dave Hayes, and Matt Laughlin

A map showing the Muckamuck Fire was presented. Mr. Laughlin explained current strategies for fighting the fire which is north of Conconully. The fire was lightning caused. They brought fire into Conconully as back burns and will get into Sugar Loaf to provide a defensible line there. Winds created many spot fires across and under Funk Mt. All of it was burned in an hour. Community defense was their main goal. One old dilapidated barn and an old trailer structure burned so far. Everything else has made it even those off the 25 road.

A map showing the Muckamuck fire north of Conconully was discussed. Chickadee fire is DNR so far. There wasn't a lot of information on that fire available this morning. All four type I and type II were picking up the spots. About nine airtanker drops happened trying to keep the retardant out of town but winds picked up and disengaged right at dark.

The plan today is to get the line burnt and secured and tie into the area back burned yesterday. The next line of defense moving east into Fish Lake. Commissioner Hover asked if the permittee who lost a bunch of cattle have been notified? Yes, the Forest Service is working with him to get the cattle out of there and it is not clear how many have been lost. FS will let the permittee know every time a back burn is planned so there is a bit of time for him to remove any cattle.

50 The Sugar Loaf Lake is the next line of defense, but it is narrow in that canyon. Commissioner
51 DeTro thanked the group for the excellent job they are doing even though some ground was lost.
52 He said he's been in constant contact with the leaders.

53
54 Mr. Goodall stated state is mobilized and FMAG approved from the federal side. Power was shut
55 off on North and West and upper lake areas, but is now on again for those lines that are still up
56 on lake side. Any and all locals are being utilized subject matter expertise are being used
57 absolutely. Writing an ERA for the person drawing their own lines. Commissioner DeTro said
58 thank you for physically saving structures with the hot shot crews that were brought in. The fuel
59 supplier is keeping fuel at the airport but it is a public pump so fire fighters are the only ones using
60 the fuel. Rep. Kretz said a tank was purchased but won't be installed until next year.
61 Commissioner Hover said loans are available to airports for fuel tanks. Commissioner DeTro
62 asked that the air flights start earlier in the day somehow when temps are down to gain more
63 ground. Later in the afternoon the wind picks up and the water doesn't do as much. The pilots can
64 only work so many hours and schedule is split for am flying and pm flying. Smoke in the morning
65 is a problem they hope to resolve by adjusting the air schedule. We are lucky to have the air
66 assets.

67
68 South Pine Creek area is the next area of concern, said Mr. Goodall. The cooling trend should
69 help. Will reach out to the Haerberle who runs cattle in the Fish Lake area up through Salmon
70 Meadows. FS will reach out to him. More crews are expected said Ms. Day. We are down the list
71 on priorities, but at least they as well as PNW are trying to get us resources and will FS will
72 continue asking for what they need.

73
74 The Chickadee Fire grew on the north side of Douglas Mt.

75
76 Commissioners are allowing animals affected by the fire to be held at the fairgrounds.

77
78 Commissioner DeTro explained that he would be going to Conconully.

79
80 **Discussion- Methow Watershed Council Administration Services-Commissioners**
81 Due to the wildfire update with forest service, this topic was not discussed as scheduled.

82
83 **Review Commissioners' Agenda and Consent Agenda**

84 Commissioners agenda was modified to include the Special Public Health Board meeting
85 Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. The Staff Meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and
86 commissioners staff were notified.

87
88 **Briefing Among the Commissioners**

89
90 **Discussion Infrastructure Prioritization -Roni Holder-Diefenbach**

91 County Treasurer Leah McCormack

92
93 Ms. Holder Diefenbach presented the prioritization list for the 2022 Okanogan County Public
94 Infrastructure projects there were 24 total and six Economic Development prioritization list. We
95 have not had .09 dollars to spend on projects. A spreadsheet broke down the total project costs
96 from the applications submitted. (attached) It shows the funds the applicants intend to use for
97 their projects and what other funds they are looking for. Some have not identified where their
98 funds are coming from. Some indicated use of the county ARPA funds.

99

100 Ms. Holder Diefenbach said she is here to provide recommendation from the Infrastructure
101 committee for 2022 prioritization for the two categories. Commissioner Hover said what he finds
102 is five that could be eligible for ARPA funds.

103

104 **Motion 2022 Prioritization List**

105 Commissioner Hover moved to direct the Clerk of the Board to draft a resolution to adopt the
106 prioritization list. Motion was seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

107

108 The applicants thanked the Infrastructure Committee and County for providing this prioritization
109 process because many use the approved list to support their agency applications for funding.

110

111 Commissioner Branch stated he would like the board to consider a letter of support for the transfer
112 of a portion of the Similkameen trail to the City of Oroville, the portion that falls within the city
113 limits. (attached draft). Commissioner Hover would like to ensure Mayor of Oroville knows the
114 county is considering the letter. Commissioner Branch and Hover discussed the proposed
115 arrangement and who would be responsible for what.

116

117 Commissioner Branch and Hover discussed the various fires in the county and the arrangements
118 made by Forest Service and Dept. of Natural Resources for fighting the fires. Each explained their
119 position on the science and the decisions made thereof.

120

121 **Public Hearing Budget Supplemental Appropriation Jail Improvement Fund 193**

122 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing at 11:00 a.m. asking for staff report. The
123 Clerk of the Board stated the budget supplemental was to provide budget for the jail actuator
124 upgrades in the Jail Improvement fund.

125

126 Commissioner Branch opened up the public hearing to public testimony. Stephanie Clark asked
127 what it was for. Commissioner Branch explained. Seeing no one on line and hearing no one in
128 the audience to provide comment commissioner Branch opened up to commissioner discussion.

129

130 **Motion Resolution 103-2021 Budget Supplemental Jail Improvement Fund 193**

131 Commissioner Hover moved to approve resolution 103-2021 a budget supplemental
132 appropriation within the Jail Improvement fund 193 in the amount of \$5,432. Motion was
133 seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

134

135 **Update Fairgrounds-Naomie Peasley**

136 Commissioner Branch explained the Muckamuck fire arrangement for fairgrounds taking in
137 evacuee animals.

138

139 Ms. Peasley explained RV's are coming in from Conconully. She is unsure what their plan is.
140 There is a Rotary Club event as well as others and there seems to be hesitation and concern.
141 The Agriplex is still being used by Superior Court even though there is no contract covering the
142 time frame. They intend on using it through the end of the month until the trial is over with. The
143 PAC was cancelled and they were not allowed to use that space. Commissioner Hover thought
144 they might be able to utilize the school. Ms. Peasley said the event scheduled on August 28 in
145 the Agriplex that has been rescheduled four times already was cancelled as directed by Superior
146 Court even though the agreement didn't cover that timeframe. When the PAC was cancelled, why
147 didn't Superior Court discuss solutions with the board. Instead the board learned that Superior
148 Court is just going to use it.

149

150 When there is an active fire going, accommodate the people that come. There are some other
151 things like donations that we keep the books on what is donated. Evacuee information will be
152 gathered of those being relocated from Conconully.

153
154 The group discussed who is using what at the fairgrounds and why. The grounds are available to
155 fire evacuees they wish to use the North Half of the grounds. The Land Use agreements need to
156 spell out what areas they are using on the grounds. The City of Okanogan also offered use of the
157 Sports Complex to the fire teams.

158
159 Ms. Peasley said repairs continue to be made on the grounds. She asked John Hubbard to come
160 at a different time to discuss fairground wells. Commissioners said there will be a fair this year
161 and they will move folks if needed.

162
163 Kevin Daling Okanogan High School Football coach. Mr. Daling said with football starting next
164 Wednesday they need a spot to practice. He said the gym floors were re-finished in all the gyms
165 and they are not cured yet and so there isn't a place for practice. Would the Agriplex be available
166 this Wednesday through Saturday for practice. Commissioners previously approved the space for
167 this use when the air quality was poor. Commissioners said because of the fire camps and
168 Superior Court use of the Agriplex that it won't likely be available for practice.

169
170 Commissioner Hover asked for the contact information of Ashely Getz to ask if the county could
171 use their gym for jury selection facility.

172
173 John Hubbard, well driller, was asked to help the commissioner understand what the issue was
174 with the wells. Commissioner Hover explained domestic and irrigation needs of the fairgrounds.
175 He explained the pump is pumping sand and it was suggested that the pump be pulled. To replace
176 the screen is not a big deal if it has a hole in it. If the damage is in the well casing then there is
177 larger problem. He said the screen could be drilled out of the way then a new screen installed.
178 John got ahold of Joe Booth with Okanogan Well Drilling. The previous RFQ for well repairs of
179 well #3 was reviewed. He said it doesn't make sense to pay someone to pull the pump. He
180 suggested Dead head it and read pressure manually and it will tell us the condition of the pump.
181 Problem is the three-inch drop pipe and they do not make pvc so the drop pipe may need to be
182 examined and play on the shaft. Commissioners thanked Mr. Hubbard for his expertise.

183
184 **Discussion Meadowlark Senior Housing Request-Housing Authority**
185 Collin with ORHF

186
187 A request for Homeless and or Affordable Housing funds for \$100,000. The primary need is to
188 pay for the over runs. The project would be 98% complete with \$89,000. Lael Duncan discussed
189 the balance of the funds. The funds have been committed to other homeless projects and she
190 wasn't sure the amount.

191
192 The Housing Coalition does recommend approval of \$100,000 for the cost overruns. Collin with
193 ORHF stated the letter outlined the issues well. He said the project is 41% complete right now. In
194 depth conversation with contractor about foreseeable change orders and they said no they
195 probably don't. Design error happened so he is unsure how that will affect the project. Most of the
196 change orders appeared early on.

197
198 Commissioner Hover asked if Meadow lark meets the statutory requirements of the Affordable
199 and Homeless Housing fund laws. This is a 16-unit senior housing for low income 50% lmi. The
200 only budget we can look at is the Affordable housing funds.

201
202 Nancy Mendez explained the senior's will be served first before low income. At entrance the
203 seniors are homeless and have vouchers and the housing does serve homeless and disabled.
204 She is confident of servicing homeless first can be verified.

205
206 Commissioner Branch would like to verify the amount of funds available to allocate before
207 deciding. Commissioner Hover would like the Housing Coalition to meet and provide the
208 recommendation for the overruns and where the Community Homeless \$75,000 would come
209 from. He asked if we should split this request like the other was split between Affordable and
210 Homeless housing.

211
212 Commissioners will review the funds and will decide after the meeting. The idea was to utilize the
213 Affordable Housing funds because it was identified for brick and mortar. The county is going to
214 move the original budget for \$75,000 for the Tiny homes from Affordable Housing to Homeless
215 Housing funds in order to provide budget for the request. The Homeless fund doesn't have a
216 "bricks and mortar" BARS code. Commissioner Hover went over the allocation changes with Lael
217 Duncan. He'd like for her to get the ball rolling and schedule a Housing Coalition workshop to go
218 over the budget and projects for meeting the homeless plan.

219

220 **Review Meeting Minutes**

221 Commissioners reviewed their meeting minutes.

222

223 The board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

224